

Deathbed Prayer Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The members of the [*family name*] family, of the [*chapter name*] Chapter, [*Dharma center name*], and members of the Sangha, have all gathered to reverently pray and recite the sutra for the late [*full name*], who has just passed from this world, so that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly enter the wondrous realm of nirvana.

We earnestly pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, you extend your hands of compassion, sympathy, liberation, and protection, as well as your guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous

Dharma, may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, all of us—the members of the [*family name*] family and members of the Sangha—have
 sincerely recited the sutra to transfer the merits of its recitation to the late [*full name*].

The Sutra of the Method for Contemplating the Bodhisattva Universal Sage says:

“The ocean of all karmic impediments
 Arises from illusions.
 If you want to perform acknowledgment and remorse,
 You must sit correctly and contemplate ultimate reality.
 All wrongs are just as frost and dew,
 So the sun of wisdom can melt them away.
 Therefore, with utmost sincerity,

Perform acknowledgment and remorse for the six sense faculties.”

We reverently pray that [*appropriate pronoun*] may quickly depart for the jeweled land of tranquil light and accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)