

POPE FRANCIS

Prepare a table with a white cloth, an image of Pope Francis, and a candle. Light the candle, gather, and pray together the Sign of the Cross.

INTRODUCTION Today, we gather in prayer for Pope Francis, our beloved Holy Father, who has returned to God. He led the Church with wisdom and compassion and taught us to live humbly, to serve generously, and to care for the poor and marginalized.

As we honor the life of Pope Francis, we turn to God with hearts full of gratitude and trust, knowing that death is not the end, but a doorway to new life in Christ.

OPENING PRAYER God of mercy and compassion,
You chose Pope Francis to guide your Church as a shepherd of your people.
He served with humility, joy, and a heart full of love.
As we grieve his death, we rejoice in your promise of eternal life.
Welcome him into your heavenly home and give him the reward of his faithfulness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

READING FROM SCRIPTURE *Proclaim Matthew 25:34-36*

REFLECTION Pope Francis taught us many important lessons through the way he lived and how he loved God and others. He followed Jesus' teachings about putting God first, caring for the poor, and showing compassion. Let us remember his teachings and testimony of life which invite us to continue to care for the poor, be welcoming, care for the Earth, and never lose hope in God's love. As we continue to praise God with our lives and care for one another, let us reflect on these questions:

- What message for your life do you find in today's Gospel reading?
- What do you admire the most about Pope Francis?
- What lessons from his life can you try to live?



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INTENTIONS

With hope in God's promises, let us offer our prayers.

The response will be, **Lord, hear our prayer.**

1. For the Church as it prepares to celebrate the conclave to elect the new pope, may the Holy Spirit guide cardinals to listen to God's will. Let us pray to the Lord.
2. For those who lead nations, that they may follow Pope Francis' example of humility and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For those suffering from poverty, war, and injustice, that they may find peace and healing. Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For all of us gathered here today, that we may be strengthened in faith, love, and courage as we follow Pope Francis' testimony of faithfulness to the Gospel. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. For all those who have died, and in a special way for Pope Francis, that he may rest forever in God's peace. *(Pause for a moment of silent prayer).* Let us pray to the Lord.
6. For all our personal intentions. *(Pause for a moment of silent prayer).* Let us pray to the Lord.

CLOSING PRAYER

As we thank God for the service of Pope Francis to the Church and for the example he gave us of caring for the poor and marginalized, being faithful to the message of the Gospel, and sharing the joy of following Jesus and seeing him in those around us, we pray:

Leader: Loving God,

You created us for eternal life and raised your Son Jesus to conquer death. We entrust Pope Francis to your mercy and rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection.

May his spirit live on in the Church he served and the people he inspired. Strengthen us to walk the path of discipleship with faith and joy. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,

All: and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Leader: May the soul of Pope Francis and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

All: Amen.

Pray the Sign of the Cross.