
PRAYER SERVICE SIX

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Theme: “You cared for me”

OPENING HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

Leader : God, our merciful Father, we gathered here in imitation of your Son who came not to be served but to serve. We pray for your gift of eternal peace for our brother/sister **N**... We also implore you to shower your consoling grace upon the bereaved family members. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All : **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Tobit 2:1-8

Leader : I returned home and my wife, Anna was restored to me with my son Tobias. At our feast of Pentecost (the feast of Weeks) there was a good dinner. I took my place for the meal; the table was brought to me and various dishes were brought. I then said to my son, Tobias, “Go, my child, and seek out some poor, loyal-hearted man among our brother exiled in Nineveh, and bring him to

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share my meal. I will wait until you come back, my child." So Tobias went out to look for some poor man among our brothers, but he came back again and said, "Father!" I replied, "What is it, my child?" He went on, "Father, one of our nation has just been murdered; he has been strangled and then thrown down in the market place; he is there still." I sprang up at once, left my meal untouched, took the man from the market place and laid him in one of my rooms, waiting until sunset to bury him. I came in again and washed myself and ate my bread in sorrow, remembering the words of the prophet Amos concerning Bethel:

"I shall turn your festivals into mourning and all your singing into lamentation."

And I wept. When the sun was down, I went and dug a grave and buried him. My neighbours laughed and said, "See! He is not afraid any more." (You must remember that a price had been set on my head earlier for this very thing) "Once before he had flee, yet here he is, beginning to bury the dead again."

REFLECTION

Leader : Dear friends, let us thank the Lord for giving all of us the generosity to sympathise and pray with the family of **N...**

The Word of God reminds us that caring for those in sorrow and pain, even burying the dead is a praiseworthy work of mercy before the Lord. We remember Jesus telling us that whatever we do even to the least of his brethren, we do it to Him! May our prayerful presence console and encourage the bereaved family of **N...** We are confident that the Lord will favourably answer our prayers and grant eternal light and peace to our brother/sister **N.**
(PAUSE)

INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord Jesus, grant us a generous heart.

- That the members of the bereaved family will always cherish the good that **N..** had contributed during his/her life on earth. We pray to the Lord.

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- That the spirit of Christian service, especially works of mercy to the poor, the suffering, the sick, and the bereaved may spread generously among those in our neighbourhood. We pray to the Lord.
- That the Lord in his eternal mercy welcome our brother/sister **N...** into the joys of heaven. We pray to the Lord.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presider : Ever-loving and merciful God, we thank you for your guiding presence upon this prayer gathering of ours. May your gentle care and love, consolation and peace, lift up this family from sorrow and pain, and bring **N...** to your eternal kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All : **Amen.**

CONCLUDING HYMN