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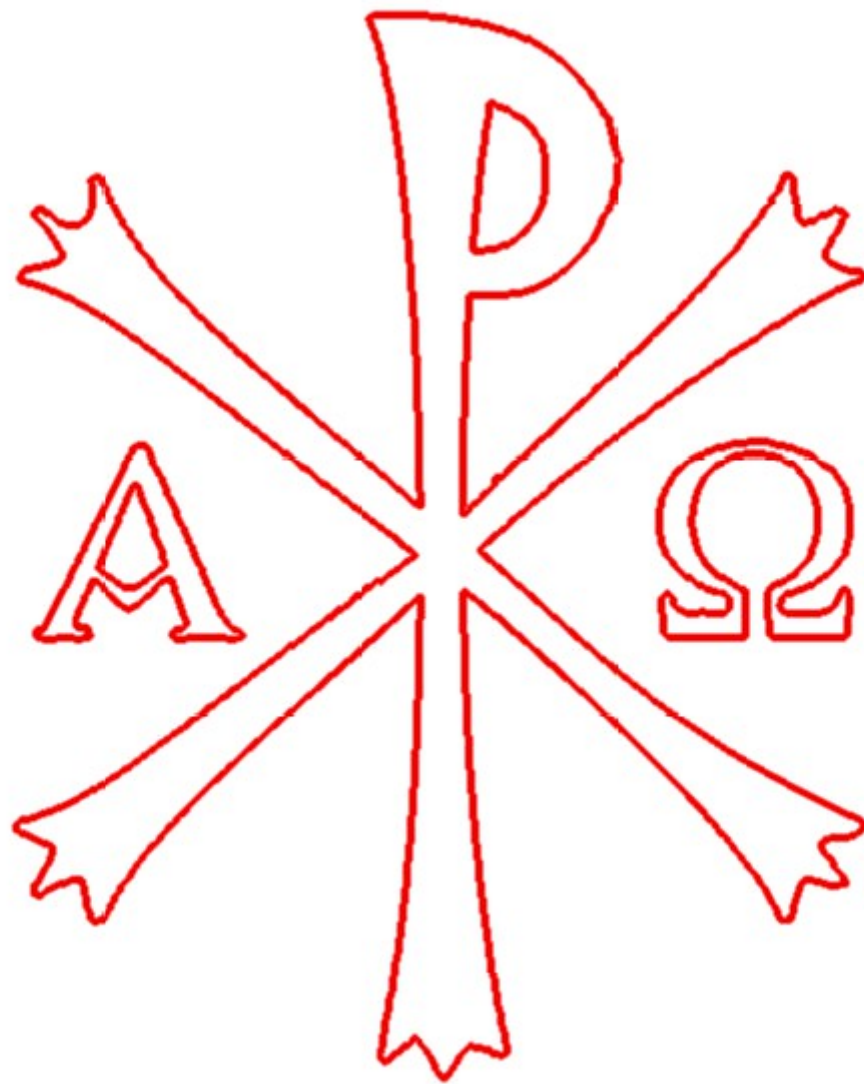
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**Prayers at a Wake
or Vigil**

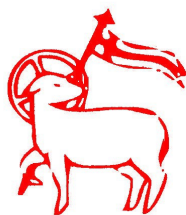
Prayers at a Wake or Vigil

Being Readings
and
Prayers

For the Deceased
And
Mourners

From
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Liturgical Editions

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Prayers at a Wake or Vigil

The following are suggested prayers and the priest may choose from the selection listed below as time and circumstances permit and he sees fit.

Antiphon: If Thou, Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall stand it?

Psalm 129

OUT of the depths I have cried unto Thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.

Let Thy ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If Thou, Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall stand it?

For with Thee there is merciful forgiveness: and by reason of Thy law I have waited for Thee, O Lord.

My soul hath relied on His word: my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

From the morning watch even until night: let Israel hope in the Lord.

Because with the Lord is mercy: and with Him plentiful redemption.

And He shall redeem Israel, from all his iniquities.

℣. Eternal rest grant unto him/her/, O Lord.

℟. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

Repeat Antiphon: If Thou, Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall stand it?

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

To Thee, O Lord, we commend the soul of Thy servant/handmaid, **N.**, that having departed from this world, he/she may live with Thee. And by the grace of Thy merciful love, wash away the sins that in human frailty he/she has committed in the conduct of his/her life. Through Christ our Lord. **℟.** Amen.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

In this time of sorrow let us listen to the Word of God.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John.

John 5: 25-29

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Amen, amen I say unto you, that the hour cometh, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live.

For as the Father hath life in Himself, so He hath given the Son also to have life in Himself.

And He hath given Him power to do judgment, because He is the Son of man.

Wonder not at this; for the hour cometh, wherein all that are in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God.

