
PRAYER SERVICE SEVEN

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Theme: Hope: “I am the Resurrection and the Life”

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

Leader : God, our heavenly Father, you have given us hope of life through the resurrection of your Son. We gather here with confidence praying for our brother/sister **N...** that he/she may share in the eternal life you have promised. In your mercy, wipe away all traces of pain and sorrow from the hearts of the bereaved relatives and family members; fill our lives with the joy and hope of the resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All : **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

Leader : “We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, to make sure that you do not grieve for them, as others do who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died

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and rose again, and that in the same way God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that we who are still alive for the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have fallen asleep. At the signal given by the voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God, the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and only after that shall we who remain alive be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. This is the way we shall be with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these, then, we should encourage one another." (PAUSE)

REFLECTION

Leader : Jesus has died and has risen. This is an historical fact. This is the very foundation of the faith of Christianity. All those who die in Christ will have the similar experience of rising to new life. We recall Jesus' words: 'I have come, so that they may have life and have it to the full.' Although we feel sad that N... has passed away let us listen to Jesus who is challenging us: 'I am the

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resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' Like Martha, let us answer: 'Yes Lord. We believe.' With those words let us comfort and console one another. (PAUSE)

INTERCESSIONS

Response: **Jesus, our life and Resurrection, hear us.**

Presider : That as members of the community formed by the Risen Lord, we may continue to live as a sign of hope and joy before the world in spite of trials, sufferings and even death. We pray to the Lord.

- That we comfort, console and encourage one another, especially those who are experiencing sorrow, by our care, concern and Christian charity. We pray to the Lord.
- That the family of **N...** be comforted by God's Word of hope and that they may rise to a deeper level of Christian faith and unity. We pray to the Lord.

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CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presider : God our Father, we thank you for guiding us by the power and wisdom of your Spirit. Thank you for the message of hope you have given your faithful people. May our brother/sister **N**... enjoy your peace and eternal life in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All : **Amen.**

CONCLUDING HYMN