**Saying Goodbye and a final Blessing**

*The Song of Simeon (Luke 1:29-30)*

Lord now you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled and my duty done.

My own eyes have seen the salvation:  
which you have prepared to shine for all the world.

*Celtic prayer:*

Heavenly light directs my feet,

the music of the skies

gives peace to my soul.

Alone, I am under the wing of the rock

Angels of God calling me home.

*Hymn:*

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
   The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;  
   When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
   Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
   Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
   Change and decay in all around I see—  
   O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
3. I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
   What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s power?  
   Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
   Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
   Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;  
   Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
   I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
   Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;  
   Heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
   In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*Readings:*

If we live, we live for the Lord;  
and if we die, we die for the Lord.  
Whether therefore we live or die,  
we belong to the Lord. *Romans 14:8*

Blessèd be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by whose great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3*

# *Psalm 23 (King James Version)*

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 will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Commendation*

Let us pray.

Gracious God, nothing in death or life,  
in the world as it is or the world as it shall be,  
nothing in all creation can separate us from your love.

We commend *N...* into your loving care.  
Enfold *her/him* in the arms of your mercy.  
Bless *her/him* in *her/his* dying and in *her/his* rising again in you.  
Bless those whose hearts are filled with sadness,  
that they too may know the hope of resurrection;  
for the sake of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Go forth, *N...*, on your journey from this world,  
in the love of God the Father who created you,  
in the mercy of Jesus the Redeemer who suffered for you,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit who keeps you in life eternal.  
May you dwell this day in peace,  
and rest in the presence of God. Amen.

*Prayer for family and friends*

God of all consolation,  
grant to those who sorrow the spirit of faith and courage,  
that they may have the strength to meet the days to come  
with steadfastness and patience;  
not sorrowing without hope, but trusting in your goodness;  
through him who is the resurrection and the life,  
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*Blessing*

Our Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you,  
within you to keep you,  
before you to lead you,  
beside you to guard you,  
and above you to bless you.  
Amen.

*Hymn:*

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,  
   Pilgrim through this barren land;  
   I am weak, but Thou art mighty,  
   Hold me with Thy powerful hand.  
   Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
   Feed me now and everymore;  
   Feed me now and everymore.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
   Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
   Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
   Lead me all my journey through.  
   Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
   Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
   Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
   Bid my anxious fears subside;  
   Death of death and hell’s Destruction,  
   Land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
   Songs of praises, songs of praises,  
   I will ever give to Thee;  
   I will ever give to Thee.