

# Chaplains Prayers



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**Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin**

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# CHAPLAIN'S PRAYERS

## INTRODUCTION

This booklet of prayers has been especially prepared for the use of the Lodge Chaplains of the Wisconsin Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. These prayers are the product of the Grand Chaplain and the Former District Chaplains Corps. of the Wisconsin Masonic Grand Lodge.

These prayers may be used verbatim or they may be modified to meet the specific situation of those who use them.

It is hoped that these prayers will be of assistance to the Lodge Chaplains as they assume or continue to have the responsibility of being the spiritual resource in their Lodges.

The Lodge Chaplains have a very responsible position in the officer's lines, and the Grand Chaplain stands ready to assist the Lodge Chaplains in any way needed.

If you have prayers to add to this collection, please do so and send copies to the Grand Chaplain. They can be reproduced and made available to other Lodge Chaplains.

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## PRAYER CATEGORIES

1. Anniversary
2. Benedictions
3. General
4. Grace at Table
5. Invocations
6. Installation

## 7. Memorial Service

## BENEDICTIONS

- Dismiss us with Your blessing, our Father, that we may find refreshment in fellowship and sustenance so that we may return ready again to work through the matters before us. May we, with Your help, keep our minds, spirits and bodies fresh and alert so that our decisions will be the right ones in Your sight.
- Gracious God we leave this room with some matters settled and we thank You for that. May we, and Masonry, profit from our accomplishments. Though we differ among ourselves on many matters help us affirm our unity about that which is most important and that is that we love You and each other and that we are all concerned about the effective operation of Masonry within the bounds of its concepts and philosophy. To this end we commit our energies and talents.
- God of all people send us forth into this hour of refreshment to renew us that we may return filled with energy and enthusiasm to finish our work in Your name.
- We have been blessed, O God, by Your guiding presence during our time together. We now offer to you the results of what we have done so that Masonry will continue to be Your servant. Grant continuing comfort, wisdom and strength to us and to our Lodges that we may all be aware that what we do is to serve You through our service to others. Dismiss us with Your blessing.
- As we part company, Our Father, may we keep in mind that we are still together in spirit and in purpose. We work for Your great purposes through Masonry so grant us the necessary strength, wisdom and courage to continue our efforts with enthusiasm and creativity. May Your love be the guide in our thoughts and actions now and throughout our lives.
- Thanks for these exciting days for Masonry and for us personally. Our Craft is moving forward with Your help so grant that we will listen to Your word that our direction may be right.
- Remind us again that even though we are separated by miles we are still united in mission and effort. Bless us as we part company that we may continue to serve you through Masonry.
- We are grateful, O God, for the time we've had together and pray that it has been productive for Your work and will. We trust that through our common efforts as we plan and as we execute these plans persons will be served in Your name. As we part company help us be aware that we are still bound together by the strong ties of love and mutual concern. In Your name we pray.
- O Eternal Giver of life, love and all that is, dismiss us with Your blessing.
- Gracious God, Your care for us is overwhelming as we try to count our blessings and list those good things you have done for us and for all persons. Help us to respond to Your compassion by pledging to share this compassion with those who need it most. May the expression of our love reflect the grandeur of Yours so that others will be

drawn to You to serve. Make us instruments of Your will and forgetful of our own will so that Your purpose may be accomplished. (or Invocation)

- We bring to You, O Lord, another time of our meeting. We thank You for Your presence in our midst, Your guidance and Your grace. Now, as we prepare to go our separate ways be with us, lead us and guide us. Keep us safe and secure until we shall meet again.
- Most holy God, bless we pray Thee, and hallow this grave to be the sacred resting place of the body of this our brother departed. Amen.
- May the blessings of God Almighty rest upon us and all our brother Masons, and upon the work done in His name. May the Great Father of us all give us the light to guide us, courage to support us and His love to unite us now and forever more. Amen.
- With the day ended, and the labor of this task finished, we lay aside our tools and commit our efforts into Your eternal care. As we go forth, may it be with the determination to continue as workers for the Craft and as servants of all. Amen.
- The sun has set in the West, our labor is finished, our tools are put away for another day and we leave our posts in the East and the West and South and bound together by the fraternal ties of our Lodge, we are once again prepared for service. May we be guided and strengthened for our duties by your power, Eternal Builder of this universe. Amen.
- Oh, Eternal Giver of life, love and all that is, dismiss us with Your blessing. Amen.

