



FUNERAL SERVICES

*The Book of Common Prayer for use in
the Church in Wales*

2020

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PREFACE



Throughout its history, the Church has been privileged to draw close to people at crucial times of their lives, seeking to be living witnesses to God's love and grace. For Christians, the end of physical life is not the extinguishing of a person, and funerals therefore number among the rites of passage together with Baptisms and Marriages, marking the major staging posts of life, but which point onwards into the future and the hope of eternal life. Nor does the Church see the human body merely as inconsequential to human identity, but rather, as the habitation of a soul, sacred and deserving of dignity and respect, even after death. The Christian funeral rite must therefore encompass these facets, commending a human being, a soul, to God and to eternity, and providing a respectful and sacred context for the laying to rest of human remains, "in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection."

There are two further aspects. There must be an acknowledgement, a celebration of all that was good and creative in a person's life, reflecting something of their eternal significance – their impact on their family and those who knew them, their contribution to human society and life. Faith must also be commemorated, where a person had themselves acknowledged Christ as Saviour, and borne witness to the promise of eternal life found in him. Finally, there is a congregation – family, friends and associates, who will be going through bereavement, and who will want the ceremonies surrounding the funeral to speak to them messages of reassurance, of hope, of faith, of love, and of mercy.

There is a great deal to be achieved in a little time. In the modern context, the formulaic rites of the past retain their usefulness, but congregations are generally looking for more – for a service which reflects the character of the person commemorated, which captures the range of their own feelings and instincts, which expresses for them something of their own beliefs and hopes, and which can offer them personal comfort. The minister of the Church at a funeral will therefore have

to shape a liturgy which will respond to all these needs and purposes.

With this in mind, the funeral liturgies approved as part of the Book of Common Prayer for the Church in Wales by the Governing Body in May 2019 comprise of a core rite, which is published in Part One, and extensive resources, which are published in Part Two. The idea is that the essential funeral liturgy is available in Part One, but that Part Two might be consulted, one might even say “mined”, for appropriate supplementary material. We are enormously grateful to the members of the Standing Liturgical Advisory Commission for over a decade’s labour on this liturgy and the accompanying resources, and also especially to Dr Gwendraeth Morgan, who undertook the work of rendering the material in Welsh.

It is the hope of the bishops of the Church in Wales that these rich resources may enable those leading funeral services to create a liturgy which meets all of the manifold needs set out above, but, most importantly, which also serves as the vehicle for a pastorally sensitive proclamation of the Gospel and of the hope that all people may find in the saving work of Jesus Christ, who conquered death in his resurrection.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading '+Gregory Llanwry'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

+Gregory Llanwry

Bishop with responsibility for Liturgical and Doctrinal Matters

June 2020

THE FUNERAL SERVICE



THE GATHERING

The coffin may be received by the minister.

One or more sentences of Scripture may be used:

‘I am the resurrection and the life’, says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’

John 11. 25, 26

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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 believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b, 18

We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.

1 Timothy 6. 7: Job 1. 21b

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

Lamentations 3. 22, 23

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5. 4

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3. 16

While we are alive, we are living for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord: and so, alive or dead, we belong to the Lord. It was for this purpose that Christ both died and came to life again: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Romans 14. 8, 9

Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father's house; if it were not so I should have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

John 14. 1-3

The minister says:

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you
And keep you in the love of Christ.

(or in Eastertide):

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We have come together to commend our *brother/sister N.*
into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father.
In the presence of death,
Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence,
and even for joy,
because the Lord Jesus Christ,
who shared our human life and death,
was raised again triumphant
and lives for evermore.
In him his people find eternal life,
and, in this faith,
we put our whole trust
in his goodness and mercy.

or

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
We have come here today
to remember before God our *brother/sister N.*
to give thanks for *his/her* life;
to commend *him/her* to God
our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit *his/her* body to be *buried/cremated*,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

or other similar words.

The minister may say one of these prayers:

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

or

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.
In your mercy
help us to know that you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A hymn may be sung.

The Collect

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says this or another suitable 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 lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS AND SERMON

A reading from the Old or New Testament may be read.

This or another psalm or hymn is used:

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures:
and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul:
and guide me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me:
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 23

*A reading from the New Testament (which may be a Gospel reading)
is used.*

A sermon may be preached.

PRAYERS

The minister leads the prayers of the people.

The prayers usually follow this sequence:

- † *Thanksgiving for the life of the departed*
- † *Prayer for those who mourn*
- † *(Prayers of Penitence)*
- † *Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity*

This form may be used. If occasion demands, the responses may be omitted and the concluding prayer said by the minister alone.

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light;
we give you thanks for *N.*,
for the grace and mercy *he/she* received from you,
for all that was good in *his/her* life,
for the memories we treasure today.
(Especially we thank you ...)

Silence

(Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**)

We thank you for all who through your grace
have lived according to your will and are now at rest.
May their good example encourage and guide us
all the days of our life.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

Silence

(Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**)

In your Son you promise eternal life
to those who believe.
Bring *N.* and all who rest in Christ
into the fullness of your kingdom
where sins have been forgiven
and death is no more.

Silence

(Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**)

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief
and life out of death.
Look in mercy on (*for*) *N.* and) all who mourn.
Give them patient faith in times of darkness.
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 here 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.**)

Then the Minister says:

God of mercy,
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.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

**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.**

or

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

A hymn may be sung.

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

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

The minister says:

Let us commend *N.* into the hands of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

The minister uses one of the following prayers of entrusting and commending, or some other appropriate prayer:

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust *N.* to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with you,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour;
We commend your servant *N.*
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Enfold *him/her* in the arms of your mercy,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace
and in the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The officiant may add either of the following:

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:
where pain and sorrow and grief are no more,
but life everlasting.

You alone are the immortal one,
the creator and maker of us all.

We are mortals:

from earth we were fashioned, to earth we shall return;
for so you ordained when you made me, saying:
“dust you are, and unto dust you shall return”.

All we go down to the dust;
yet even over the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

or

N., go forth from this world:
in the love of God the Father who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.
May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs receive you at your arrival
and lead you to the holy city Jerusalem.
May choirs of angels receive you and with Lazarus,
once poor, may you have eternal rest. **Amen.**

If the Committal does not follow as part of the same service in the same place, some sections of the Dismissal may be used here. See page 14.

THE COMMITTAL

Sentences of Scripture may be used.

The minister says:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great goodness.
As a father is tender towards his children,
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.
For he 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 will know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever and ever toward those that fear him
and his righteousness upon their children's children.

or

We have but a short time to live.
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 grieved by our sins?
Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us from the bitter pain of eternal death.
Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;
hear our prayer, O God most mighty;
spare us, most worthy judge eternal;
at our last hour let us not fall from you,
O holy and merciful Saviour.

The minister uses one of the following forms of Committal.

