

ALTERNATIVE READINGS

From the Gospel according to John 17:24-26

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'



A Possible Outline for a Service of Remembrance

GATHERING RITUAL

Start the Service with your candle(s) unlit.



Reader Our beloved N... has died
and a light has gone out of our lives.

(A short pause here for people to have a moment of reflection)

Reader But we are here to honour the light that he/she brought in to our lives –
to say that light is stronger than darkness –
that hope is stronger than despair –
and our love for N...
and the love we received from N...
is stronger than death.

Reader We remember that the Light of Christ came into the world –
and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The chief mourner lights a candle (using the family paschal candle if one was made) to represent the Light of the Risen Christ – then lights their own candle. Everyone lights their candle in turn, perhaps saying these or their own words:



For the light N... brought to my life

OPENING PRAYER

Our brother/sister N. has gone to his/her rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome him/her to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist him/her with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves.
May we who mourn be reunited one day with N.;
together may we meet Christ Jesus when he who is our life
appears in glory. *From Order of Christian Funerals*

Or

Reader We gather in the name of the Father:

**All The God who is love
and who created us from love and for love.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Son:

**All Who gave his life out of love for the world
and whose resurrection opens to us the way to eternal life.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit:

**All Giver of solace and consolation -
Giver of comfort when we die;
Giver of joys that never end.**

SCRIPTURE READING

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—they comfort me.



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Psalm 121 (122)

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. R.

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name.

There were set the thrones of judgment of the house of David. R.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls. In your palaces, peace!' R.

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!'

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. R.

A reading from the letter of Saint John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

ALTERNATIVE READINGS

Into the company of the Cherubim and Seraphim –
may you be welcomed.

Into the company of the Patriarchs and Prophets –
may you be welcomed.

Into the company of Apostles and Evangelists –
may you be welcomed.

Into the company of the holy Martyrs and Confessors –
may you be welcomed.

Into the company of holy men and women –
may you be welcomed.

Into the company of all those whom we have loved and lost –
may you be welcomed.

May your place this day be in peace, and your eternal abode be in
the house of the Lord.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless
and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gentle music to close your Service would be appropriate at this point.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

John 14:1-3

Jesus said,

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Trust in God still and trust in me.

There are many rooms in my Father’s house;
if there were not, I should have told you.

I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me,
so that where I am

you may be too.’

MUSIC

INTERCESSIONS

*Use ‘I/ me’ or ‘We/us’ as appropriate. If you are praying with others, you
could take turns in praying for each intention and add:*

Lord, in your mercy—**hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, forgive the sins of N... who has died in Christ.
Remember all the good he/she has done.

Welcome him/her into eternal life.
We pray for those who mourn. Comfort us in our grief.
Lighten our sense of loss with your presence.
Increase our faith and strengthen our hope.
We pray for ourselves on our pilgrimage through life.
Keep us faithful in your service.
Kindle in our hearts a longing for heaven.
We pray for all who will be commending their loved ones to the
mercy of God today.
We pray for N... who is conducting the service on our behalf.
We pray for all who cared for N... May they be strengthened in
their service of the sick.

Add prayers for other people or needs here if desired.

We place all our prayers into the hands of the Father who enfolds our
broken hearts in his tenderness and compassion:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

Amen.

CLOSING PRAYERS

Loving God, from whom all life proceeds
and by whose hand the dead are raised again,
though we are sinners, you wish always to hear us.

Accept the prayers we offer in sadness for your servant
N., deliver his/her soul from death,
number him/her among your saints



and clothe him/her with the robe of salvation
to enjoy for ever the delights of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany of Letting Go (1)

Into the Love that created a universe – I/ we let you go.
Into the Love that created you – I/ we let you go.
Into the Love that blessed our love – I/ we let you go.
Into the Love that laughed with our laughter – I/ we let you go.
Into the Love the wept with our tears – I/ we let you go.
Into the Love that healed you by welcoming you Home –
I/ we let you go.
Into the Love the holds my broken heart in his heart –
I/ we let you go.

or

Litany of Letting Go (2)

Go forth, O Christian soul, N...from this world,
in the name of God the Father Almighty,
who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who suffered for you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit,
who was poured forth upon you.



Into company in the name of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God –
may you be welcomed.
Into the company of St. Joseph –
may you be welcomed.
Into the company of the Angels and Archangels –
may you be welcomed.