## GENERAL

- O God, You clearly know all our needs and wants well before we ask. You foresee the temptations and concerns, our despair and misgivings which rise to assault us. Help us to put our entire trust in You and Your way. Through Your grace let us rise to seize the day, grasp the opportunities which lie before us and walk boldly in the light of Your leading.
- Guide us, Oh Lord, to ever walk toward Your light that our shadows might ever lie behind us. Let us perceive our blessings that we may ever serve you with a happy heart and a quiet mind.
- Almighty and Eternal God, teach us to know that Your love is eternal, that through You life is eternal. That with You there is no horizon for horizons are nothing but a limit of sight and with Your leading we can see clearly. Grant us grace to see the task that You would have us perform, courage to proceed and in our doing let us reflect Your love and peace.
- O, Almighty God, whose Spirit is known in the hearts of the thankful, who makes good cheer the companion of strength. Lift up our hearts to joyous confidence in Your tender love and Fatherly care. Teach us to know that doubt and uncertainty are but shadows which flee before Your light of eternal goodness. Where there is love in life - help us to find it, help us to trust it, to grow in its power so that our lives will present a ray of encouragement to all.
- Father, light up the small duties of this life. May they shine with Your beauty. May we understand that Your glory may dwell in the most common task and let us understand that there is no service to others which is without value. We thank You for our opportunities to serve and ask for Your guidance and blessing in all our endeavors.
- O Lord, our God, You have shepherded us through all our years and have brought blessing upon blessing to us. Forgive us those times when we have refused or ignored Your counsel and guidance. Since we have been so richly blessed, a large obligation is upon us to share our talent, energies and resources with those about us. From our repentance may there come a strong resolve to be more diligent in service to You, a deeper desire to be more worthy of the responsibility given us and a greater sensitivity to those about us.
- We look at our world and see so many areas of need. We are not sure where to start, but remind us constantly that even a cup of water given in Your name helps assuage the world's needs. May our great nation, for which we give thanks every day, meet its obligation to serve? In Your name.
- Gracious heavenly Father we have come a long way since the beginning of Masonry In Wisconsin. We find ourselves at a critical point in the life of the Craft. The past has set the stage for the future and we look forward full of hope, ideals and plans to make Masonry even more influential for the good of persons. We know we have Your help, but help us be attentive to Your will that our actions will reflect Your love

through us. We pledge to You and to our brothers and sisters to deepen our commitment, to work harder and to enjoy it more in our tomorrows. The past is no more; tomorrow will never come so, since today is all we have may we be about Your business.

- Eternal Spirit, giver of all life whose essence is love, as we continue the journey of life we ask for your blessed presence. Guide us into Your eternal plan. May we learn to love more graciously and more specifically? Bless our country, our order, all our officers and Masons everywhere. May our symbols of morality help us to turn away from the siren songs of our day? May we be steadfast in our faith? We thank you for our families and bless them everyone. We thank you for Masonry and that we are part of Your work through the Craft.
- We feel Your Presence, O God, in the warmth of love and concern in this place. We know of Your compassion because we see it expressed in those lives of Your followers who demonstrate it toward others. Thank you for such visible examples of goodness and justice for they reinforce our belief in the worth of persons.
- Deliver us, our Father, from the selfishness and egotism, which so easily beset us. May our minds find their way to Your mind that our work may result in beneficial actions not only for the Craft, but for everyone. Grant that we may become healers and part of the solution to the problems we face. Help us to speak, through love, to the conditions, which trouble us and our nation so that your peace may prevail in this place and in our world.
- O God we thank You for the occasion which has drawn us together. Grant that this may be a happy and enriching experience for us all for we desire your presence, Your wisdom and Your courage. As a result of our being together we expect to be challenged to understand better what we are here for and how to manage the experiences we will share. Help us to support one another in a spirit of brotherly love so that our efforts in your name will be productive of good for the benefit of us all. We know you will guide us and strengthen us for what lies ahead.
- Heavenly and gracious Father of us all, we ask You to bless this assembly, to bless us with Your presence. Let us see You in each other's faces, hear You in each other's voices and ever reflect in all our proceedings the love, grace, peace and harmony which reigns before your presence.
- Almighty and eternal Spirit, accept our grateful thanksgiving for the heritage that is ours through this Fraternal association, for all those who have gone before us and have been our benefactors as well as the guardians of our traditions; for those whose hopes and dreams have borne fruit through the practice of the virtues taught by our order. Give us a diligence that is worthy of them, a renewal of our spirit and faith in the eternal values, which they have cultivated. Bless us to be worthy stewards in the challenge to continue the great but unfinished work, which lies before us.
- Almighty God, renew in us a courage, which will prevail, a faith which is sure and unflinching and a willingness to be of service to You and Your purposes.