At the burial of a body:

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

or

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;
and 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.**

or

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who by resting in the tomb
made holy the graves of all who believe in him,
and whose abiding presence
strengthens the hope of resurrection in us,
whose mortal bodies are subject to decay;
may your servant *N.* rest here in peace
until that hour when the voice of the Saviour
calls *him/her* to resurrection and to life.
We ask this through your Son,
who was dead but was brought to life by your Spirit
and reigns as Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to take place then:

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* body to be cremated:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to follow at the Burial of the Ashes:

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
in preparation for burial, we give *his/her* body to be cremated.
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his saints
to reign with him in glory for ever. **Amen.**

or

Almighty God,
from whose love in Christ Jesus
neither death nor life can separate us,
and whose kindness embraces all your children
in this world and the next:
draw *N.* to yourself
that in our fellowship with you
we may know ourselves to be united with *him/her*.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the burial of a body at sea:

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* body to the deep:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

This may include:

- † *The Lord's Prayer (if not used earlier)*
- † *The Nunc Dimittis*
- † *One or more suitable prayers*
- † *An Ending*

The Lord's Prayer (*see page 8*)

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon):

Lord, now you have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all the world to see;

a light to reveal you to the nations
and to give glory to your people Israel.

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.**

One or more of these prayers, or other suitable prayers, may be used:

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.**

God be in my head,
 and in my understanding;
God be in my 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 my end,
 and at my departing. **Amen.**

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

One of these, or another suitable ending, may be used:

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.**

May God give you
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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

God will show us the path of life;
in his presence is the fullness of joy:
and at his right hand
there is pleasure for evermore.

cf. Psalm 16. 11

To him who is able to keep you from falling
and to present you before his glorious presence
without fault and with great joy -
to the only God our Saviour
be glory, majesty,
power and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all ages,
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Jude 24, 25

Eternal rest grant unto *him/her*, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon *him/her*.

May God's help remain with us
and may our departed brothers and sisters in the Lord
rest in peace,
And rise in glory. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

**A FUNERAL SERVICE
WITHIN THE HOLY EUCHARIST**



Note

As far as possible, the priest should be seen to preside over the whole of the Eucharist in order to emphasize the unity of the service. When circumstances require it, a deacon or reader may lead certain parts of the service for which they are duly authorised. In such circumstances, the rubric referring to the words or action of the priest may be read as referring to the deacon or reader, as appropriate.

THE GATHERING

The coffin may be received by the priest.

One or more sentences of Scripture may be used:

‘I am the resurrection and the life’, says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’

John 11. 25, 26

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

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Romans 14. 8, 9

Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father's house; if it were not so I should have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

John 14. 1-3

The priest says:

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you
And keep you in the love of Christ.

(or in Eastertide):

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father.
In the presence of death,
Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence,
and even for joy,
because the Lord Jesus Christ,
who shared our human life and death,
was raised again triumphant
and lives for evermore.
In him his people find eternal life,
and, in this faith,
we put our whole trust
in his goodness and mercy.

or

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
We have come here today
to remember before God our *brother/sister N.:*
to give thanks for *his/her* life;
to commend *him/her* to God
our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit *his/her* body to be *buried/cremated*,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

or other similar words.

The priest may say one of these prayers:

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

or

Almighty God,
you judge us with infinite mercy and justice
and love everything you have made.
In your mercy
help us to know that you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life,
 and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A hymn may be sung.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The priest says these or similar words:

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us acknowledge our sin and ask for his forgiveness,
for he is merciful and gentle.

One or more of the sentences of 'Words of Assurance' may be read either to introduce the silence before the confession or after the absolution.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, Come to me, all whose work is hard, whose load is heavy; and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11. 28

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

John 3. 16

This is a true saying, to be completely accepted and believed: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1. 15

When anyone sins, we have an advocate to plead with the Father for us: Jesus Christ, the righteous one, by whom our sins are forgiven.

1 John 2. 1

Silence may be kept.

These words may be used:

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you give light to those in darkness.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

or

**Heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.
We are sorry and truly repent.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and lead us in his way
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The priest then says:

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you and set you free from sin,
strengthen you in goodness
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect

The priest invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the priest says this or another suitable 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 lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each the reader may say:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.
Thanks be to God.

or

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The psalm or canticle follows the first reading; other hymns or songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading:

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

One of the following may be used:

Alleluia, Alleluia,
God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
that we might have everlasting life.

cf. John 3. 16

Alleluia.

or

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Blessed are those who die in the Lord.
Now they rest from their labours.

cf. Revelation 14. 13

Alleluia.

(or, in Lent:)

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint ...
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Gospel the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE INTERCESSION

The minister leads the prayers of the people.

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*

This form may be used. If occasion demands, the responses may be omitted and the concluding prayer said by the priest alone.

God of mercy, Lord of life,
you have made us in your image
to reflect your truth and light;
we give you thanks for *N.*,
for the grace and mercy *he/she* received from you,
for all that was good in *his/her* life,
for the memories we treasure today.
(Especially we thank you ...)

Silence

(Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**)

We thank you for all who through your grace
have lived according to your will and are now at rest.
May their good example encourage and guide us
all the days of our life.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

Silence

(Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**)

In your Son you promise eternal life
to those who believe.
Bring *N.* and all who rest in Christ
into the fullness of your kingdom
where sins have been forgiven
and death is no more.

Silence

(Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**)

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief
and life out of death.
Look in mercy on (*for*) *N.* and) all who mourn.
Give them patient faith in times of darkness.
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 here 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.**)

**God of mercy,
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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

A sentence of Scripture may be read:

Jesus says,
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.

cf: John 14. 27

or

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and
said, Peace be with you!
They were overjoyed on seeing the Lord.

cf: John 20. 19-20

or see page 86 in the appendix.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

A sign of peace may be exchanged.

THE THANKSGIVING

The priest takes the bread and the cup.

Either the priest may say:

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

or the priest may praise God for his gifts in these words:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,
Creator of all things, Giver of life.

You formed us in your image;
but we have marred that image
and fall short of your glory.

We give you thanks
that you sent your Son to share our life;
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,
and you raised him from the dead
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine,
your gifts to us,
that they may be for us
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and when he had given thanks
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper he took the cup,
and when he had given thanks
he gave it to them, saying,
Drink from this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins:
do this as often as you drink it
in remembrance of me.

[Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:]

Christ has died,

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

As he has commanded us, Father,
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.
Proclaiming his victorious death,
rejoicing in his resurrection
and waiting for him to come in glory
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Restore and revive your people,
renew us and all for whom we pray
with your grace and heavenly blessing,
and at the last receive us with all your saints
into that unending joy promised by your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours,
almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Silence

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

**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.**

or

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

THE COMMUNION

The priest breaks the bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.**

or

Every time we eat this bread and drink of this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This anthem may be used here or during the communion.

**Jesus, Lamb of God:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins:
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace.**

or

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

One of the following invitations is used:

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

or

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

or

Come, let us receive the body and blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ, given for us, and feed on him in our hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

(or in Eastertide):

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The priest and people receive the communion.

