

The following are some suggestions for poems and prayers to use on our prayer cards.

Please note that what is presented here is the text and not the actual layout of each poem. There may also be other versions that can be found online.

1) TWENTY-THIRD PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

2) AFTERGLOW

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave behind when life is done.

3) MAY YOU ALWAYS WALK IN SUNSHINE

May you always walk in sunshine and God's love around you flow, for the happiness you gave us, no one will ever know. It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone, a part of us went with you, the day God called you home. A million times we needed you, a million times we've cried. If love could only have saved you, you never would have died. The Lord be with you and may you rest in peace.

4) I'M FREE

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free; I took His hand when I heard Him call; I turned my back and left it all. If my parting has left a void; then fill it with remembered joy. My life's been full, I savored much; good friends, good times, a loved one's touch. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss; ah yes, these things, I too, will miss. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your hearts and share with me; God wanted me now, He set me free.

5) PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

6) BEYOND THE SUNSET

Should you go first and I remain, To walk the road alone, I'll live in memories garden, dear, With happy days we've known. In spring I'll wait for roses red, When faded, the lilacs blue. In early fall when brown leaves fall, I'll catch a glimpse of you. I'll hear your voice, I'll see your Smile, tho blindly I may grope, The memory of your helping hand Will buoy me on with hope. Should you go first and I remain, One thing I'll have you do: Walk slowly down the long long Path, for soon I'll follow you. I want to know each step you take, So I may take the same. For someday down that lonely road, You'll hear me call your name.

7) AN IRISH BLESSING - A

May the road rise with you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, And rains fall soft upon your fields, And until we meet again, May God keep you in the hollow of His hand.

8) AN IRISH BLESSING - B

May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, And rains fall soft upon your fields, And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

9) DO NOT STAND

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond's gift of snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle autumn rain When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush. Of quiet birds in circled flight, I am the soft stars that shine at night, Do not stand at my grave and cry, I live with the Risen LORD.

10) AFARAWAY (HER)

You left a beautiful memory and a sorrow too great to be told, but to us who loved and lost you, your memory will never grow old. Always a silent hurt, many a silent tear, but always a beautiful memory of one we loved so dear. God gave us strength to bear it, and courage to take the blow, but what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. The Lord be with you now and for evermore. And May You Rest in Peace. Amen

11) AFARAWAY (HER)

You left a beautiful memory and a sorrow too great to be told, but to us who loved and lost you, your memory will never grow old. Always a silent hurt, many a silent tear, but always a beautiful memory of one we loved so dear. God gave us strength to bear it, and courage to take the blow, but what it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. The Lord be with you now and for evermore. And May You Rest in Peace. Amen

12) COME TO ME

God saw you getting tired And a cure was not to be. So He put His arms around you And whispered "Come to Me." With tearful eyes we watched you, And saw you pass away. Although we loved you dearly, We could not make you stay. A gold heart stopped beating, Hard working hands at rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.

13) DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all up hill, When the funds are low and the debts are high And you want to smile, but you have to sigh, When care is pressing you down a bit, rest, if you must, but don't you quit. Life is queer with its twists and turns, as everyone of us sometimes learns, and many a failure turns about when he might have won had he stuck it out, Don't give up though the pace seems slow -- You may succeed with another blow. Success is failure turned inside out -- The silver tint of the clouds of doubt, And you never can tell how close you are, It may be near when it seems so far; So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -- It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

14) FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD. When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you the most you would leave me." The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

15) GOD LOOKED AND SAW (GOD'S GARDEN)

God looked around his garden and saw an empty space. Then he looked down from Heaven and saw your tired face. He knew that you were suffering and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around you and whispered, 'Come to me'. With tearful eyes we watched, as you slowly passed away and though we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. Many times we've needed you. Many times we've cried. If only love could have saved you, You never would have died.

16) WHEN I MUST LEAVE

When I must leave you for a little while – Please do not grieve and shed wild tears and hug your sorrow to you through the years, But start out bravely with a gallant smile: And for my sake and in my name live on and do all things the same, Feed not your loneliness on empty days, But fill each waking hour in useful ways, Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer and I in turn will comfort you and hold you near; And never, never be afraid to die, For I am waiting for you in the sky.