- Our Father, we lean heavily on our experiences and knowledge of the past with gratitude to You. We live at this moment of the present between the past and the future. May we be strong enough and wise enough not only to use what we have gained, but to plan and prepare boldly for tomorrow. We go forward in your name as those who have preceded us have done. Help us to implement our dreams of expanded service, greater love and more dedication to the spiritual concepts in Freemasonry. We move ahead confidently in Your name.
- Almighty God, our Father, Thy goodness loved us into life; Thy mercies never fail; our spirits turn to Thee in humble trust. Amid the decay of visible things draw nigh unto our fainting souls, O Thou Invisible Comforter; and as the changes of life leave us poorer and sadder may we know more of the constancy of Thy love and the unfailing riches of Thy sympathy, our weakness appeals to Thy pity. Hold not Thy peace at our tears. Lead us to the Rock that is higher than we.
- We bless Thee for our knowledge, thro' God, that death is not the destruction but the expansion of our life; that it opens the way into new opportunities of service and worship; new disciplines, new joys; that it cannot take us out of our Father's hands, nor separate us from the love of God. We are going whither we cannot see, but we do not leave our Father's house. We are the children of eternal love and underneath are the everlasting arms. Help us to realize the faith Jesus and the peace of Jesus, that the bereavements that darken our homes may not break our trust in Thee.

## Alternate Prayer - Closing of the Lodge

- Grand Architect and Builder of the universe: help us to see that life is good...that whatever the last moment was, the present moment is new. Make us aware that by your mercy, you first clear away the rubble of our lives so that we can proceed with the labors of our Craft un-hindered by that which can cause us to stumble and fall in our commitment. As we go our respective ways, we ask your blessing upon us, and give You thanks for the principles of Freemasonry which bind us brother to brother in fellowship, brotherly love and service. Amen.

## INVOCATIONS

- We ask your grace and wisdom, O Lord, as we meet together. Lead and guide us all, prepare our hearts and minds to hear and receive. Grant us clear minds to perceive the reflections of your wisdom and counsel and help us to maintain the harmony, which is so vital for our fellowship. Giving this time to You and Your service, we thank You for Your grace.
- We come here together again, oh Lord, in the quiet and secure sanctuary of our fellowship. Help us to leave the tensions and irritations of the world outside the outer door. Forgive us our failures, pardon our neglects, cleanse our hearts and revive our weary spirits. Bring together our scattered thoughts and help us to recall our victories for our encouragement. Show us ways to reach to each other in the true spirit of brotherly love, to strengthen the precious bonds of our fellowship. Grant us peace within and between ourselves. Help us to nurture each other and promote the love and harmony so essential to us all. We dedicate this time together to you and thank you for Your continuing blessings.
- Merciful Father, we ask you to bless this assembly and our time together. Grant us a spirit of reasonableness in all our dealings with each other. Keep us light hearted in helping, constructive and not critical. Keep us from unkindness in words or silence. Help us to be quick to understand and rise to the needs of others and to rise above any unkindness or slight. Grant us the brightness of your presence and direct our proceedings that harmony will every prevail.
- Grand Master of the Universe, our Heavenly Father, thank You for permitting us to gather again in Your name. The time we spend together is important for Freemasonry so we acknowledge Your presence with us that we may be open and sensitive to Your leadership on the important matters we will discuss and decide. As we experience the friendship we have for each other may we be truly united in our commitment to the high ideals and the work we do for the good of others. We begin this time together in Your name and dedicate what we do to You and Your purposes. In Your name we pray.
- Gracious God, You have been with us every day of our lives. For the