The sacrament is administered with these words:

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**
or The body of Christ, the bread of life. **Amen.**
or The body of Christ. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**
or The blood of Christ, the true vine. **Amen.**
or The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Non-communicants may be given a blessing.

A form for additional consecration is provided in the appendix on page 90.

After the communion, an appropriate sentence of Scripture from the Proclamation of the Word may be read.

Silence is kept.

A hymn may be sung.

Any consecrated bread and wine which is not to be reserved for purposes of communion is consumed.

After the communion the priest continues:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious;

His love is everlasting.

A post-communion prayer and or one of the following prayers may be used:

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life.
Strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.**

or

**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.**

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

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

The priest says:

Let us commend *N.* into the hands of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

The priest uses one of the following prayers of entrusting and commending, or some other appropriate prayer:

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust *N.* to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with you,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour;
We commend your servant *N.*
Acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Enfold *him/her* in the arms of your mercy,
in the blessed rest of everlasting peace
and in the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The priest may add either of the following:

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:
where pain and sorrow and grief are no more,
but life everlasting.

You alone are the immortal one,
the creator and maker of us all.

We are mortals:

from earth we were fashioned, to earth we shall return;
for so you ordained when you made me, saying:
“dust you are, and unto dust you shall return”.

All we go down to the dust;
yet even over the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

or

N., go forth from this world:
in the love of God the Father who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus Christ who redeemed you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you.
May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs receive you at your arrival
and lead you to the holy city Jerusalem.
May choirs of angels receive you and with Lazarus,
once poor, may you have eternal rest. **Amen.**

If the Committal does not follow as part of the same service in the same place, some sections of the Dismissal may be used here. See page 42.

THE COMMITTAL

Sentences of Scripture may be used.

The priest says:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great goodness.
As a father is tender towards his children,
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.
For he 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 will know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever and ever toward those that fear him
and his righteousness upon their children's children.

or

We have but a short time to live.
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 grieved by our sins?
Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us from the bitter pain of eternal death.
Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;
hear our prayer, O God most mighty;
spare us, most worthy judge eternal;
at our last hour let us not fall from you,
O holy and merciful Saviour.

The priest uses one of the following forms of Committal.

At the burial of a body:

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.* is in the hands of God, we commit *his/her* body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

or

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;
and 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.**

or

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who by resting in the tomb
made holy the graves of all who believe in him,
and whose abiding presence
strengthens the hope of resurrection in us,
whose mortal bodies are subject to decay;
may your servant *N.* rest here in peace
until that hour when the voice of the Saviour
calls *him/her* to resurrection and to life.
We ask this through your Son,
who was dead but was brought to life by your Spirit
and reigns as Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to take place then:

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* body to be cremated:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to follow at the Burial of the Ashes:

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
in preparation for burial, we give *his/her* body to be cremated.
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his saints
to reign with him in glory for ever. **Amen.**

or

Almighty God,
from whose love in Christ Jesus
neither death nor life can separate us,
and whose kindness embraces all your children
in this world and the next:
draw *N.* to yourself
that in our fellowship with you
we may know ourselves to be united with *him/her.*
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the burial of a body at sea:

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* body to the deep:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

This may include:

- † *The Nunc Dimittis*
- † *One or more suitable prayers*
- † *An Ending*

The Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon):

Lord, now you have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen your salvation
which you have prepared for all the world to see;

a light to reveal you to the nations
and to give glory to your people Israel.

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.**

One or more of these prayers, or other suitable prayers, may be used:

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.**

God be in my head,
 and in my understanding;
God be in my 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 my end,
 and at my departing. **Amen.**

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

One of these, or another suitable ending, may be used:

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.**

May God give you
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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

God will show us the path of life;
in his presence is the fullness of joy:
and at his right hand
there is pleasure for evermore.

cf. Psalm 16. 11

To him who is able to keep you from falling
and to present you before his glorious presence
without fault and with great joy -
to the only God our Saviour
be glory, majesty,
power and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all ages,
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Jude 24, 25

Eternal rest grant unto *him/her*, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon *him/her*.

May God's help remain with us
and may our departed brothers and sisters
in the Lord rest in peace,
And rise in glory. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

This or another suitable blessing is used:

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

(or in Eastertide):

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**THE BURIAL
OF CREMATED REMAINS**



Note

If the service begins in church or chapel, it may be appropriate to invite the mourners to the place of burial at the end of the readings, and to use the psalms at the place of burial.

THE BLESSING OF A GRAVE

If the place of burial is not consecrated ground, the following blessing of a grave is used:

O God,
whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
bless, we pray, this grave
as the place where the body of *N.* your servant may
rest in peace,
through your Son, who is the resurrection and the life;
who died and is alive and reigns with you
now and for ever. **Amen.**

PREPARATION

Appropriate sentences of Scripture may be used.

The minister greets the people in these or other suitable words:

Grace and peace be with you
And keep you in the love of Christ.

Though we are dust and ashes,
God has prepared for those who love him
a heavenly dwelling place.
At *his/her* funeral we commended *N.* into the hands of
almighty God.
As we entrust the remains of *N.* to the earth, we entrust
ourselves and all who love God to his loving care.

READINGS

One or more readings follows.

The psalms may be used at the place of burial.

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my body I will see God.
Yes, I will see him for myself
with my own eyes - I, and not another.

Job 19. 25-27

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup:
in your hands alone is my fortune.

My share has fallen in a fair land:
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:
my flesh also shall rest secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life,
in your presence is the fullness of joy:
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Psalm 16. 4-10

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place:
and are acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word on my tongue:
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You encompass me behind and before:
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go then from your spirit?:
Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there:
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning:
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me:
your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the light around me turn to night',

Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day:
darkness and light to you are both a like.

For you yourself created my inmost parts:
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

Psalms 139. 1-13

Someone may ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”

How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15. 35-38, 42-44a

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

John 19. 38-end

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day - and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 21. 22-26, 22. 1-5

THE COMMITTAL

Sentences of Scripture may be used.

