PRAYER FOR THE DYING PERSON

### PEACE

The leader may lay hands on the person’s head.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, since you have made N your child in baptism, comfort him/her with your presence and lead him/her from death to eternal life with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### READING

The following (Psalm 23) or another suitable reading, such as one of the following, may be read:

Psalm 73:23–26; 90; 91; 123; Matthew 11:28; John 3:16,17; 11:25,26; 14:1–3, 27. A further selection of readings is provided in a separate section, ‘Scripture references’.

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Psalm 23.

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures,**

**he leads me beside quiet waters,**

**he restores my soul.**

**He guides me in paths of righteousness**

**for his name’s sake.**

**Even though I walk**

**through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil,**

**for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff,**

**they comfort me.**

**You prepare a table before me**

**in the presence of my enemies.**

**You anoint my head with oil;**

**my cup overflows.**

**Surely goodness and love will follow me**

**all the days of my life,**

**and I will dwell in the house of the Lord**

**forever.**

**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If private confession and absolution have not already been given and they are desired, the leader asks any other people present to leave and uses the rite for ‘Private confession and absolution (pastor)’ or ‘Private confession (layperson)’. Otherwise the leader may say:

N, let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I, a poor helpless sinner,**

**confess to you all my sins,**

**and repent of all the evil I have done.**

**I have deeply displeased you**

**and deserve your punishment**

**in time and in eternity.**

**But I am sorry for my sins,**

**and I ask you,**

**for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death**

**of your dear Son Jesus Christ,**

**to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.**

EITHER (for a pastor)

I ask (each of) you in the presence of God who searches the heart:

Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

**I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

**I do.**

Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God’s presence, and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

**I do.**

Christ gave to his church the authority to forgive the sins of those who repent, and to declare to those who do not repent that their sins are not forgiven. Therefore, upon your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and on behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you.

**Amen.**

OR (for a layperson)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake he forgives you all your sins. Peace be with you.

**Amen.**

### LITANY

The leader may say the following litany, or part of it, with those present responding.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

God, the Father in heaven; God, the Son, Redeemer of the world; God, the Holy Spirit;

**have mercy on your servant,** N**.**

From all sin, from all error, from all evil,

**good Lord, deliver him/her.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your holy birth; by your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and cross; by your death and burial; by your resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter;

**good Lord, deliver him/her.**

In the hour of death, in the resurrection of the dead, and in the day of judgment;

**good Lord, deliver him/her.**

Be near him/her in his/her final need. Grant him/her a peaceful end. Shorten the pain of his/her death, and lead him/her through the gate of death to eternal life. Mercifully pardon the sins of all of us. Bring him/her to a place of refreshment and light with you, and give him/her joy and peace with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

**Hear us, good Lord.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**have mercy on** N**.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**have mercy on** N**.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**grant** N **your peace.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

### LORD’S PRAYER

Let us join with our Lord Jesus in praying the prayer that he has taught us.

The older version may be used if it is more familiar to the person.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

### PRAYERS

The leader may say one or more prayers for the dying person. The following may be used.

EITHER

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, our good Shepherd, be with N as he/she passes through the valley of death. Light up the way before him/her. Comfort him/her and strengthen his/her faith with your promise of salvation. Protect him/her from despair, doubt, and unbelief. Sustain him/her with your power, and bring him/her home, rejoicing with all the saints and angels, to our heavenly Father.

**Amen.**

OR

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Lord of life and death, our journey begins with you, and our journey ends with you. Be with N and protect him/her from despair and all the powers of darkness as he/she passes through the valley of the shadow of death. Assure him/her of your forgiveness and take away the fear of death. Surround him/her with your love and uphold him/her with your Spirit, so that as he/she dies he/she may fall asleep in faith and rest in peace. Guide him/her on this journey and receive him/her into your kingdom. Let your light shine perpetually on him/her, so that he/she may shine like a star in your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

OR

For an unconscious person

Let us pray.

Lord God almighty, the hearts of all people lie open to you, and the darkness is as light with you. Remember N as he/she lies unconscious and dying, and sustain him/her as his/her senses fail. Pardon all his/her offences, and strengthen his/her faith in Christ. Protect him/her from the evil one, and take him/her to yourself in glory. Remove these dark shadows from him/her, so that he/she may find himself/herself forever in your light; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

OR

For a dying child

Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, you love little children and welcome them warmly. Be with N and light up his/her way as he/she passes through the darkness of death. Let your holy angel be with him/her, so that the devil will have no power over him/her. Take him/her in your arms and bring him/her home with you forever; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### SONG OF SIMEON

The leader says or sings the following song.