enrichment that comes through Your presence and for the friendship we experience in Freemasonry we express our gratitude. We are here to care for important matters in Your name so may we be open to Your will and guidance as we deal with the issues before us. Give us the wisdom and courage to face these issues in Your spirit so that we may know the decisions will be the right ones. We begin this time together in Your name and dedicate what we do to You and Your purpose expressed through Freemasonry.

- Supreme Architect of the Universe and Father of us all, You have permitted us to gather again to conduct the business of Since we met last, Your presence has been
- with us in guidance, comforting and strengthening ways. For all the blessings and benefits you have showered upon us, we praise You and thank You.
- The blessings You have given us places an obligation upon us to share them with other persons. This is why we are here - to review such matters as are before us through consideration and discussion then act upon them in such a way that others will benefit. We recognize our responsibility to those around us so give us the faith, the energy and the know how to follow Your lead that others will receive help through what we do during these days we have together. We pledge our resources to do Your work through Masonry. In Your name we pray.
- We begin this new day joyfully in Your name, a God. We have many important matters to care for so guide us in our consideration of each and in our decisions. We trust Your help and anticipate that we will do Your will as we work together for health, strength and daily food, for friendship, morality and brotherly love, for family, friends, Masonry and Your love.
- Grand Architect of the Universe, spread the bright rays of Thy light, Oh Father, upon this Masonic family gathered here in Thy presence, that every member being made confident by Thy guidance may fulfill his daily duty with pure motives and a gallant heart. Be close to us, we pray, in times of stress and strain that our courage and hope may never fail. Amen.
- Grand Architect of all the heavens and the earth - help us faithfully to fulfill our duties to Thee and to each other. Keep all unkind thoughts, anger, and evil speaking from us. We ask Thee to give us tender hearts, full of affection and sympathy, and love toward all our brothers. Preserve us from selfishness and grant that each day we may grow in Thy love for all mankind.
- Eternal and creative Architect, we are gathered as a fellowship to do the proper business of the Craft. Our desire is to be guided in our deliberations and directed in our duties that we might be worthy workers. May our sensitivities be challenged as our obligations reveal the needs of others about us. May we be united as one brotherhood in our service to the Fraternity and to all humanity? Amen.
- Supreme Architect of the Universe we meet in Your name and pray your

blessing on those gathered here. We want to do your work this day so grant us the vision to see it clearly and the courage to do it. May harmony prevail in our efforts and may love for each other be visible as we give of ourselves to the tasks before us. purpose. Direct our thoughts and actions that they may reflect Your purpose.

### GRACE AT TABLE

- As You blessed the loaves and fishes, bless the food upon these dishes; and as sugar hides in tea, hide, oh Lord, in me.
- Oh Gracious Lord, source of all bounty, bless this food which is before us and those who so lovingly have prepared it for us. As you bless it to our use, bless us to your service.
- For this food, fellowship and all the gifts of Your love we offer our thanks and our praise. Look down upon us, heavenly Father, bless us, keep us and help us to ever walk in Your light.
- Creator and provider of all things; we thank You for this occasion, and ask your blessing upon the food that has been prepared for us. We thank you also for the fellowship with our brothers. Enrich us in our time around these tables, that through our conversations and sharing we may become more committed to understanding and supporting one another in words and actions which are consistent with Your laws and the principals of our Craft. Amen..
- Creator of all, who gives us food for the body and truth for the mind; enlighten and nourish us that we may grow wise and strong, thereby accomplishing Your will for us. Amen.
- Everlasting power of love, we pause in these moments to express our thanks for the bounty of nourishment that has been provided for us at this time in this place. May we be strengthened by Your divine grace for the tasks before us, and may we be assured of the value of that which we have done. Amen.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Dedication or Rededication of a Building