The minister says:

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* mortal remains to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

or

Faithful God,
Lord of all creation,
you desire that nothing redeemed by your Son
will ever be lost,
and that the just will be raised up on the last day.
Comfort us today with the word of your promise
as we return the ashes of our *brother/sister* to the earth.
Grant *N.* a place of rest and peace
where death has no dominion.
Confirm us in our hope that *he/she* will be created anew
on the day when you will raise *him/her* up in glory
to live with you and all the saints
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

**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.**

or

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for all those whom we love
but see no longer.
As we remember *N.* in this place,
hold before us our beginning and our ending,
the dust from which we come
and the death to which we move,
with a firm hope in your eternal love
and purposes for us,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Other prayers may be used, ending with:

God of hope,
grant that we, with all who have believed 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.**

THE DISMISSAL

May the infinite and glorious Trinity,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
direct our life in good works,
and after our journey through this world
grant us eternal rest with all the saints. **Amen.**

**THE 1984 BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER
ORDER FOR
THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD**



THE RECEPTION OF THE BODY INTO CHURCH

At the time of burial or previously

The Minister, meeting the body at the entrance to the churchyard, or at the church door, goes before it while one or more of these sentences, or of the psalms following, is said or sung.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11. 25, 26

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job 19. 25, 27

Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling-places; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 14. 1-3

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Romans 14. 8, 9

We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6; 7; Job 1. 21

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1. 3

Psalm 27. 1, 4-6, 11-12, 14-17

The Lord is my light and my salvation; * whom then/shall I /
fear: the Lord is the strength of my life; * of whom then /
shall I / be a-/fraid?

One thing have I desired of the Lord/that I / long for: that I
may dwell in the house of the Lord/all the/days of · my/life.

To behold the fair beauty / of the/Lord: and to/seek him/in
his /temple.

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me/in his/shadow: yea in
the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me, * and set me
up up-/on a/rock of/stone.

O hide not thou thy/face/from me: nor cast thy servant
a-/way/in dis-/pleasure.

Thou hast / been my / succour: leave me not neither forsake me,
O/God of/my sal-/vation.

Teach me thy/way O/Lord: and lead me in the right/way
be-/cause of · mine/enemies.

Deliver me not over into the/will of · mine/adversaries: for
there are false witnesses risen up against me, * and/such as/
breathe out/cruelty.

I believe verily to see the goodness / of the / Lord: even in the /
land/of the/living.

O wait for the Lord, * be strong and let thine / heart take /
courage: and put thou thy/trust/in the/Lord.

Psalm 130

Out of the deep have I called unto / thee O / Lord: Lord /
hearken / unto · my / voice.

O let thine ears con-/sider / well: the / voice of · my / suppli- /
cations.

If thou Lord shouldest mark what is / done a-/miss: O / Lord
who / could a-/bide it?

But there is / mercy · with / thee: that / so thou / mayest · be /
feared.

I wait for the Lord, * my / soul doth / wait for him: and in his /
word / is my / trust.

My soul doth / wait · for the / Lord: more than watchmen for
the morning, * yea more than / watchmen / for the / morning.

O Israel trust in the Lord, * for with the / Lord · there is /
mercy: and with / him is / plenteous · re- / demption.

And he shall re-/deem Israel: from the / multi-tude / of his /
sins.

*If not used in the Procession, either of these psalms may be used before
the Lesson when the body is brought into church on the eve of the
burial, or in place of the psalms in The Service in Church (if the
Eucharist is not celebrated).*

READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR THE EVE OF BURIAL

*When the body is brought into church on the eve of burial, one of the
lessons printed in Lessons shall be read.*

The Minister says:

The Lord be with you;
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.**

Then shall be said one or more of the prayers following, ending with the Grace.

Father of all, we pray to thee for those we love, but now no longer see. Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who did rest in the sepulchre and did thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins which were the cause of thy passion, that, when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptised into the death of thy blessed Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continual mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with him; and that through the grave, and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for his merits, who died, and was buried, and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

The two preceding sections of this Order, or any part of them, may also be used for prayers in the house, where this is the local custom.

THE SERVICE IN CHURCH
(If it be the Eucharist)

When all are assembled, the Minister may say:

We have come together to commend our *brother/sister N.* into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father. In the presence of death, Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence, and even for joy, because the Lord Jesus Christ, who shared our human life and death, was raised again triumphant and lives for evermore. In him his people find eternal life, and, in this faith, we put our whole trust in his goodness and mercy.

The order for the Holy Eucharist now begins.

One or both of the following Collects shall be used:

O God, the maker and Redeemer of all believers: grant to thy servant *N.* and all the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of thy Son's passion; that, in the day of his appearing, they may be manifested as thy children; through the same Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O God, who for our redemption gave thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and has delivered us from the power of our enemy by his glorious resurrection: grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*One of the lessons from those printed in Lessons shall be read.
This should not be taken from the Gospels.*

The following psalm or anthems may be used:

Psalm 116. 3-8

The cords of death compassed me round about, * and the snares
of the grave laid / hold up-/ on me: I suffered / sore dis-/tress
and / sorrow.

Then I called upon the / name · of the / Lord: ‘O Lord I be-/
seech · thee de-/liver · my / soul.’

Gracious is the / Lord and / righteous: yea our / God is / full ·
of com-/passion.

The Lord pre-/serveth · the / simple: I was brought / low, / and
he / saved me.

Turn again then unto thy rest / O my / soul: for the Lord hath /
dealt so / loving·ly / with thee.

For thou hast saved my / soul from / death: mine eyes from /
tears · and my / feet from / falling.

EASTER ANTHEMS: 3-8

Christ being raised from the dead / dieth · no / more: death
hath no / more do-/minion / over him.

For in that he died, * he died unto / sin / once: but in that he
liveth, * he / liveth / unto / God.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed / unto /
sin: but alive unto God, through / Jesus / Christ our / Lord.

Christ is / risen · from the dead: and become the / firstfruits ·
of / them that / slept.

For since by / man came / death: by man came also the resur-
rection / of the / dead.

For as in Adam / all / die: even so in Christ shall / all be / made
a- / live.

*A Gospel taken from those printed in Lessons shall be read.
After the Communion the following shall be said:*

He hath given food unto them that fear him;
He shall ever be mindful of his covenant.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who has given unto us thy Son Jesus Christ to be the bread of life eternal; grant that all we who are partakers of his body and blood may at the last day be raised up in him; who lives and reigns with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Service in Church continues with the Commendation and Conclusion.

THE SERVICE IN CHURCH (If the Eucharist is not celebrated)

This service may be used at the graveside or in the chapel of the crematorium or cemetery.

When all are assembled, the Minister may say:

We have come together to commend our *brother/sister N.* into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father. In the presence of death, Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence, and even for joy, because the Lord Jesus Christ, who shared our human life and death, was raised again triumphant and lives for evermore. In him his people find eternal life, and, in this faith, we put our whole trust in his goodness and mercy.

One or more of the following psalms shall be said or sung. Before and after any psalm or group of psalms this antiphon may be said or sung.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us: save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

PSALM 23

The Lord / is my / shepherd: therefore / can I / lack / nothing.
He shall make me to lie down in / green / pastures: and lead me
forth be- / side the / waters · of / comfort.

He shall re-/fresh my / soul: and bring me forth in the right
way / for his / name's / sake.

Yea, though I walk through the darkest valley, * I will / fear
no / evil: for thou art with me, * thy / rod · and thy / staff /
comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me, * in the presence of /
them that / trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil,
* and my / cup / shall be / full.

Yea thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me * all the /
days of · my / life: and I will dwell in the / house · of the /
Lord for / ever.

