

Vigil for victims of torture

1. Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart;
Christ be within me, Christ below me,
Christ be above me never to part.
2. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in strife;

Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

3. Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be in all tongues telling of me,
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

Spirit of Freedom

1. Lord my God, I call for help by day;
I cry at night before you.
Let my prayer come into your presence.
O turn your ear to my cry.
2. For my soul is filled with evils;
my life is on the brink of the grave.
I am reckoned as one in the tomb:
I have reached the end of my strength,
3. like one alone among the dead;
like the slain lying in their graves;
like those you remember no more,
cut off, as they are, from your hand.
4. You have laid me in the depths of the tomb,
in places that are dark, in the depths.
Your anger weighs down upon me:
I am drowned beneath your waves.
5. You have taken away my friends
and made me hateful in their sight.
Imprisoned, I cannot escape;
my eyes are sunken with grief.
6. I call to you, Lord, all the day long;
to you I stretch out my hands.

Will you work your wonders for the dead?
Will the shades stand and praise you?

7. Will your love be told in the grave
or your faithfulness among the dead?
Will your wonders be known in the dark
or your justice in the land of oblivion?
8. As for me, Lord, I call to you for help:
in the morning my prayer comes before
you.
Lord, why do you reject me?
Why do you hide your face?
9. Wretched, close to death from my youth,
I have borne your trials; I am numb.
Your fury has swept down upon me;
your terrors have utterly destroyed me.
10. They surround me all the day like a flood,
they assail me all together.
Friend and neighbour you have taken away:
my one companion is darkness.

Glory be to the Father... Amen

*Lord my God, I call for help by day, I cry
at night before you.*

Spirit of Freedom

The breeze of the Spirit challenges us to change.
Give us the courage to respond, Oh God.

The fire of the Spirit incites us to become passionate for the kingdom.
Warm us and give us your energy, Oh God.

The breath of the Spirit offers us a new life.
May we receive and live the Gospel in the world.

In a world of deprivation and of oppression,
of violence and of alienation,
where life often has neither meaning nor content,
may we contribute to the unity of the community, Oh God.

Guide us, Spirit of God, in joy and in faith,
In truth and in freedom.
May we follow you on your known and unknown paths.

Prayer taken from the texts of the World Council of Churches, Canberra 1991