- Gracious God accept our gratitude for Your presence in our lives. We thank You for the grace and strength You have imparted to us over the years. As we re-dedicate (dedicate) this building to your work through Masonry we also re-dedicate (dedicate) ourselves to the high moral and ethical standards of Freemasonry. Thank you for those men and women who have made Masonry come alive, who have enriched the life of our Nation and all persons who have seen their dedication. May this building continue to be a blessed place where Masons meet in harmony for nourishment, refreshment and joy to do your work.
- Supreme Architect of the Universe we thank You for this day and its significance for those who use and enjoy this building. We have come to dedicate (re-dedicate) this fine facility in Your name and for Your use through Masonry. The history of those who have made this day, this event, possible is one of which we all can be proud.

The attachment of Masonry to the high ideals of the Fraternity - hope, service, love - has been historically documented and exemplified every day. Our main vocation is to serve, love and help persons in every way possible and we are grateful for the many opportunities to do so.

We pray that those who meet here will do so in harmony and brotherhood, which will have a beneficial influence not only on the Lodge, but on the community as well. May we all continue to express compassion through action toward all those in need and so fulfill the purpose for which we have been given talents and abilities?

### FRIENDS' NIGHT OR OTHER SOCIAL EVENT

- Gracious Father of us all we thank you for letting us be together this evening. May we receive a greater portion of energy and enthusiasm as a result of our time together. May we find refreshment and joy as we fellowship and feast together.
- Gracious Father of us all, thank You for this occasion where friendship, morality and brotherly love can find expression. We are grateful that our friends are with us. These friends mean much to us so it is a pleasure to welcome them on this occasion. May we all be enriched by our association and our time together. Grant that this food and fellowship will add much to our quality of life and our dedication to Masonry.
- We are grateful, O God, for the refreshment and nourishment we shall experience this evening. The food and fellowship we accept knowing that both can contribute to our growth and understanding of Your will and purpose. Grant us the strength and wisdom to make the most of our talents and abilities to serve You and the men and women and children of our world.  
We dedicate what we have and who we are to You and Your will.
- God we thank You for this day of sunshine, clouds and raindrops for they remind us of how You have provided for us all our lives. We are grateful for the evening and

for the opportunity to celebrate this significant anniversary of Masonry. As we participate in this program may our commitment to Masonry be strengthened, renewed and invigorated. Bless those who speak to us and who perform for us that thro them we might be inspired to do greater things for You and the Craft.

- O Lord, our God, You have shepherded us through all these years and have brought blessing upon blessing to us. We have not always followed your counsel and guidance so forgive us those times. From our repentance comes strong resolve to be more diligent in obedience to You, a deeper desire to be more worthy of the responsibility You give us and a greater sensitivity to those about us. You have given Masonry much. So much is required of Masonry. These past 150 years have set the stage for the next 150 years - The leadership, the membership has been strong and loyal. As we look to the future we know you are with us and will help us become more creative and efficient in living Your word and will.

So this day and for the next two days inspire us to begin with renewed courage, for that is what it takes, to do those things that need doing and that will help us all grow that we may serve better. We submit ourselves to You and are in Your hands.

- We thank You, a God for life, health, family, friends and all the good things You have done for us. Thank you for Masonry for it has brought insight and truth into our lives in a unique way. it has also brought a satisfying experience of fraternal fellowship. Because we are grateful to You we pledge to serve You through Masonry as well as through every other avenue possible. Grant that we may find even greater fulfillment as we dedicate this time together to Your work and Your will.

### **For the Opening of Annual Communication or Other Opening**

- Supreme Architect of the Universe we are grateful to You for bringing us through another year to this Annual Meeting. The experiences of the past year remind us very vividly how much You care for us and how completely we depend on Your word, will and leadership. As we face the busy days ahead we are reminded even more strongly that we need Your help not only in our actions, but also in our attitudes. We pray that personal prejudices will be dispelled and that concern for the proper direction for Masonry will prevail.

Our prayer also is for a spirit of harmony, understanding and mutual concern to pervade our discussions and decisions. May we grow in our sensibility to the many needs of persons and in our determination to assist the Craft to continue to move toward Your expectations for it.