17) FAMILY TREE

Remember the best times, the laughter, the song. The good life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest. Remember all, how I truly was blessed. Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your life, don't worry about falls. I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin. Until the day comes we're together again.

18) PSALM 121

I will lift mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade upon thy hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

19) A LIGHT IS (FATHER)

A light is from our household gone, A voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home, Which never can be filled. God gave us a beautiful father, A father who never grew old. You were always there with a helping hand, Help us now to accept His plan. We miss you now, our hearts are sore. As time goes by, we miss you more. Your loving smile, your gentle face, No one can take our father's place. May the choirs of the Angels receive you and may you have rest and peace everlasting. Amen.

20) A LIGHT IS (MOTHER)

A light is from our household gone, A voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home, Which never can be filled. God gave us a beautiful mother, A mother who never grew old. You were always there with a helping hand, Help us now to accept His plan. We miss you now, our hearts are sore. As time goes by, we miss you more. Your loving smile, your gentle face, No one can take our mother's place. May the choirs of the Angels receive you and may you have rest and peace everlasting. Amen

21) ALL THE TIMES

For all the times you picked us up when we would fall down. For all the times you gave to us a loving smile for a frown. The delicious food you always prepared, and glass of wine before bed. If you needed something for yourself, you'd put us first instead. For everything we've shared; the laughter and the tears. You have been loved so deeply and always will be for years. You will be missed Forever in our hearts.

22) ANIMA CHRISTI

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds, hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from Thee. From the malignant enemy, defend me. In the hour of my death, call me, And bid me come to Thee. That, with Thy Saints, I may praise Thee Forever and ever. Amen

23) ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servants, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life lasting. Thou only art immortal, who hast created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we mortals made, and unto the earth shall we return again, as Thou didst command when Thou madest man, saying unto me: For earth thou art, and unto the earth shall thou return. Whether, also, all we mortals wend our way, making of our funeral dirge the song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

24) THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

25) THE BEATITUDES (Matt. 5:3 - 10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted, for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

26) BLESSED ARE MOTHERS

Blessed are mothers...who did without for us, they shall be rewarded. Blessed are mothers...who lost sleep when we were sick, they shall find rest. Blessed are Mothers...who taught us how to pray, they shall share God's Kingdom. Blessed are mothers...who comforted us, they shall be comforted. Blessed are mothers...who taught us right from wrong, they shall know justice. Blessed are mothers...who showed us by example the Christian life, they shall live forever. Blessed are mothers...who shared with us the meaning of peace, they shall know peace. Blessed are mothers...who taught us the importance of loving God and each other, they shall see God.

27) BLESS THIS LITTLE CHILD, LORD

Lord, look down from heaven above And touch this special child with love. Protect and guide this little one 'Till each and every day is done. Remind us often that it's true: This little life is a gift from you. A miracle You've sent our way! Lord, bless this little child today.

28) DAILY PRAYER

May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His Mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at the last. (By Cardinal Newman)

29) DAYS WITHOUT END

GOD, Your days are without end, Your mercies beyond counting. Help us always to remember that life is short and the day of our death is known to You alone. May Your Holy Spirit lead us to live in holiness and justice all our days. Then, after serving You in the fellowship of Your Church, with strong faith, consoling hope, and perfect love for all, may we joyfully come to Your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

30) DE PROFUNDIS

Out of the depths have I cried to Thee O Lord! Lord, hear my voice. Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If Thou, O Lord, wilt mark iniquities: Lord, who shall stand it? For with Thee there is mercy: and by reason of Thy law I have waited on Thee, O Lord! My soul hath relied on His word: my soul hath hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch even until night: let Israel hope in the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy; and with him plentiful redemption and He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

31) END OF THE ROAD

When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me, I want no rites in a gloom filled room, why cry for a soul set free. Miss me a little - but not too long, and not with your head bowed low. Remember the love that we once shared, Miss me - but let me go. For this is a journey that we all must take, and each must go alone. It is all part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to home. When you are lonely and sick of heart, go to the friends we know, and bury your sorrow in doing good deeds, Miss me - but let me go.

