

give up my life for my sheep. I have other sheep that are not in this sheep pen. I must bring them together too, when they hear my voice. Then there will be one flock of sheep and one shepherd.

The Father loves me, because I give up my life, so that I may receive it back again. No one takes my life from me. I give it up willingly! I have the power to give it up and the power to receive it back again, just as my Father commanded me to do.

... My sheep know my voice, and I know them. They follow me, and I give them eternal life, so that they will never be lost. No one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father gave them to me, and he is greater than all others. No one can snatch them from his hands, and I am one with the Father.

John 10:14-18,27-30 CEV

Silence to reflect on the scriptures.

¶ Prayers

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,
we thank you that your love is everlasting,
for you have made us, your creatures, in your image,
and given us gifts in mind, body and spirit.
We thank you now for *N*,
and for what *he/she* means to each of us,
in *his/her* different roles as *son/daughter, brother/sister,*
husband/wife, father/mother, friend.
Even in so brief a span of time
we give thanks for the years we have shared with *him/her*,
the good we have seen in *him/her*,
the love we have received from *him/her*.
As we honour *him/her* memory,
make us more aware of your continuing love
for all your children,
and strengthen our confidence in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Prayers for Those who Mourn

Eternal God and Father,
look in mercy on those who remember *N* before you.
Let not the manner of *his/her* death
cloud the good memories of *his/her* life.
For *N* the trials of this world are over and death is past.
Accept from us all that we feel even when words fail;
deliver us from despair
and give us strength to meet the days to come
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Father, the death of *N* brings an emptiness into our lives.
We are separated from *him/her* and feel broken and disturbed.
Give us confidence that *he/she* is safe
and *his/her* life complete with you,
and bring us together at the last
to the wholeness and fullness of your presence in heaven,
where your saints and angels enjoy you for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Friends/Brothers and sisters, our true home is in heaven;
therefore, let us pray with confidence to our heavenly Father,
as our Saviour has taught us.

All 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory.
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega;
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever.

All Amen.

If candles are to be lit

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

¶ *Liturgy of the Word*

First Reading

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Things that are seen don't last forever, but things that are not seen are eternal. That's why we keep our minds on the things that cannot be seen.

Our bodies are like tents that we live in here on earth. But when these tents are destroyed, we know that God will give each of us a place to live. These homes will not be buildings that someone has made, but they are in heaven and will last forever. While we are here on earth, we sigh because we want to live in that heavenly home. We want to put it on like clothes and not be naked. These tents we now live in are like a heavy burden, and we groan. But we don't do this just because we want to leave these bodies that will die. It is because we want to change them for bodies that will never die. God is the one who makes all of this possible. He has given us his Spirit to make us certain that he will do it. So always be cheerful!

As long as we are in these bodies, we are away from the Lord. But we live by faith, not by what we see. We should be cheerful, because we would rather leave these bodies and be at home with the Lord. But whether we are at home with the Lord or away from him, we still try our best to please him. After all, Christ will judge