

## Prayers for a Service

Below are sample prayers that may be used during a funeral or memorial service.

You will find options for:

- **Prayer for Illumination** (before a reading)
- **Prayers of Gratitude / Thanksgiving**
- **A Secular Time of Gratitude**

These may be used as written or adapted to reflect your loved one's life and spirit.

### **Prayer for Illumination** *(Offered before a scripture reading or reflection)*

Spirit of love, shine your light upon us in this hour. As we remember and give thanks, may our hearts be open to comfort, our minds to wisdom, and our spirits to peace. Grant that these words give us a glimpse of your eternal light and love.

**Amen.**

Eternal God, your love for us is everlasting. You alone can turn the shadow of death into the brightness of morning light. Help us to turn to you with reverent and trusting hearts. In the stillness of this hour, speak to us of eternal things, so that in the promises of scripture we may find hope and be lifted from our sorrow into the light and peace of your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Gracious God, quiet every voice within us but your own. May we hear your message of comfort and peace this day.

**Amen.**

Gracious and loving God, as we hear these words, quiet all within us except your voice. Settle our hearts and minds, that we may receive your message for us this day.

**Amen.**

Gracious and loving God, as we listen, quiet all within us except your voice. In the midst of all we carry, help us to be present here, and to hear what you would say to us this day.

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving (Religious)**

*May be followed by the Lord's Prayer if desired*

Gracious God, we come to you this day grateful for so many things, for the beauty of this earth, and for the gift of family and friends. Especially today, we thank you for **[Name]**, for the gift of their life, for all in them that was good and kind and true, and for the relationship we shared.

[Name] will be remembered for many things (*you may name qualities or memories here*), but most of all, for their love and devotion to family and friends.

We give thanks that for [Name], death has passed, pain has ended, and they have entered the joy you have prepared.

O God, you have promised that in your house are many rooms. Help us to trust that promise. Lift our sorrow, and give us hope, that we may walk our days with courage and look toward reunion in the life to come.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Gracious and loving God, we pause to give thanks for a life well lived. We thank you for **[Name]** and for the many ways they touched our lives, their devotion to family and friends, their love of [interests], their steady work and their kind and generous heart.

We are grateful that pain and struggle have ended, and that [Name] now rests in your presence.

Comfort all who grieve this day. Let your strength and love surround us until that time when we are reunited, and all tears are wiped away, and peace and love endure forever.

To you be all honor and glory.

**Amen.**

## **A Secular Time of Gratitude**

### ***For non-religious or spiritual services***

In the quiet of this moment, we pause to acknowledge the gifts that surround us: the breath in our lungs, the warmth of connection, the beauty found in everyday life.

We give thanks for the strength that carries us, for the lessons we have learned, for the kindness we have shared and received.

We are grateful for moments of joy, and even for the challenges that have shaped us.

We give thanks for the people who walk beside us, and especially today, we remember **[Name]** for the many ways they touched our lives and left their mark upon our hearts.

They will be remembered for... *(you may name qualities or passions here)*, and most of all, for their love and commitment to family and friends.

For all that [Name] has been, and all they have given, we give thanks this day.