32) FIREMAN'S PRAYER

Almighty God, Protector of all Mankind, Your strength, power, and wisdom are a beacon of light to all men. Give special guidance to Firemen and Firefighters so that we may be protected from harm while performing our duty. Help me with Your loving care while I work to save the lives and property of all people young and old. Give me the courage, the alertness to protect my neighbors and all others whom I am pledged to aid when involved in a fire or accident. Amen.

33) FOOTSTEPS

God sees when the footsteps all falter When the pathway has grown too steep, Then He touches the weary eyelids And gives His dear one's sleep. Amen

34) GOD THE CREATOR

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant unto the souls of Thy servants departed the remission of all their sins; that, by pious supplications, they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired. Grant this, O God, Who livest and reignest forever and ever.

34) GOD MADE US A FAMILY

God made us a family We need one another We love one another We forgive one another We work together We play together We worship together Together we use God's word Together we grow in Christ Together we love all men Together we serve our God Together we hope for Heaven These are our hopes and ideals Help us to attain them, O God, Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

36) GOD THE GIVER

O God, the giver of pardon and lover of human salvation, have mercy on your servant who has departed from this world. May the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, and all your Saints assist this soul in attaining eternal happiness. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God rest in peace.

37) HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen

38) I ASKED JESUS

"How much do you love me?" I asked Jesus, and Jesus said, "This much ..." Then He stretched out His arms and died.

39) GOOD MORNING GOD

You are ushering in another day untouched and freshly new, so here I come to ask you God if you'll renew me too? Forgive the many errors that I made yesterday, and let me try again dear God, to walk closer in Thy way. But Father, I am well aware I can't make it on my own. So take my hand and hold it tight for I can't walk alone.

40) I WILL REMEMBER YOU

In the rising of the sun and it's going down, I will remember you. In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, I will remember you. In the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring, I will remember you. In the blueness of the summer sky and in the warmth of summer, I will remember you. In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, I will remember you. In the beginning of the year and when it ends, I will remember you. When I am weary and in need of strength, I will remember you. When I am lost and sick of heart, I will remember you. When I have joys I yearn to share, I will remember you. So long as I live, You too shall live, For you are now part of me, as I remember you.

41) LEAF AFTER LEAF

Leaf after leaf, flower after flower. Some in the dawn of day, some in the after hour. Alive they flourish, and alive they fall, and the earth that sustained them receives them in fall.

42) LET US PRAY

Almighty God, through the death of Your Son on the cross, you have overcome death for us. Through his burial and resurrection from the dead you have made the grave a holy place and restored to us eternal life. We pray for those who died believing in Jesus and are buried with him in the hope of rising again. God of the living and the dead, may those who faithfully believed in you on earth praise you forever in the joy of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

43) MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, My Mother, to thee I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

44) THE MIRACLE OF FRIENDSHIP

There's a miracle called friendship that dwells within the heart and you don't know how it happens or when it gets its start. But the happiness it brings you always gives a special lift and you realize that friendship is God's most precious gift.

45) HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Amen

46) YOU LOVED HER (OR HIM)

Father we entrust our sister to your mercy. You loved her greatly in this life: now that she is freed from all its cares, give her happiness and peace forever. Welcome her now into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping or pain, but only peace and joy with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

47) O GENTLEST HEART

O gentlest heart of Jesus, ever present in the Blessed Sacrament, ever consumed with burning love for the poor captive souls, have mercy on the soul of thy departed servant. Be not severe in Thy judgement but let some drops of Thy Precious Blood fall upon the devouring flames, and do Thou O Merciful Saviour, send Thy Angels to conduct Thy departed servant to a place of refreshment, light and peace. Amen. Merciful Jesus grant eternal rest.

48) A FISHERMAN'S PRAYER

God grant that I may live to fish For another shining day
But when my final cast is made I then most humbly pray
When nestled in your landing net As I lay peacefully asleep,
You'll smile at me and judge That I'm "Good Enough to Keep"

49) CROSSING THE BAR - By Alfred Lord Tennyson
Sunset and evening star, And one clear call from me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar When I put out to sea.
But such a tide as moving seems asleep, Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep. Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell, And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell, When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar.

