**Prayer before the Funeral**

*When representatives of the church meet with the family soon after death or on the evening before the funeral, prayer and Scripture may be used in the following manner.*

**Introduction**

The Lord be with you.

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid.  *John 14:27.*

Let us lift up our hearts to the Lord.

**Scripture**

Psalm 23.

Psalm 121.

Psalm 139:1-12, 17, 18.

*A short silence may be kept after the reading of a psalm*.

Romans 8:31-39.

*For other suggestions, see page* 252.

*Silence may be observed for private prayer or meditation.*

**Life Stories**

*This can be a period of conversation about the life of the deceased in which family members share personal recollections.* *Some of these reflections may be incorporated into the funeral service.*

**Prayer**

Almighty God,

you love us with an everlasting love.

You know all about us.

You know the thoughts of our hearts

before our lips speak them;

you are acquainted with all our ways.

Hold us in your love as we try to hold on to our faith and trust in you.

You know what it is to lose a part of yourself,

for you sent your only Son into the world

to live and die for us.

Help us to recall your loving kindness now

as we remember \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

For all that *\_\_\_\_\_* was to us

and for all that we were to *\_\_\_\_\_\_,*

 we thank you.

Though we see *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* no longer,

yet they are with us in spirit,

and will continue in death to influence our lives.

Give us assurance of your care

and that nothing can separate *\_\_\_\_\_\_* from your love.

Lord, you have walked with others

through grief and loneliness:

be our companion now and in the days to come.

Embrace us in your steadfast love

and give us that deep peace

which comes as we live in you

and you live in us.

With all your people we look forward to that time

when you will swallow up death

and wipe the tears

from the faces of all people.

Now, as our Lord Jesus taught us,

we pray for your kingdom, saying:

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

 **and deliver us from evil.**

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

 **now and forever. Amen**

**Blessing**

Let us go in the peace and strength of the Lord.

**AND**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord be kind and gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favour

and give you peace. **Amen**. *Num. 6:24-26, TEV.*

**OR**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all. **Amen.** *II Cor. 13:13.*