PSALM 90. 1-6, 10, 12-17

Lord thou hast / been our / refuge: from one gener-/ation / to
an-/other.

Before the mountains were brought forth, * or ever the earth
and the / world were / made: thou art God from ever-/
lasting · and / world with · out / end.

Thou turnest man / back · to the / dust; yea thou sayest * 'Re-/
turn ye / children · of / men.'

For a thousand years in thy sight / are · but as / yesterday:
even as it / were a / day · that is / past.

As a night-watch that cometh quickly to an end thou / scatter ·
est / them: they are even as a / dream and / fade a-/way.

They are like the grass, which in the / morning · is / green: but
in the / evening · is / dried · up and / withered.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten; * and though
men be so strong that they come to / fourscore / years: yet is
their span but labour and sorrow, * so soon passeth it a-/way
and / we are / gone.

So teach us to / number · our / days: that we may ap-~~p~~ly our /
hearts · unto / wisdom.

Turn thee again O / Lord, and / tarry not: be / gracious / unto ·
thy / servants.

O satisfy us in the morning with thy / loving-~~k~~indness: so shall
we rejoice and be glad / all the / days of · our life.

Make us glad, * according to the number of the days wherein
thou / hast af-~~f~~licted us: and of the years where-~~i~~n · we
have suffered · ad-~~v~~ersity.

Shew thy / servants · thy work: and thy / glory / unto · their /
children.

† And may the grace of the Lord our God / be up-~~o~~n us: prosper
thou the work of our hands, * O / prosper / thou our /
handiwork.

PSALM 103. 1-4, 13-18

Praise the Lord / O my / soul: and all that is within me / praise
his / holy / name.

Praise the Lord / O my / soul: and for-~~g~~et not / all his /
benefits,

Who forgiveth / all thy / sin: and / healeth / all · thine in-
firmities,

Who saveth thy / life · from the pit: and crowneth thee with /
mercy · and loving-kindness.

Like as a father hath compassion up-~~o~~n his / children: so hath
the Lord compassion up-~~o~~n / them that / fear him.

For he knoweth where-~~o~~f · we are / made: he remembereth /
that we / are but / dust.

The days of man / are · but as / grass: he flourisheth / as a /
flower · of the / field;

For as soon as the wind goeth over it / it is / gone: and the place
there-~~o~~f shall / know it · no / more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and
ever upon / them that / fear him: and his righteousness up-
on / children's / children,

Even upon such as / keep his / covenant: and think upon / his
com-~~m~~andments · to / do them.

PSALM 121

I will lift up mine eyes / unto · the / hills: from / whence /
cometh · my / help?

My help cometh / from the / Lord: who hath / made / heaven ·
and / earth.

He will not suffer thy / foot · to be / moved: and he that /
keepeth · thee / will not / sleep.

Behold he that / keepeth / Israel: shall / neither / slumber ·
nor / sleep.

The Lord him-/self · is thy / keeper: the Lord upon thy right /
hand shall / give thee / shade;

The sun shall not / strike · thee by / day: neither / shall the /
moon by / night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from / all / evil: yea it is / he · that
shall / keep thee / safe.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy / coming / in:
from this time / forth for / ever-/more.

PSALM 139. 1-11

O Lord thou hast searched me / out and / known me: thou
knowest my down-sitting and mine up-rising, * thou under-
standest my / thoughts / from a-/far.

Thou art ever about my path * and the places / where I / rest:
and art ac-/quainted · with / all my / ways.

For lo there is not a / word · in my / mouth: but thou O Lord /
knowest · it / alto-/gether.

Thou hast protected me be-/hind · and be-/fore: and hast /
covered · me / with thine / hand.

† Such knowledge is too / wonder-ful / for me: so excellent that
I / cannot · at-/tain / unto it.

Whither shall I go / from thy / spirit: or whither shall I / flee /
from thy / presence?

If I climb up into heaven / thou art / there: if I make my bed in
the grave / thou art / there / also.

If I fly on the / wings · of the / morning: or alight in the /
utter-·most / parts · of the / west,

Even there shall / thy hand / lead me: and / thy right / hand
shall / hold me.

If I say * 'Surely the / darkness · shall / cover me: and my / day
be / turned to / night',

The darkness is no darkness with thee, * but the night is as /
clear · as the / day: the darkness and the / light are / both
a-/like.

*One of the lessons printed in Lessons shall be read. Then a hymn
may be sung.*

THE PRAYERS

The Minister says:

The Lord be with you;
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.**

**The Lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer may be used either at this
point or at the point indicated after the Committal.*

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ;
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death;
Thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the
Father;
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants;
Whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy saints;
In glory everlasting.

The Minister may add one or more of these prayers:

Be gracious, Lord, to this our *brother/sister* departed,
that, loosed from the bonds of sin and death, *he/she* may
be perfected by thy grace and enter into life everlasting:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who has revealed thy only-begotten Son
as the resurrection and the life: raise us, we pray thee,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that,
when we depart this life, we may rest in him, as we
hope our *brother/sister* does, and at the last may receive
the blessing: Well done, good and faithful servant;
enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. Grant this, O
merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and
Redeemer. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ has given
us a true faith and a sure hope: help us, we pray thee, to
live as those who believe and trust in the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life
everlasting; and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the
days of our life: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

We thank you, Lord God,
for the grace you gave
to those who lived according to your will
and are now at rest.

We pray that their good example
may encourage and guide us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of all mercy,
in love you gave us your Son
to conquer death
and restore eternal life to your people.
Comfort your servants in their sorrow,
and strengthen our faith and hope in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
you are our refuge and strength.
Help and comfort us today;
increase our faith,
dispel our fears,
revive our hope.
May the Holy Spirit lift us
from the darkness of our grief
to the light of your presence:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The service continues with the Commendation and Conclusion.

THE COMMENDATION

The Minister, standing, says:

Let us commend our *brother/sister N.* into the hands of God,
our Maker and Redeemer.

O God our heavenly Father, who by thy mighty power
has given us life, and by thy loving-kindness has bestowed
upon us new life in Christ Jesus: we commend to thy
merciful keeping *N. our brother/sister*, through Jesus Christ
thy Son our Lord, who died and rose again to save us, and
now lives and reigns with thee in glory for ever. **Amen.**

THE CONCLUSION

Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints;
Where sorrow and pain are no more,
Neither sighing but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal,
The Creator and Maker of man;
And we are mortal, formed of the earth,
And unto earth shall we return:
For so thou didst ordain
When thou createdst me, saying,
Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.
All we go down to the dust;
And, weeping o'er the grave, we make our song:
Alleluya, alleluya, alleluya.

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.**

or

Grant him, O Lord, eternal rest;
And let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

or

Let us go forth in peace;
In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

THE COMMITTAL

If the ground in which the burial is to take place is not consecrated, the Priest says, immediately before the Committal, the prayer provided for the Blessing of the Grave.

