

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

Gathering in God's Name

RECEIVING THE COFFIN AT THE DOOR

The coffin may be received at the door of the church, and the minister may say

We receive the body of our *brother/sister*

with confidence in God, the giver of life,
who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead.

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection,
through his merits, who died and was buried,
and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

The minister may add 'Alleluia!' to any of these sentences.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.' *John 11: 25,26*

I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8: 38,39

We brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out.

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away,
blessed be the name of the Lord. *1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21*

A further selection of sentences of scripture is given on page 490.

GREETING

The minister says

We meet in the name of Christ
who died and was raised
by the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you all
and also with you.

The minister introduces the service in these or other suitable words:

We have come here today to remember before God our dear *brother/sister* ...; to give thanks for *his/her* life, to leave *him/her* in the keeping of God *his/her* creator, redeemer and judge, to commit *his/her* body to be buried/cremated, and to comfort one another in our grief, in the hope that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore we pray that here today we may know the peace of Christ in communion with all God's faithful servants.

Standing

God of all consolation,
whose Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears
at the grave of Lazarus his friend:
Look with compassion on us your children in our loss;
give to our troubled hearts the light of hope,
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A hymn may be sung.

PENITENTIAL KYRIES

The minister may say

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us seek the forgiveness of God,
for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

Call to remembrance, O Lord, your compassion,
and your loving kindness, for they have been from of old.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Remember not my sins nor my transgressions,
but according to your mercy think on me.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

O keep my life, and deliver me, put me not to shame,
for I have put my trust in you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The minister may say

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom
where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept, and the minister says the Collect.

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us,
renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead,
strengthen our faith
that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

A READING FROM THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT
may be read.

Romans 8: 18-21,31-35,37-39 or 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26,35-38,42-44a,53-58

*Alternative readings: Isaiah 61: 1-3; Lamentations 3:22-26; Wisdom 3: 1-5,9 or
3: 1-9*

1 Corinthians 15: 3-6; Philippians 3: 7-14; 2 Corinthians 4: 14-18; Revelation 21: 1-7

A PSALM

Psalms 23, 42: 1-7, 90, 116:1-9, 118: 14-21, 130 are suitable.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT
is read.

At Holy Communion this is always a Gospel Reading.

John 5: 19-25 or John 6: 35-40 or John 14: 1-6,27 or Matthew 5: 1-10

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

or

Part 2 of the canticle TE DEUM

You, Christ, are the King of glory, ■
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free ■
you humbly chose the virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death ■
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory. ■
We believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people, ■
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints ■
to glory everlasting.

If the Holy Communion is celebrated, the Nicene Creed is used.

The prayers usually follow this sequence:

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed.

Prayer for those who mourn.

Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

The prayers conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father,

in your Son Jesus Christ

you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.

Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,

that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

and the resurrection to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If the Committal is not to follow as part of the same service in the same place, the Lord's Prayer is said now.

This prayer may be added:

O God,

the maker and redeemer of all:

We pray for the coming of your kingdom,

that in the last day,

when you bring together all things in Christ,

we, with all who have died in him,

may enjoy the fulfilment of your promises;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

May God in his infinite love and mercy

bring the whole Church

living and departed in the Lord Jesus,

to a joyful resurrection

and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

or

To God the Father who loved us,

and made us accepted in the Beloved.

To God the Son who loved us,

and loosed us from our sins by his own blood,

To God the Holy Spirit
who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts,
To the one true God be all love and all glory
for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

The Farewell in Christ

The minister stands by the coffin and may invite others to gather around it.

The minister says

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who has made heaven and earth.

A time of silence is kept.

THE EASTER ANTHEMS *1 Corinthians 15: 20-22*

Christ has been raised from the dead, ■
the firstfruits of those who sleep.
For as by man came death, ■
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, ■
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, ■
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now, ■
and shall be for ever. **Amen.**

The minister says

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory
and claiming his promises,
we now leave your servant in your gracious keeping;
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Committal

Sentences of Scripture may be used.

The minister says

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1: 3*

Either

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field.
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children.

or

Man that is born of a woman has but a short time to live
and is in need of mercy.
Like a flower we blossom and then wither,
like a shadow we flee and never stay.
In the midst of life we are in death;
to whom can we turn for help,
but to you, Lord, who are justly angered by our sins?
Lord God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
holy and most merciful Saviour,
Judge of the living and the dead,
deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.
You know the secrets of our hearts;
in your mercy hear our prayer,
forgive us our sins, and in your love keep us in life everlasting.

When the body has been lowered into the grave, or at a cremation, the minister says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you have given us a sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life.

In your keeping are all those who have departed in Christ.

We here commit the body of our *brother/sister* . . . to the ground
(or to be cremated):

earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,
and who shall change our mortal body
that it may be like his glorious body,
according to the mighty working
by which he is able to subdue all things to himself.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

They are blessed indeed, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labours. *Revelation 14: 13*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

is said if it has not already been used in the service.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The minister may say

God be in my head, and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking.
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.
God be at mine end, and at my departing. **Amen.**

The minister may use one of the following endings:

Lord, you will show us the path of life:
in your presence is the fulness of joy
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore. *Psalm 16: 11*

or

May God give to you
and to all those whom you love
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

or

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13: 14*

Other Sentences of Scripture

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33: 27*

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
I myself will see him with my own eyes. *Job 19: 25,27a*

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted. *Matthew 5: 4*

No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
nor has the heart of man conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him. *1 Corinthians 2: 9*

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come. *Revelation 4: 8b*

Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep. *1 Corinthians 15: 20*

Other sentences from Holy Scripture may be used.

