

Franciscan Prayer Service for a Successful Surgery

Note: the pronouns "she" and "her" are used in this prayer service. The text can be adjusted as needed.

Leader:

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are our ever-present help in times of trouble. Please bless N. _____ as she undergoes surgery. Your word says that you will never leave us or forsake us, and that you are always with us. Let N. _____ feel your presence during the operation. Please help her to trust in you, and remember that you never stop watching over her and you are always working for her good. Lord, bless her and keep her, make your face shine upon her. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Reader: Reading from The Earlier Rule of St. Francis

If any of the sisters or brothers fall sick, wherever she/he or he may be, let the other sisters and brothers not leave him behind unless one of the members, or even several of them, if necessary, is designated to serve the sick one as "they would want to be served themselves." In case of the greatest need, however, they can entrust their sick member to someone who should do what needs to be done for their sickness. I beg the sick sister or brother to thank God for everything and to desire to be whatever the Lord wills, whether sick or well.

Response: *(Led by another individual)* Psalm 18:1-3, 16, 19, 28, 30

I love you, God, my strength.
You are my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;
my God, my protector, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

I call upon you, who are worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

You reached from on high and you grasped me;
you drew me out of deep waters.

You brought me forth into a broad place;
you delivered me because you love me.
Yes, you light my lamp;
my God, you lighten my darkness.

God, your way is perfect;
your promise proves true;
you are a shield for all those who take refuge in you.

Leader: O God, the peace you give surpasses all our understanding. Make us open to your gifts and your help.

The Leader invites each participant to respond to the following invocation by naming a particular gift or virtue to be bestowed on the individual being prayed for. (Ex: patience, courage, etc.)

Leader: Lord, through our prayers please send your gifts to our sister/brother N._____ .

The Leader calls each participant by name. Each responds in turn. After each has responded the leader says:

Leader: Together we pray *(all in unison)* **God bless you, N._____.**

Leader: God is the source of all healing and hope, to whom we now lift up in prayer the needs of the sick and those who care for them.

Petitions: *(read by another individual)*

We pray for N._____ and all who suffer any form of illness or infirmity. May they find relief from their pain, meaning in their struggles, and healing in body, mind and spirit. (Pause briefly) We pray.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for the family and friends of N._____ who will care for her and all those who care for sick loved ones. May they be strengthened and supported in their service. (Pause briefly) We pray.

We pray for the doctors and nurses assigned to N._____’s care and for all professional caregivers that they may be guided by wisdom, strength, skill, and generosity. (Pause briefly) We pray.

We pray that N._____ and all those facing the uncertainty of their illness find peace, serenity and consolation through the gentle presence of God and those around them. (Pause briefly) We pray.

Leader: We ask that God, the source of all healing and hope, hear these prayers and all the prayers of our hearts. Amen.

Closing Prayer *(Leader invites all to extend hands over the individual being prayed for.)*

Leader: Lord, look upon N._____ with eyes of mercy. May Your healing hand rest upon her, may Your lifegiving powers flow into every cell of her body and into the depths of her soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring her to wholeness and strength for service in Your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**