At the place of the committal of the body, the Minister says:

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek
for succour but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly
displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy
and most merciful Saviour, deliver us from the bitterness
of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy
merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy,
O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou
most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour
for any pains of death to fall from thee.

If the Commendation has not already been used, it shall be used here.

Then the Minister says:

In the faith of Christ, and believing that our *brother/sister* is in the hands of God, we commit *his/her* body.

(at the grave)

to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,

(at cremation)

to be cremated,

(at sea)

to the deep,

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our corruptible body, that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth; Even so, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours.

If it has not already been used in the Prayers, shall be added:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

Any others of the Prayers previously set out which have not been used already may be used here.

THE CONCLUSION

May God's help remain with us always, and may the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

or

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. For from him and through him and in him are all things. To him be glory for ever.

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.**

or

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. **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.

Note.

The Service in the Church, excluding the Commendation, may be used as a Memorial Service. One of the Conclusions which follow the Commendation should be used to end the service.

If a sermon is to be preached, it shall follow the Lesson, or, if The Service in Church be a celebration of the Eucharist, it shall follow the Gospel.

The Order for the Burial of Ashes after Cremation is to be found after the Order for the Burial of a Child.

THE ORDER FOR THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

The Minister, meeting the body and going before it, either into the church or towards the grave, says one or more of these sentences:

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

John 11. 25, 26

I am the good shepherd: I know my own and my own know me.

John 10. 14

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5. 8

Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling-places; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 14. 1-3

Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3. 2

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Romans 14. 8, 9

In church, the Eucharist may now be celebrated.

Matthew 18. 1-5, 10 may be used as the Gospel.

The Eucharist shall be followed by the Commendation.

If the Eucharist is not celebrated, the service continues as follows:

PSALM 23

The Lord / is my / shepherd: therefore / can I / lack / nothing.
He shall make me to lie down in / green / pastures: and lead me
forth be- / side the / waters · of / comfort.

He shall re-/fresh my / soul: and bring me forth in the right
way / for his / name's / sake.

Yea, though I walk through the darkest valley, * I will / fear
no / evil: for thou art with me, * thy / rod · and thy / staff /
comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me, * in the presence of /
them that / trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil,
* and my / cup / shall be / full.

Yea thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me * all the /
days of · my / life: and I will dwell in the / house · of the /
Lord for / ever.

MATTHEW 18. 1-5, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven."

A hymn may be sung.

THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you;
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

*Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who through thy Son Jesus Christ has promised us eternal life: grant us steadfastly to believe that this child is safe in the protection of thy eternal love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Other prayers, from among those previously provided, may be said at the Minister's discretion, either here or after the Committal.

THE COMMENDATION

To thee, O holy God and loving Father, we commend thy child *N.*, praying that in thine own good time we may rejoice with *him/her* in thy eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer may be used either at this point or at the point indicated after the Committal.*

THE COMMITTAL

If the ground in which the burial is to take place is not consecrated, the Priest says, immediately before the Committal, the prayer provided for the Blessing of the Grave.

At the place of the committal of the body, the Minister says:

Like as a father hath compassion upon his children: so hath the Lord compassion upon them that fear him. For he knoweth whereof we are made: he remembereth that we are but dust. The days of man are but as grass: he flourisheth as a flower of the field; For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone: and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon him that fear him: and his righteousness upon children's children.

In the faith of Christ, and believing that this child is in the hands of God, we commit *his/her* body.

(at the grave)

to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,

(at cremation)

to be cremated,

(at sea)

to the deep,

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our corruptible body, that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

If it has not already been used in the Prayers, shall be added:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.

Any others of the Prayers previously provided which have not been used already may be used here.

THE CONCLUSION

Now to him who is able to keep us from falling and to present us without blemish before the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. **Amen.**

Jude 24, 25

THE BURIAL OF ASHES AFTER CREMATION

When cremated remains are to be buried in consecrated ground, cremation may take place without any formal service. In this case the appropriate form of Committal shall be used at the burial of the cremated remains.

The Service in Church may either precede or follow the cremation.

The ashes of Christians should be buried in consecrated ground, except where burial is at sea. No clergyman of the Church in Wales may take part in the scattering of ashes, nor may he permit ashes to be scattered in any churchyard under his control.

*When ashes are to be buried and the Committal has been used at the Crematorium, the Minister may first use *The Service in Church*, with any of the Prayers.*

At the place of burial, the Minister says:

Believing that our *brother/sister* is at rest in Christ, and rejoicing in the communion of saints, we commit *his/her* ashes to the ground, in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Then, if it has not already been used, shall be added:

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.**

Any other of the Prayers previously provided which have not been used already may be used here.

THE CONCLUSION

To the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honour and glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE GRAVE

This prayer shall be used before the Committal when burial takes place in unconsecrated ground.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, bless this grave to be the resting-place of the body of thy servant; through the same thy blessed Son, who is the resurrection and the life, and who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

LESSONS

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 3. 1-9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an affliction, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them for ever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones.

JOHN 5. 24-29 and 6. 37-40

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgement, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this: for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgement."

"All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from

heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

JOHN 6. 53-58

Jesus said to the Jews, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever.”

JOHN 11. 21-27

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who lives and believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

ROMANS 8. 31-39

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies; who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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.

1 CORINTHIANS 15. 3-20

I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 CORINTHIANS 15. 20-26 *and* 35-38

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is alike, but there is one kind for men, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are celestial bodies and there are terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brethren: flesh

and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

REVELATION 20. 11-13

Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat upon it; from his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done.

Appendix

**THE FUNERAL SERVICE
WITHIN THE HOLY EUCHARIST**



THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

A sentence of Scripture may be read:

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body on the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us pursue all that makes for peace and strengthens our common life.

Christ, the Prince of peace, breaks down the walls that divide us. God has called us to live in peace.

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Jesus said, This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

We have crossed over from death to life; this we know, because we love our brothers and sisters. Anyone who does not love remains in the realm of death.

Love in all sincerity. Never pay back evil for evil. If possible, so far as it lies with you, live at peace with all.

To bind everything together and complete the whole there must be love. Let Christ's peace guide us in our decisions, the peace to which we were called as members of a single body.

Jesus said, Peace I bequeath to you; my own peace I give you; a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.

Blessed are those who make peace; they shall be called
God's children.

God will speak peace to his people, to those who turn to
him in their hearts.

Advent

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from
heaven will break upon us, to shine on those who live in
darkness, under the shadow of death, and to guide our feet
into the way of peace.

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Nativity and Epiphany

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to
all in whom he delights.

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of peace; of the increase
of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

Lent

Now that we have been justified through faith, we are at
peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Passiontide

Once we were far away from God, but now in union
with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the
shedding of his blood.

Easter and Ascension

Jesus says, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.

Pentecost

The mind of the sinful nature is death. The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. If we live by the Spirit let us also walk by the Spirit.