And they that have done good things, shall come forth unto the resurrection of life; but they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.

A reading from the Apocalypse of St. John

Apocalypse 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven, saying to me: Write: Blessed are the dead, who die in the Lord. From henceforth now, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; for their works follow them.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to St. John.

John 11: 21-27

At that time, Martha therefore said to Jesus: Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

But now also I know that whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus saith to her: Thy brother shall rise again.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

Martha saith to him: I know that he shall rise again, in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said to her: I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, although he be dead, shall live;

And every one that liveth and believeth in Me shall not die for ever. Believest thou this?

She saith to him: Yea, Lord, I have believed that thou art Christ, the Son of the living God, who art come into this world.

A reading from the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 4: 12-16.

And we will not have you ignorant concerning them that are asleep, that you be not sorrowful, even as others who have no hope; for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them who have slept through Jesus, will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you in the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who remain unto the coming of the Lord, shall not prevent them who have slept. For the Lord Himself shall come down from heaven, with commandment, and with the voice of an Archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead who are in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, shall be taken up together with them in the clouds to meet Christ, into the air, and so shall we be always with the Lord. Wherefore comfort ye one another with these words.

A reading from the second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 4: 12-16.

For which cause we speak also:

Knowing that he who raised up Jesus, will raise us up also with Jesus, and place us with you.

For all things are for your sakes; that the grace abounding through many, may abound in thanksgiving unto the glory of God.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man is corrupted, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For that which is at present momentary and light of our tribulation, worketh for us above measure exceedingly an eternal weight of glory.

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen, are temporal; but the things which are not seen, are eternal.

For we know, if our earthly house of this habitation be dissolved, that we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

A reading from the Apocalypse of St. John

Apocalypse 21: 1 – 4

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth was gone, and the sea is now no more.

And I John saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice from the throne, saying: Behold the tabernacle of God with men, and he will dwell with them. And they shall be his people; and God himself with them shall be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and death shall be no more, nor mourning, nor crying, nor sorrow shall be any more, for the former things are passed away.

The priest may now recite the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

If time is limited or the wake is crowded it may be possible only to pray one decade of the Holy Rosary, which may be either the Fifth Sorrowful Mystery or the First Glorious Mystery. Either will provide a rich source for meditative prayer.

The priest then says:

Let us pray.

O God, the bestower of pardon and lover of man's salvation, we

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

beseech Thy loving kindness, for our bretheren, kinsfolk, and benefactors, who have passed out of this world, that through the intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin and of all Thy saints Thou wilt grant them to attain the fellowship of blessedness.

O God, through whose loving kindness the souls of Thy faithful find rest, grant to Thy servants and handmaids, and unto all who here and everywhere, rest in Christ, pardon of their sins, that cleansed from all faults they may rejoice exceedingly through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant a resting place to the souls of the faithful in the arms of our Fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; feed them in a fertile land by the waters of comfort in a paradise of joy and in that place from which the broken heart, sorrow and sighing has flown. Make them rest in that abode, Lord, in the light of Thy Saints, and do the same for us also, who are sojourners on this earth. Keep us in Thy faith, and grant us peace unto the end.

Antiphon: May the Angels lead thee into paradise: may the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming, and lead thee unto the holy city of Jerusalem. May the choir of Angels receive thee, and mayest thou have eternal rest with Lazarus, who once was poor.

Psalm 114

I have loved, because the Lord will hear the voice of my prayer.

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me: and in my days I will call upon him.

The sorrows of death have compassed me: and the perils of hell have found me. I met with trouble and sorrow:

And I called upon the name of the Lord. O Lord, deliver my soul.

The Lord is merciful and just, and our God sheweth mercy.

The Lord is the keeper of little ones: I was humbled and he delivered me.

Turn, O my soul, into thy rest: for the Lord hath been bountiful to thee.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

For he hath delivered my soul from death: my eyes from tears, my feet from falling.

I will please the Lord in the land of the living.

Antiphon: May the Angels lead thee into paradise: may the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming, and lead thee unto the holy city of Jerusalem. May the choir of Angels receive thee, and mayest thou have eternal rest with Lazarus, who once was poor.

Antiphon: I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, although he be dead, shall live; And every one that liveth and believeth in Me shall not die for ever.

CANTICLE OF ZACHARY

Luke 1. 68, 79

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; because He hath visited and wrought the redemption of His people.

And He hath raised up the horn of salvation to us, in the house of David His servant.

As He spoke by the mouth of His holy Prophets, who are from the beginning.

Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.

To work mercy with our fathers: and remember His holy testament.

The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, that He would grant us.

That being delivered from the hand of our enemies, we may serve Him without fear.

In holiness and justice before Him, all our days.

And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways.

