

## Prayers to Say Goodbye to a Loved One when Separated

In this time of pandemic, families are sometimes put in the terrible position of having to suddenly say goodbye to a loved one, over the phone, without time to contact a priest. This sheet can be printed out and kept at hand, in case, God forbid, you should need it. Please know that there is no requirement for a priest or for “last rites” in the Episcopal Church, this is to provide comfort for those who may be left behind and to the person who is moving from this life into the next. You can use this as is, or adapt as you see fit.

**First:** Calmly tell the person who has called you need two minutes to pray and say goodbye, could they please put the phone on speaker at full volume. (Insist if you must!)

It is important to know that people can often hear, even when sedated or in a coma.

**Second:** Start by saying your loved one’s name, clearly and loudly. You should tell them you are there and that you are fine. You may want to tell them simply, in your own words that it is OK to “go” if they need to.

**Then** say the following:

*Let us pray.*

*Almighty God, look on this your servant \_\_\_\_\_, lying in great weakness and comfort him/her/them with the promise of life everlasting, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Third:** Say your loved one’s name again, tell them you love them and then say:

*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.*

*Let us pray.*

*Deliver your servant \_\_\_\_\_, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him/her/them free from every bond; that he/she/they may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.*

Say your loved one’s name again, you briefly can tell them you will see them again or anything else that feels right to you, thank the person who has arranged the call and hang up. After the call, you may wish to make the sign of the cross ✠ and say: *May his/her/their soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*