

THE JANAZAH PRAYER (FUNERAL PRAYER):

The janazah prayer is a communal obligation. All conditions that apply to the normal prayer apply to the funeral prayer as well i.e. state of purity, wudu, awrah must be covered (no shorts allowed for men and only face and hands may be exposed for women) and facing the qiblah.

The body is placed in front of the congregation perpendicular to the qiblah with the head on the right side. The imam positions himself at the head of the body for a male, the middle of the body for a female and the followers form at least 3 rows behind the Imam. The prayer consists of 4 Takbirs in the standing position (for those able to stand), ending in Salaam with no athan, iqamah, bowing or prostration. The following steps outline the procedure for the prayer.

1. With the intention to pray upon the deceased seeking the pleasure of Allah, follow the imam in saying the first Takbir, Allahu Akbar.

Read Surah Fatihah after the first takbir.

2. Follow the imam in the second takbir, Allahu Akbar.

Read the salawat on the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). "Allahumma sallee ala-Muhammad wa'ala alee Muhammad kama sallayta ala Ibrahim wa ala alee Ibrahim, wa barik ala Muhammad wa'ala alee Muhammad kama barakta ala Ibrahim wa ala alee Ibrahim, innaka hamidun Majeed".

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ
مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ
إِبْرَاهِيمَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ
اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ
كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ
إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ

3. Follow the Imam in the third Takbir and supplicate for the deceased.
4. Follow the imam in the 4th and final Takbir and supplicate for yourself and the other deceased.
5. End the prayer with tasleem as for the prescribed prayers.

For the prayers/dua after the 3rd and 4th Takbirs, the following dua may be read.

67. Dua in janaazah salaah for an adult

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِحَيِّنَا وَمَيِّتِنَا وَشَاهِدِنَا وَغَائِبِنَا
 وَصَغِيرِنَا وَكَبِيرِنَا وَذَكَرِنَا وَأُنثَانَا اللَّهُمَّ مَنْ
 أَحْيَيْتَهُ مِنَّا فَأَحْيِهِ عَلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَمَنْ تَوَفَّيْتَهُ مِنَّا
 فَتَوَفَّهُ عَلَى الْإِيمَانِ

O Allah ﷻ, forgive amongst us those who are alive and those who are dead, those who present and those who are absent, those who are young and those who are old, those who are males and those who are females. O Allah ﷻ, whom You keep alive amongst us, keep him alive upon Islam and whom You caused to die, let him die upon imaan.

(Firmidhi, Vol. 1, Pg. 121)

Allahummaghfirli hayyina wa mayyitina, wa shahidina, wa ghaeebina, wa sagheerina, wa kabeerina, wa dhakarina wa unthana, allahumma mann ahyaytahu minna fa'ahyih alal islam wa mann tawaffaytahu minna fatawaffahu alal imaan.

In the dua, the ending hu is changed to haa for a female deceased and to hum for multiple deceased

Imam Nawawi mentions in his book al-athkar that you can say the following dua before the final takbir.

"Oh Allah. Do not make forbidden to us his reward and do not put us to trial after him and forgive us and him."

All of this is good, the minimum of which is to just say Alaahummaghfirlahu warhamhu (ending with ha for a lady and hum for many. This will suffice for the duahs following the 3rd and 4th takbirs.