To give the knowledge of salvation to His people, unto the remission of their sins.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

Through the bowels of mercy of our God, in which the Orient from on high hath visited us.

To enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death: to direct our feet in the way of peace.

℣. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

℟. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Repeat the Antiphon: I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, although he be dead, shall live; And every one that liveth and believeth in Me shall not die for ever.

Prayer

Dearly beloved, let us faithfully pray and lovingly remember our brother/sister, whom God has taken to himself from the trials of this world.

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Our Father . . .

If the corpse is present, the priest may at this time sprinkle it with holy water without going around it.

℣. And lead us not into temptation.

℟. But deliver us from evil.

℣. From the gate of hell.

℟. Deliver his/her soul, O Lord.

℣. May he/she rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer.

℟. And let my cry come before Thee.

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we beseech Thee to grant this mercy to Thy servant/handmaid departed, that he/she who held fast to Thy will by his/her intentions, may

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL

not receive punishment in return for his/her deeds; so that as the true faith united him/her with the throng of the faithful on earth, Thy mercy may unite him/her with the company of the choirs of the angels in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

The priest then says:

V̄. Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

R̄. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

V̄. May he/she rest in peace.

R̄. Amen.

V̄. May his/her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R̄. Amen.

(If the corpse is present the priest makes the sign of the cross over it while saying the above).

OTHER PRAYERS

FOR A MAN

Let us pray.

O Lord, hear our prayers, in which we humbly ask of Thy mercy that Thou wouldst give to the soul of Thy servant, *N.*, which Thou hast commanded to leave this world, a place in the land of light and peace, and bid that he be made a companion of Thy saints. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

FOR A WOMAN

O Lord, we implore Thee in Thy Fatherly love have mercy on the soul of Thy servant, *N.*, and grant that, freed from the stains of her mortal life, she may receive her inheritance of eternal life. *R̄*. Amen.

FOR A PRIEST

O God, who didst give to Thy servant, *N.*, by his sacerdotal office, a share in the priesthood of the Apostles, grant, we implore, that he may also be one of their company forever in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL—OTHER PRAYERS

FOR A PRIEST'S FATHER

O God, Who hast commanded us to honor our fathers, in Thy goodness have mercy on the soul of my our father. Forgive his sins, and grant I/we may see him in the joy of eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

FOR A PRIEST'S MOTHER

O God, Who hast commanded us to honor our mothers, in Thy goodness have mercy on the soul of my/our mother. Forgive her her sins, and grant that I /we may see her in the joy of eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

FOR FRIENDS

O God, Who freely givest pardon, desiring the salvation of mankind, we implore Thee in Thy good-ness to grant that our bretheren, relatives and benefactors who have left this world, may, by the intercession of blessed Mary and of all the saints, share everlasting happiness in union with all the blessed. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL

DEPARTED

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of Thy servants the forgiveness of all their sins, so that, by the prayers which we offer in affection, they may receive the pardon which they have always desired. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God! the Creator and redeemer of all the faithful, hear our supplications and through Thy infinite love and mercy graciously grant to the soul of Thy servant/handmaid departed the remission of all his/her sins, by which he/she may have deserved the severity of Thy justice and punishments in the world to come. Vouchsafe to him/her grace and mercy before Thy tribunal, and let him/her attain to everlasting rest through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ. *R̄*. Amen.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL—OTHER PRAYERS

O God! Great and omnipotent judge of the living and the dead! Before Whom we are all to appear after this short life, to render an account of our works. Let our hearts, we pray Thee, be deeply moved at this sight of death, and while we consign the body of the deceased to the earth, let us be mindful of our own frailty and mortality, that walking always in Thy fear and in the ways of Thy commandments, we may, after our departure from this world, experience a merciful judgment and rejoice in everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE MOURNERS

Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that whilst we lament the departure of our brother/sister, Thy servant, out of this life, we may bear in mind that we are most certainly to follow him/her. Give us grace to make ready for that last hour by a devout and holy life, and protect us against a sudden and unprovided death. Teach us how to watch and pray that when Thy summons comes, we may go forth to meet the Bridegroom and enter with Him into life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful Father, Who knowest the weakness of our nature, bow down Thine ear in pity unto Thy servants, upon whom Thou hast laid the heavy burden of sorrow. Take away out of their hearts the spirit of rebellion, and teach them to see Thy good and gracious purpose working in all the trials, which Thou dost send upon them. Grant that they may not languish in fruitless and unavailing grief, nor sorrow as those who have no hope, but through their tears look meekly up to Thee, the God of all consolation. Through Christ our Lord. *R̄*. Amen.

Finally, the priest says:

V̄. Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,

R̄. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

PRAYERS AT A WAKE OR VIGIL—OTHER PRAYERS

☩. May he/she rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

☩. May his/her and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

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