Kingdom

The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Saints

We are all citizens with the saints and belong to the family of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord who came and preached peace to those who were far away and to those who were near.

Baptism

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts; to this peace we are called as members of one body. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit he has given us.

Thanksgiving

Peace is the seed-bed of righteousness, and peacemakers will reap its harvest.

Mission

The risen Christ said, Peace be with you! As the Father sent me, so I send you. Then he breathed on them saying, Receive the Holy Spirit!

Unity

Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

FORM FOR ADDITIONAL CONSECRATION

Holy Father, hear the prayer and thanksgiving which we offer through Jesus Christ our Lord, who took bread (*and*) the cup and said:
This is my body (*and this is my*) blood.
We also take this bread (*and*) wine
and pray that by your Word and Spirit it may be for us
the sacrament of the body (*and*) blood of Christ. **Amen.**

Part two

**NOTES, ADDITIONAL SERVICES,
ADDITIONAL CONTENT,
AND SAMPLE SERVICES**



I.
Notes to The Funeral Service



1. Sentences

Sentences of Scripture may be used at the entry, after the Introduction, or at other suitable points.

2. Receiving the Coffin

The coffin may be received into the church at the beginning of the service, or earlier in the day, or on the day before the funeral. The Paschal Candle may stand near the coffin and may be carried in front of the coffin when it is brought into the church. The coffin may be sprinkled with holy water on entry. This may also occur at the Commendation or at the Committal. A pall may be placed over the coffin in church by family, friends or other members of the congregation. Appropriate symbols of the life and faith of the departed person may be placed on or near the coffin before or at the start of the service or after the opening prayer and hymn. Silence is kept. At the sprinkling, the placing of the pall or symbols, the words in Section VIII below may be used.

3. Responses

Except where the funeral service is used in the context of the Holy Eucharist, the congregational responses are optional.

4. Hymns, Psalms and Readings

Points are suggested at which hymns may be sung, but they may be used at any suitable place. A selection of hymns and anthems is provided in Section XV below. Psalms and Readings should normally be drawn from those set out in Part 1, or in Section XIII below. A psalm should normally be used. It may be in a metrical or hymn version or be replaced by a scriptural song. For Canticles see Section XIV below. There must always be one reading from the Bible. Appropriate non-biblical texts may be read before the Tribute.

5. Tribute and Sermon

The primary purpose of the Sermon, which should always be given by an authorised minister, is to proclaim the gospel of Christ's death and resurrection in the context of the death of the deceased.

A fitting tribute may be made, most appropriately at the beginning of the service. An apposite non-biblical text may be read at the discretion of the minister.

6. Creed

An authorized Creed or an authorized Affirmation of Faith may be said after the Sermon.

7. The Committal

The Committal is used at the point at which it is needed, for example:

- (a) at the burial of the body in a cemetery or churchyard;
- (b) at the interment of cremated remains when this follows on the same day or the day following cremation, in which case the prayer "if the Committal is to follow at the Burial of the Cremated Remains" is used at the crematorium;
- (c) at a crematorium when the interment of cremated remains is not to follow immediately;
- (d) at the interment of cremated remains when cremation has taken place without any formal service;
- (e) when burial takes place at sea;
- (f) when the body or the cremated remains are to be deposited in a vault, mausoleum or brick grave, when these words may be used at the Committal: "We have entrusted our *brother/sister* to God's mercy, and we now commit *his/her* body to its resting place." Forms of Commendation and Committal are provided, but when occasion demands other authorised forms may be used.

8. Cremated Remains

The mortal remains of Christians should be buried in consecrated ground, except where burial is at sea. It is appropriate that, as in baptism we were buried with Christ,

so burial reminds us of the resurrection we share with Him. Burial of mortal remains ensures that the body is disposed of with reverence; and, placed in a Christian context with appropriate prayers, such explicit disposal provides pastoral support to a family and a place for prayer and memories in the ongoing bereavement process.

No Cleric or Reader of the Church in Wales may take part in the scattering of mortal remains, and neither may any Cleric permit mortal remains to be scattered in any churchyard under his or her control.

9. The Funeral Service within The Holy Eucharist

The Notes to the Order for the Holy Eucharist, as well as the Notes to the Funeral Service, apply equally to this service. Texts are suggested at different points, but other suitable texts may be used. In the Liturgy of the Word, there should be a Gospel reading, preceded by either one or two other readings from the Bible.

II.

A Service at Home Before the Funeral



Hymns may be sung at appropriate points.

Preparation

In our grief, the Lord is in our midst and consoles us with his word:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5. 4

Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who grieve with the same consolation we have received from him.

2 Corinthians 1. 3-4

We shall not all die, but we shall be changed.

The trumpet shall sound and the dead will rise immortal, and we shall be changed. The perishable must be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal must be clothed with immortality.

We shall not all die, but we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15. 51-53

These or other appropriate readings may be used:

1 Thessalonians 4. 13-15

Psalm 121

John 11. 21-25

Prayers

God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief hold and comfort us:
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

These or other prayers may follow:

Heavenly Father,
you are our refuge and strength.
Help and comfort us today:
increase our faith, dispel our fears, revive our hope.
May the Holy Spirit lift us from the darkness of our grief
to the light of your presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Your Son, by dying for us, conquered death
and, by rising again, restored to us eternal life.
May we then go forward eagerly to meet our Redeemer
and, after our life on earth,
be reunited with all our brothers and sisters in your eternal
Kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away
and all things are made new;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Loving God,
enable us to hear the good news of death overcome
and life renewed:
that, as we face the mystery of death,
we may glimpse the light of eternity;
through Christ our risen Saviour. **Amen.**

Conclusion

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present
you before his glorious presence without fault and with
great joy - to the only God our Saviour
be glory, majesty,
power and authority,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
before all ages,
now and for evermore. **Amen.**

cf: Jude 24-25

III.

Receiving the Coffin at Church Before the Funeral



*The coffin may be received into the church at the beginning of
the Funeral Service, or earlier in the day, or on the day before the
Funeral. The Paschal Candle should stand near the head of the coffin.*

Receiving the Coffin

The minister meets the coffin at the door of the church and says:

We receive the body of our *brother/sister N.* with confidence in God, the giver of life, who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead.

The coffin may be sprinkled with holy water, and these words may be used:

With this water we call to mind *N.*'s baptism. As Christ went through the deep waters of death for us, so may he bring us to the fullness of resurrection life with *N.* and all the redeemed.

or

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; and 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.**

These or other suitable sentences of scripture may be used.

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

John 11. 25, 26

Romans 8. 38, 39

1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b, 18

1 Timothy 6. 7; Job 1. 21b

Lamentations 3. 22, 23

Matthew 5. 4

John 3. 16

When the coffin is in place, the minister prays using these or other suitable words:

God our Father,

by raising Christ your Son you destroyed the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life.

