



HOPE

Prayers for the deceased in November

Opening Hymn: Be Still for the Presence of the Lord

Opening Prayer

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, you are the God of Hope.

As we gather together in your name, we bring to you all our loved ones and place them into your heavenly care. We believe that through the power of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead, death is defeated. As we begin this time of prayer and reflection, let us take a moment to remember that Jesus lived a fully human life. He mourned at the death of his friend Lazarus and He destroyed death to give us the hope of eternal peace in heaven. He is with us now. For us gathered here, who mourn and miss our dear loved ones, we come to the Lord seeking healing and peace. We pray that God our Father will welcome them among the saints in glory. We make this prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

The names of all our deceased relatives and friends will be placed in the sanctuary.

As the incense burns, let our prayers for our loved ones rise to God.

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

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayers and Intercessions

Let us pray:

As we stand together the response to our prayer is:

You are the God of Hope.

Lord, we pray for those in our parish who have died in this last year. We ask Christ our Lord to call them into His glorious kingdom. **(R)**

We pray for all deceased members of the clergy. We thank God for their generosity in responding to the call to the priesthood and for their faithful witness and service to God's people. We pray they are now sharing in the fullness of Christ's resurrection. **(R)**

Lord, we pray in a special way for grieving parents. During their time of pain, sadness and grief may they be comforted with the words of Jesus, "Let the little children come to me..."(Matthew 19:14) **(R)**

We especially place before you all those who have passed away and have no one to pray for them. **(R)**

Adaption of an old Hebrew prayer

For each of us life is like a journey.

Birth is the beginning of this journey
and death is not the end but the destination.

It is a journey which takes us from youth to age,
from innocence to awareness, from ignorance to knowledge,
from foolishness to wisdom, from weakness to strength,
from loneliness to friendship, from pain to compassion,
from defeat to victory, until, looking backward or ahead,
we see that victory does not lie at some point along the way,
but in having made the journey stage by stage.

Having met the people we did on their journey,
and having loved those dearest to us,
has made life most worthwhile.

Closing Prayers

Christ Jesus, You are the Resurrection and the Life,
You understand the pain of loss,
and the grief that seems to take the air from our lungs.

R. You are the Resurrection and the Life, all our hope is in you.

Lord Jesus, may we find a way through the darkness to the light of your love.

R. You are the Resurrection and the Life, all our hope is in you.

Christ Jesus, you wept at the death of your friend, Lazarus.

May your compassion wipe the tears from our eyes.

May we find comfort in reaching out to others who feel lost and alone.

R. You are the Resurrection and the Life, all our hope is in you.

Eternal rest grant on to them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

**Closing hymn: (*Marian antiphon can be said or sung*)
*or Salve Regina***