Prayers

This form may be used:

God of mercy, Lord of Life,
you have made us in your own image to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for . . . ,
for the grace and mercy he/she received from you,
for all that was good and true in his/her life,
for the memories we treasure today.

[Especially we thank you . . .]

Silence

Lord in yur mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your mighty power brings good out of evil,
joy out of grief and life out of death.
Look in mercy on all who mourn (especially),
give them patient faith in times of darkness
and strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are tender towards your children
and your mercy is over all your works.
Heal the memories of hurt and failure.
Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright
the time that is left to us on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps
in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,
entrusting into your hands all that you have made
and rejoicing in our communion with all your faithful people,
we make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Thanksgivings

Father of all, in whom we are one with your saints,
we remember with thanksgiving
those whom we love but see no longer.
Keep us in unbroken fellowship
with your whole Church,
and grant that at the last
we may all rejoice together in your heavenly home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for your servant ;
for the example he/she has left us,
and for the fellowship we have enjoyed with him/her.
We rejoice in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in whom the bond of love is never broken. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we praise you for the blessings
brought to us through your church.**

**We bless you for the grace of the sacraments,
for our fellowship in Christ
with you and with each other,
for the teaching of the scriptures,
and for the preaching of your word.**

**We thank you for the holy example of your saints,
for your faithful servants departed this life,
and for the memory and example
of all that has been good and true in their lives.**

**Number us with them, we pray you,
in the company of the redeemed in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Eternal God, we give thanks
for all those who have died in faith,
for the unceasing praise of the company of heaven,
for the promise to those who mourn
that all tears shall be wiped away,
for the pledge of death destroyed and victory won,
for our foretaste of eternal life
through baptism and eucharist,
for our hope in the Spirit,
for the communion of saints.

**May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory
and you are all in all.**

Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

For those who mourn

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies, and giver of all comfort:
Deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn,
that, casting all their care on you,
they may know the consolation of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Give faith and comfort, O Lord,
to all who are bereaved (especially to).
Strengthen them to meet the days to come
with steadfastness and patience,
not sorrowing as those without hope,
but in thankful remembrance of your mercy in the past,
and waiting for a joyful reunion in heaven
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
whose power can bring good out of evil:
Give us faith and light in times of darkness,
and help us to understand your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For grace to live in the light of eternity

Grant, Lord, that we who lay to rest
the body of our brother/sister,
in hope of resurrection to eternal life,
may firmly believe and continue
in the fellowship and communion of your saints;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace
to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth.
Lead us to repent of our sins,
the evil we have done and the good we have not done;
and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son,
in the way that leads to the fulness of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Communion of Saints

Eternal God, you hold all souls in life:
May the bright beams of your light and heavenly comfort
shine on your whole Church,
and grant that we, following the good example
of those who loved and served you here
and are now at rest,
may at last enter with them
into the fulness of your unending joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
grant that all those who believe in you
may be united in the full knowledge of your love,
and the unclouded vision of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord,
support us all the day long
until the shades lengthen, and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Resurrection

Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the resurrection and the life of all who believe in him,
and who, by his apostle Saint Paul,
has taught us not to grieve as people without hope
for those who sleep in him:
Raise us from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that when we depart this life we may rest in him,
as our hope is this our brother/sister does,
and that at the resurrection on the last day

we may be found acceptable to you,
and receive the kingdom prepared for all who love and fear you.
Grant this, merciful Father, through Jesus Christ,
our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Bring us, Lord our God,
at our last awakening,
into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate,
and dwell in that house,
where there shall be
no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light;
no noise nor silence,
but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes,
but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings,
but one equal eternity;
in the habitation of your glory and dominion,
world without end. **Amen.**

An Act of Thanksgiving

Let us thank Almighty God for all his blessings.

For all your blessings in creation,
for the beauty of earth and sea and sky,
for all your works,
and for the wisdom with which you have ordered them.

We thank you, Lord,
and bless your holy name.

For the happiness of our earthly life,
for all our powers of mind and body,
for faithful friends,
and for the joy of loving and being loved.

We thank you, Lord,
and bless your holy name.

For all your servants departed this life in your faith and fear,
for the example they have left us,
and for the blessed hope of reunion with them hereafter.

We thank you, Lord,
and bless your holy name.

For the great salvation given to us in Jesus Christ,
for his suffering and his dying,
for his rising again
and his ascending into heaven.

We thank you, Lord,
and bless your holy name.

For the hope of a new heaven and a new earth,
for the place that Christ has gone to prepare for us,
and for the promised vision of your glory.

We thank you, Lord,
and bless your holy name.

Prayer for the hallowing of a grave

Almighty Father,
our Lord Jesus Christ sanctified the grave by his burial in a new tomb.
Bless and hallow this grave,
as a resting place for the body of,
whom we have left in your gracious keeping.
We look for the promised resurrection,
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns in glory,
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