May each of us gathered here look within and resolve to seek Your guidance on every issue before us that we may become more qualified to make the right choices for Masonry which is, in itself an appendant body to Your work.

### **An Opening of a Meeting**

- We are grateful for the many experiences of Your love, O God, and for the

opportunity to gather to do Your work through Masonry. These are important hours for the Fraternity and for each of us so we pray that we will express maturity as we discuss, face challenges and vote in a spirit of fraternal understanding and tolerance. Grant us the ability to think clearly on the issues we shall face. May we have the strength to live with the decisions we make. Help us to feel a sense of obligation to live by the principles of Masonry in all our relationships. May we be natural as You would have us be - not superficial, not political, not self-serving.

Help us to respond in Your spirit to acknowledged needs among persons and so grant us the youthfulness and the creative energy to carry out the high ideals You have in mind for us. While these virtues spell out what Masonry is may we place ourselves in a position to exemplify them each day.

## INSTALLATION

- O God, we are grateful for Your leadership in our lives, in Masonry and in this Lodge. While we are proud of our past, we anticipate an even richer future under the leadership of these newly installed officers. As they, and all of us, remain sensitive to where You want us to go may we be creative as we follow so that this Lodge will continue to be a strong force for Masonry and for Your work.
- O God, direct us in all our efforts to serve You through Masonry. Help us to be good leaders and good followers working together to do what you desire. May we take more of Your. love and use it for good. May we, as a result, be more understanding, tolerant, and aware of need.

Grant that these new officers will have an extra share of physical and spiritual strength that they may lead us into new and greater ways of service. You have provided us with possibilities, potential and ability. Help us to increase our motivation and desire to get things done that need doing.

- Supreme Architect of the Universe and Father of us all, out of the goodness of Your heart You have permitted us to assemble in Your name to participate in the installation of these officers of this Lodge. We know that all good things come from You so accept our thanks for all those enriching things that have come to us.

We pray a special prayer for those before us who are assuming new responsibilities in this Masonic organization. May they be reminded of the high concepts of Freemasonry and in so doing may they be guided by Your love and strength to be equal to the tasks that lie ahead of them. Be with their families also as they support these new officers. May we all be open to your guidance and may we work together to help make Masonry stronger, more viable and with a greater desire to serve.

- Supreme Architect of the Universe we are grateful for those who have led Wisconsin Masonry (our lodge) through the past years. It is because they were strong and dedicated to the high principles of Masonry that we are here tonight. Through the trials, difficulties and criticisms that have come to Masonry the Craft has remained strong and committed to its high ideals.

Thank you for the Grand Master and his wife (W. Master & wife) and their leadership. We know of their whole-hearted commitment to the high standards and expectations of Masonry. Continue to give them adequate strength to meet the heavy demands of the office. Bless us all in our support of them that our Craft (lodge) may become stronger and even more relevant to today's needs.

- Supreme Architect of the Universe we have assembled in Your name to participate in the installation of the officers of this lodge. As we proceed through this ceremony we pray that harmony, morality and brotherly love will characterize our thoughts and actions. Help us to understand the virtues, which are promoted by Masonry and grant us the courage to practice them in love. Guide us through this evening so that honor will come to You.
- Almighty God in whom we live, move and have our being, we are grateful for Your continuing presence in our lives. We thank you for this evening and the purpose for our gathering. You have guided our lodges and their leaders through the years. You are part of our past, our present and our future. We remember with gratitude those who have led us in the past.

We pray that You will so guide these newly selected officers that Your will and way may be clearly seen in what they do and how their lodges serve. Bless them with an even larger amount of courage, energy and most of all love to enable them to lead in the direction that will serve your work and benefit persons. We pray also for their families that they, too, will support and keep these new officers in their responsibilities in Masonry.

Bless and give strength and understanding and loyalty to the members of these, and all, lodges so that harmony and love and service will reign. May jealousy, power seeking, and selfish interest all be cast out by the strength of Your love mirrored in their leaders and in Your lodges. Help us all to find joy and co-operation and a desire to serve as we commit ourselves anew to the lessons and concepts of Masonry.

