



Season of
Remembering

A Service of Thanksgiving and Remembering

Remembering those who have died

For more prayer ideas visit

[Prayers for this moment | The Church of England](#)

Loss AND HOPE

Music or a hymn might introduce the service

The leader opens the service with words of welcome and introduction

Opening Prayer

After his resurrection Jesus appeared to his scared and grieving friends, stood among them, and said, 'Peace be with you' (John 20:19)

God of all comfort,
Be with us as we gather
To remember all those who have died,
Whether recent or long ago.
In this time, we ask that you
Give us peace as we reflect together.
And grant us hope for tomorrow
Thank you that you promise to comfort us in all our troubles.
May we be assured of that comfort now.

Amen

We say sorry

As Jesus stood among his grieving friends, he stands with us now. In his presence we can become aware of the pain in the world, where we have been hurt and where we may have hurt others.
In our grief, we may have many feelings, and be aware of many failings.
In the stillness let us bring all this before God.

Keep a short time of silence.

Blessing

May God give you
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next.

Amen

Or

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you
In the palm of His hand.

Or

The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

Ending

The Bible says that one day

“There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.” (Rev 21:4)

And Jesus said

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?” (John 14:2)

Lord God, we thank you for all the people we have remembered today,
For all that they were to us, for all that they taught us

And for all that we treasure.

May we follow their example and be with them, witnesses to your life-giving love.

As we believe in your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,

Help us to trust also for those whom we have loved
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;

Thank you for your promise of eternal life.

According to your promises,
may we share with them in the joys of your kingdom,
where there will be neither sorrow nor pain,
but everlasting life.

Amen

The Bible tells us that there is nothing that cannot be forgiven and healed, and that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God.

Pause for another moment of silence

Readings

One or two readings from the Bible may be read

We suggest Psalm 23 (Jesus the Good Shepherd) and/or John 11 (the death of Lazarus and Jesus the resurrection and the life), or another appropriate poem.

Thought for the Day or Short Talk

Hymn/Song/Music

Prayers

*Adapt the prayers to suit the reading you have chosen and your context.
A few prayers are suggested here to use if helpful.*

Jesus conquered death and his victory gives us hope as we pray now.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd,
Lead us with your rod and staff through the valley of the
shadow of death.

When fear and grief overwhelm us

Jesus our Good Shepherd comfort us.

Guide us through the darkness and lead us to the green pastures and
still waters that restore our souls.

Thank you for your constant presence with us.

Thank you that you will lead us home.

Amen

Lord Jesus, you are 'the resurrection and the life'.
Thank you that in raising Lazarus back to life you demonstrated your power over death.
And that in dying on the cross and coming back to life you claimed victory over death.
Raise us and those we have loved and lost to eternal life with you.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

All Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is 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

Act of Remembering

The candles are lit

God of mercy and hope,
Hear us and comfort us,
As we remember in love,
Those we have placed into your hands.

*The leader reads the names of those we remember.
The congregation are invited to think about and thank God silently for the good memories and things that they treasure.
Silence may be kept after each name, group of names, or after all the names have been read.*

Verses from Scripture are read

Psalm 46:1-2

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own understanding;

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles.

A Hymn or Song May be Sung