50) THE EVERLASTING LIGHT

Those we love must someday pass Beyond our present sight...
Must leave us and the world we know Without their radiant light.
But we know that like a candle Their lovely light will shine
To brighten up another place More perfect...more divine.
And in the realm of Heaven Where they shine so warm and bright,
Our loved ones live forevermore In God's eternal light.

51) THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Amen.

52) GRIEVE NOT

Grieve not...Nor speak of me with tears... But laugh and talk of me...As though I were beside you. I loved you so...'Twas Heaven here with you.

53) LORD SUPPORT US

Lord, support us all day long, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

54) PRAYER FOR THE CRUCIFIX

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus while before Your face I humbly kneel and beseech You to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity, true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment. While I contemplate, with great love and tender pity, Your five most precious wounds. Pondering over them within me and calling to mind the words which David, Your prophet, said of You, my Jesus: "They have pierced my hands and my feet, they have numbered all my bones". Amen.

55) PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

O God, The Creator and Redeemer Of all the Faithful, Grant to the Souls Of Thy Servants departed The remission of all their sins; That through pious supplications They may obtain the pardon Which they have always desired Who livest and reignest World without end. Amen

56) SAFELY HOME

I am home in Heaven, dear ones. Oh, so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light. All the
pain and grief is over. Every restless tossing passed. I am now
at peace forever. Safely home in Heaven at last. Did you
wonder I so calmly trod the valley of the shade? Oh! but
Jesus' love illuminated every dark and fearful glade. And he
came Himself to meet me in that way so hard to tread. And
with Jesus' arm to lean on. Could I have one doubt or dread?
Then you must not grieve so sorely for I love you dearly still.
Try to look beyond earth's shadows. Pray to trust our Father's
Will. There is work still waiting for you. So, you must not idly
stand; do it now, while life remaineth - You shall rest in Jesus'
land. When that work is all completed He will gently call you
Home. Oh, the rapture of that meeting, Oh, the joy to see you
come!

57) ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly
pray; And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly house, By the
power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits
Who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

58) ST. PATRICK

O great Apostle of Ireland, glorious St. Patrick, to whom
under God, so many are indebted for the most precious
of all treasures, the great gift of Faith, receive our fervent
thanks for the zeal and charity which have been to
thousands the source of blessings so invaluable. Ask for all
who dwell in this land and the land of thy labors, the
precious light of Faith, and beg for us on whom its
glorious rays have long since beamed, the grace to regulate
our lives by its sacred maxims.

59) YOUR GENTLE FACE

Your gentle face and patient smile. With sadness we recall
You had a kindly word for each And died beloved by all.
The voice is mute and stilled the heart That loved us well
and true. Ah, bitter was the trial to part From one so good
as you. You are not forgotten loved one Nor will you ever
be As long as life and memory last We will remember
thee. We miss you now, our hearts are sore, As time goes
by we miss you more, Your loving smile, your gentle face
No one can fill your vacant place.

60) LOVE LIVES ON

Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on, and
cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone.
Those we love can never be more than a thought apart,
for as long as there is memory, they'll live on in the heart.

61) YOU TOILED SO HARD

You toiled so hard for those you loved. You said goodbye to
none, your spirit flew before we knew, your work on earth
was done. We miss you now, our hearts are sore, as time
goes by we miss you more. Your loving smile, your gentle
face: no one can fill your vacant place. Your life was love and
labor. Your love for your family true. You did the best for all
of us. We will always remember you.

62) SEA FEVER - By John Masefield

I must go down to the seas again, to the lonely sea and the
sky, And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by, And
the wheel's kick and the wind's song and the white sail's
shaking, And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey dawn
breaking. I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the
running tide is a wild call and a clear call that may not be
denied; And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying
And the flung spray and the blown spume, and the sea-gulls
crying. I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant gypsy
life, To the gull's way and the whale's way, where the wind's
like a whetted knife; And all I ask is a merry yarn from a
laughing fellow-rover, And quiet sleep and a sweet dream
when the long trick's over.