- Supreme Architect of the Universe we come to this installation ceremony with appreciation for the way You have led our Lodge officers this year. Your purpose can be seen in the work of Masonry - its philanthropic passion, its fraternal expression and its dependency on Your strength and wisdom. We are grateful for those who have led the Lodge this past year - their dedication and service - for their enriching contributions to this Lodge will last.

We thank You for those who will become the new Worshipful Master and all the new officers with their enthusiasm, plans and hopes - as well as their commitment to the concepts of Masonry - belief in Deity and in the brotherhood of mankind. May their coming leadership continue to reflect Your goodness and wisdom as they bring this Lodge even closer to Your expectation of it.

We dedicate ourselves to responsible service to Your purposes.

## **Prayer for New Officers**

- God and Father of us all we thank You for so many things that enrich life especially our families, friends and others who care about us and help us become the persons we should be.

For those who listen to us and guide us through times of decision.

For those who volunteer, who sacrifice, time, energy and resources.

For the past officers and leaders of this Lodge who have contributed greatly to the high quality of our Lodge and its success.

For the new officers and the ray of hope and promise they bring with their own unique qualities of leadership.

For the Lodge and its future - May it find stability, security and adventure in the days ahead and help attract continuing excellent leadership and followership in the years ahead.

## **Installation Benediction**

- Gracious God as we prepare to part company help us to keep aware of the fact that even though we are separated by space we are strongly united to each other in our faith, hope and love for each other and for all persons.

May we be strong enough to practice the great moral duties taught to us in our lodges and help us to understand we are doing Your work through Masonry. Our newly selected officers continue to need Your presence - may they call upon You constantly and may we all benefit by our closeness to each other and to You.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

- Eternal God, in whose presence a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night; we confess that our life here is as the grass which is renewed in the morning and flourishes...and in the evening fades and withers. Here in the presence of death we are made aware of our mortality. We ask that you teach us to number our days, using them wisely, and looking toward the time when you call us to Yourself. Hear our prayer, and grant us Your peace and Your life, for we are strangers with You, and travelers, as are all who have gone before us. But You, God, are the same and Your years shall have no end. Amen.
- Almighty God, creator and sustainer of all; you have been our dwelling place in all generations. You are our refuge and strength...a very present help in times of trouble. Grant us Your blessing in this hour, and enable us to put our trust in You, that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth and help us to see the light of eternity which rests with You. So may we find

grace and strength for this in every time of need. Amen.

- Almighty God, we bless Your name in thanks for all those who have entered their rest. We ask especially that you keep alive in us, the memories of our brother, \_\_\_\_\_, whom you have called out of this world. Grant that every memory which turns our hearts from things seen to things unseen, may lead us always upward to You, until we too come to the place of rest you have prepared for Your faithful people.

We also remember before You the family, relatives and friends who mourn the earthly loss of our brother. May the sense of Your love and sympathy minister to their grief and loneliness. Touch their hearts with the healing power of Your presence and grant them the strength to carry out Your will in their lives as their expression of gratitude for the life of, whose love they will always remember and cherish. Amen.

- God, thou Comforter of thy children, thou God of love and tenderness, we pray for those who mourn at this time. We cannot-and we need not-tell their sorrow unto thee. In the stillness of our hearts we ask for them thy sustaining grace. Be thou their stay in this sore trial, the strength of the fainting heart and the light of the darkened home. Open their eyes to see the Father's house on high, and may they be assured that their beloved has found a better life and the more perfect rest in thee.

And may this visitation of death be thy voice speaking to us, each one. May it minister to a truer and holier life in our souls? May our passing days be rich in those things which death cannot take away from us; and do thou strengthen us to live that life of faith and righteousness, of charity and peace, of usefulness and service, which makes the last earthly change but a step nearer to thee, our everlasting refuge and our home. Hear us for thy mercy's sake. In Your name. Amen.