Those present may join in singing or saying it. An appropriate verse from a familiar hymn such as LHS 52 v8 or 543 v5 may be used instead of or in addition to the Song of Simeon.

**Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,**

**according to your word.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation,**

**which you have prepared in the presence of all people;**

**a light to reveal you to the nations,**

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

If the person is about to die, the leader continues with the next part of the rite. Otherwise the leader concludes with the blessing at the end of this rite.

COMMENDATION OF THE DYING PERSON

### GREETING

The leader may say:

Grace to you, N, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### COMMENDATION

The leader lays hands on the person’s head.

The leader may say:

The psalmist writes: Only God can save me, and I calmly wait for him. God alone is the mighty rock that keeps me safe, and the fortress where I am secure. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

The leader says one of the following.

EITHER

N, depart in peace from this world

for the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,

in the name of the Father

who has made you in his image,

in the name of the Son,

who has redeemed you through his death and resurrection,

in the name of the Holy Spirit,

who has consecrated your body as his temple.

May almighty God send you his holy angels

to take you to your eternal home,

so that you may join the multitude

of angels and archangels,

patriarchs and prophets,

apostles and evangelists,

and all those who have gone before

to live together in everlasting joy. Amen.

OR

We commend you, our dear brother/sister, N,

to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

May Christ, who was crucified for you,

bring you freedom and peace.

May Christ, who rose from the dead for you,

preserve you from everlasting death.

(May Christ, the high priest,

who has forgiven you all your sins,

present you holy to your heavenly Father.)

May Christ, the king of glory,

admit you into his eternal kingdom

with all his saints and angels. Amen.

OR

Heavenly Father, you have created N in your image.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have rescued N from death by your death.

Holy Spirit, you have made N holy through the waters of baptism.

I therefore commend N to you, our God,

and to your safe keeping, now and for all eternity. Amen.

OR

We commend N into your hands,

Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Receive this sheep of your fold,

this lamb of your flock,

this sinner whom you have redeemed.

Bring N into eternal glory with all the saints,

and present him/her, pure and holy,

to your heavenly Father. Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer may be said, if it has not yet been prayed.

If the person has died, the rite may end with the blessing at the end of this rite.

### FURTHER READINGS/PRAYERS/HYMNS

Further verses from the Scriptures may be read, prayers said, and/or hymns/songs sung or read. The following verse may be used.

Lord Jesus, let your angels come,

when I must die, to bear me home,

my soul to heaven taking.

My resting body safely keep

secure in gentle painless sleep,

till earth’s last great awaking.

Then raise me, Lord, that I may be

with you in joy, and always see,

O Son of God, your glorious face,

my Saviour, and my fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ,

O grant to me, grant this to me,

I’ll sing your praise eternally.

WHEN THE PERSON HAS DIED

### PEACE

If the person has died before the arrival of the pastoral carer, the rite begins with these words:

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**Amen.**

### ENTRUSTMENT TO GOD

The leader lays hands on the person’s head.

Those present may kneel.

Heavenly Father, we entrust N to you in the sure hope of the resurrection of the dead (†) and the life of the world to come. Have mercy on him/her and receive him/her into your presence; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER FOR THE BEREAVED

The leader may continue with the rite for ‘Bereavement’, or the leader may say one or more of the following prayers for the benefit of the bereaved.

Eternal God and heavenly Father, you have summoned N to yourself. We thank you for his/her life and the blessings that flowed from it. Be near N and N who mourn his/her death. Comfort them in their pain and grief, and soothe them in their sorrow. Grant us grace to keep the faith, and to pass from death to life eternal with all who have gone before us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Merciful Father, you have gathered N to yourself. Be near N, N, and N and comfort them with your presence. Soothe their pain and grief with the consolation of your word. Draw them close together in their sorrow, and help them to support each other in their loss. Give us grace to live by faith in you, so that, when Christ appears, we too may share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### BLESSING

EITHER

(May) Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (†)**,** bless you/us and grant you/us his peace.

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