Prayer for Family and Friends

One of the following, or a similar prayer, may be said for the family and friends of the dying. Those present may be invited to offer other prayers.

1 Almighty God, our creator and redeemer,
you are our strength and our hope.
You have given us N.
to know and to love in our pilgrimage on earth.
Uphold us now as we entrust her/him
to your boundless love and eternal care.
Assure us that not even death
can separate us from your infinite mercy.
Comfort us in our anguish,
that we may know your sure consolation
and live in confident hope of the resurrection;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2 Lord God,
look kindly upon us in our sorrow
as this life is taken from us,
and gather our pain into your peace.
Be with us in our grieving, and overcome all our doubts.
Awaken our gratitude for your gifts of love and tenderness,
and grant us your wisdom.
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3 Lead, kindly Light,
our only hope in darkness.
Heal the wounds of sorrow and renew our trust in your goodness.
Enable us to be grateful for the ties that bind us to N.
Renew our strength each day to seek your will
and lean upon your mercy.
Keep us ever in the communion of saints
and in the promise of life eternal,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(2018 BCW, 775–776)
For Use When a Life-Support System Is Withdrawn

God of all life,
you are there at our going out and our coming in.
You first gave us breath
and you receive us at our last.
We thank you for N.,
for her/his life,
for all the gifts she/he gave
and the love that we have shared.
By your Spirit uphold us as we release N. to your eternal care.
Receive her/him into your everlasting arms
and give us the peace that passes all understanding,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

(2018 BCW, 776)