- We thank thee for the life and ministry of this good woman (man), our friend; the law of kindness was on her (his) tongue. Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; given to hospitality; having fought the good fight, and finished the course, and kept the faith, grant to her the crown of righteousness that fadeth not away.
- Thy children thank thee for the ministry of this \_\_\_\_\_, whom thou has taken from our earthly fellowship. - has refreshed our souls with - smiling trustfulness, - gentleness and the strength of - love. - has made us glad in \_living and called forth the richest treasures of our hearts. We rejoice in a hope that is big with immortality and in the happy reunion (of this - and - father) in the Unseen Home of thy love beyond the mystery where he waits our coming.
- Our Father, who art in heaven, we commend into Thy hands of mercy, most merciful Father, the soul of this our brother departed, beseeching Thine infinite goodness to give us grace to live in Thy fear and love and to die in Thy favor, that both this our brother and we may be found acceptable in Thy sight, and receive that blessing which Thy well-beloved Son shall pronounce to all that love and fear Thee, saying, "Come ye blessed of My Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, merciful Father. Amen.

- Grant, O Lord, that while we lament the departure of this Thy servant, we may always remember that we are most certainly to follow him; and give us grace to prepare for the last hour by a holy life; that we may not be surprised by a sudden death when unprepared, but may be found ever watching, so that when Thou shalt call, we may enter into Thy eternal glory. Amen.
- Father of Spirits, we have joy at this time in all who have faithfully lived and peacefully died. We thank thee for all fair memories and immortal hopes; for the sacred ties that bind us to the unseen world; for the dear and holy dead who encompass us like a cloud of witnesses and make the unseen heaven as home to our hearts. May we be followers of those who through faith and patience now inherit the promises?

Our Father, we acknowledge thy great goodness in this finished life. Thy children desire to thank thee for the friend whom thou has now called from our earthly fellowship, and we rejoice in a hope that is big with immortality.

- God and Creator of us all, we are drawn together at this sad moment to acknowledge the loss of one of our brothers. We lift our thoughts and our voices in supplication for those who most deeply feel this loss; the widow, the children, the parents, and all others with whom he has shared his presence. We all feel the loss and are aware of the gap in our fellowship because of this death. As in all situations, sustain us in this time of great sorrow and loss, and at the same time remind us of our finiteness and how very short is the breathe of life.

May these who have suffered the great family loss, feel the warmth of Your divine love encircling them and the power of Your divine grace guiding them as they regain their balance of living in the days to come. Amen.

### ILLNESS OR DIFFICULT TIMES

- Almighty and merciful Supreme Architect, look down from heaven and behold, visit and relieve your servant. Look upon him with your eyes of mercy, grant him comfort and confidence, protect him from all danger and keep him in peace and safety.
- Almighty and gracious Father of us all, we entrust to you all who are near and dear to us knowing that your never failing love and care will be theirs in this life as in the life to come. Knowing that you continually are doing more for them than we can understand, desire or even pray for, we give you thanks.
- Merciful and generous author of life and health, we ask you to bless and to heal our brother that he may be restored to full health to Your glory.
- (Bedside) Divine power of love and care, we recognize that sickness, pain and suffering are part of the burdens we all must bear on the road of life, but hear our concerns for the illness of our (brother, sister). We ask that your grace and love will assist in granting patience to our (brother, sister) as (he, she) bears this burden.

Indeed, we would ask that Your divine power would be used to lift the burden when as it would fit in Your divine order of things in this master plan of all creation. Touch this one with the assurance that Your grace is sufficient. Amen.

- (In lodge) Our God, we know that you control all the movement within this, Your universe. We pause to ask that you will remember this one who is brought before us as suffering this illness. May the combined efforts of our love as it is expressed in our united prayers have the purpose of bringing relief from any suffering or illness? Give special aid to those medical personnel who are responsible for tending this one who is the subject of our concern at this time. Give added to grace to those of us who are in the fraternity that we will be moved to compassion and concern for that one who is ill. Amen.
- Our gracious heavenly Father, Lord of all, on this dark day help us to realize just such days and times are part of life, but only a part. We know the sun still shines and will shine again. We know rain and snow are essential to our well being and the wellness of our earth.

Difficult times will come but, with your help, we can weather them because You help us see beyond today. We can grow toward Your expectation of us in spite of, or because of, the tough experiences circumstances throw at us. May we be wise enough to see the silver lining, the shining sun and to have a vision of the solution to our problems?