As we remember before you our *brother/sister N.*,

we ask your help for all who shall gather in *his/her* memory.

Grant us the assurance of your presence and grace,

by the Spirit you have given us through Jesus Christ our

Lord. **Amen.**

A pall may be placed over the coffin by family, friends or other members of the congregation and these words may be used:

We are already God's children, but what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

Yet we know that when Christ appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

or

On Mount Zion the Lord will remove the pall of sorrow hanging over all nations.

He will destroy death for ever. He will wipe away the tears from every face.

A Bible may be placed on the coffin, with these words:

Lord Jesus Christ,

your living and imperishable word brings us to new birth.

Your eternal promises to us and to *N.* are proclaimed in the Bible.

A cross may be placed on the coffin, with these words:

Lord Jesus Christ,

for love of *N.* and each one of us you bore our sins on the cross.

Readings and Prayers

Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death,
but for life with you for ever.
Without you we have nothing to hope for;
with you we have nothing to fear.
Speak to us now your words of eternal life.
Lift us from the darkness of our grief
to the light and peace of your presence,
and set the glory of your love before us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

John 14. 1-6 or other appropriate readings may be read, with psalms and prayers and silence.

Almighty God,
you love everything you have made and judge us with
infinite mercy and justice.
We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace to all
those who love you.
In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of
new life and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who died, who rose
again, and lives for evermore. **Amen.**

Closing Prayer

The minister uses one or more of these prayers:

N. has died in the peace of Christ.
As we leave *his/her* body here, we entrust *him/her*,
with faith and hope in everlasting life,
to the love and mercy of our Father
and surround *him/her* with our love and prayer.

(In baptism, *he/she* was made by adoption a child of
God.)

(At the eucharist, *he/she* was sustained and fed. God

now welcomes *him/her* to his table in heaven to share in eternal life with all the saints.)

God of all consolation,
your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on your children in their loss;
give to troubled hearts the light of hope
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord God almighty is our Father:
he loves us and tenderly cares for us.
The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:
he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.
The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us:
he will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
be praise and glory, today and for ever. **Amen.**

The service may end with a time of silence.

IV. A Funeral Vigil



The vigil may take place as part of a service at church before the Funeral, or it may be a separate service. It may take place in church, at home or in another suitable place, such as a hospital chapel. It may also be used for close family members or friends who, because of infirmity or other similar reasons, are unable to be present at the Funeral. The Gathering and the Ending may be omitted if the vigil is part of another service.

The Gathering

O Lord, open our lips:

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,
Shepherd and Protector of your grieving people,
their beginning and their ending.

Lead us to a place of peace and refreshment;

guide us to springs of life-giving water;

wipe away the tears from our eyes

and bring us to heaven

where there is no more death,

no more grief or crying or pain

in your presence, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

blessed be God for ever.

Christ yesterday and today,

the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega;

all time belongs to him, and all ages;

to him be glory and power,

through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

If candles are to be lit:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

A Suitable Reading or Readings

Suggestions follow.

Assurance and Comfort:

Isaiah 61. 1-3: To comfort all who mourn.

Psalm 139

Psalm Prayer:

Lord,
you created and fashioned us,
you know us and search us out,
you abide with us through light and dark:
help us to know your presence in this life
and, in the life to come, still to be with you;
where you are alive and reign,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

1 Peter 1. 3-9: We have been born anew to a living hope.

Canticle: A Song of God's Children.

John 14. 1-6: In my Father's house are many rooms.

The Faithfulness of God:

Isaiah 53. 1-10: The suffering servant.

Psalm: 116. 1-8 (9-17)

Psalm Prayer:

Lord of life,
we walk through eternity in your presence.
Lord of death, we call to you in grief and sorrow:
You hear and rescue us.
Watch over us as we mourn the death of your servant,
precious in your sight,
and keep us faithful to you. **Amen.**

Romans 8. 31-end:

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

Revelation 21. 1-7:

Behold I make all things new.

Canticle: A Song of the Justified.

John 6. 35-40 (53-58):

All that the Father gives me will come to me.

The Hope of Heaven:

Wisdom 3. 1-5, 9:

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.

Psalm: 25.1-9

Psalm Prayer:

God of our salvation,

in our sorrow we lift our hearts to you

and put our faith in you.

Have compassion on us,

forgive us, and love us to eternity,

as you guide and teach us in the way that lies ahead

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Romans 8. 18-25 (26-30): The future glory.

Revelation 21. 22-end; 22. 3b-5:

The Lord God will be their light.

Canticle: A Song of Faith.

John 14. 1-6: In my Father's house are many rooms.

Easter:

Job 19. 23-27: I know that my Redeemer lives.

Psalm: 32

Psalm Prayer:

Lord, our hiding place in times of trouble,
you bring our guilt to mind.
Your hand seems heavy, our tongues dry up
And we openly confess our guilt.
Embrace us with your mercy;
Teach us to trust you,
and bring us at the last to rejoice in your presence
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

2 Timothy 2. 8-13:

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

Canticle: A Song of the Redeemed.

John 11. 17-27: I am the resurrection and the life.

Advent:

Daniel 12. 1-3 (5-9):

Everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Psalm: 27

Psalm Prayer:

O God our defender,
give us the light of truth and wisdom
that all our hope may be fixed on you,
and on your Son, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

Canticle: The Song of Manasseh.

Matthew 25. 31-end: The final judgement.

An Unexpected Death:

Wisdom 4. 8-11, 13-15:
Age is not length of time.

Psalm 6

Psalm Prayer:

Our eyes, Lord, are wasted with grief;
you know we are weary with groaning.
As we remember our death in the dark emptiness
of the night,
have mercy on us and heal us;
forgive us, and take away our fear
through the dying and rising of Jesus your Son. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 4. 7-15:

We carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus.

Canticle: Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon).

Luke 12. 35-40: The coming of the Son of Man.

A Child:

2 Samuel 12. 16-23: David's son dies.

Psalm 38. 9-end

Psalm Prayer:

Lord, have mercy on those who go about mourning all the
day long,
who feel numb and crushed
and are filled with the pain of grief,
whose strength has given up, and whose friends and
neighbours are distant.
You know all our sighing and longings:
be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Wisdom 4. 8-11, 13-15:
Age is not length of time.

Canticle: A Song of St. Anselm.

Luke 12. 35-40: The coming of the Son of Man.

Closing Prayer

The minister says this or another suitable ending:

The Lord God almighty is our Father:
he loves us and tenderly cares for us.
The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:
he has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.
The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us:
he will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
be praise and glory, today and for ever. **Amen.**

V.

On the Morning of the Funeral



This brief form of service is intended to provide a short time of recollection some time before going to the Funeral. It may be led by a friend, family member or the minister.

Preparation

As we set out on our journey today, we pray for the presence of Christ, who has gone this way before us.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your word is a light to our path:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the good shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:

Lord, have mercy.

The Word

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Lamentations 3. 22-26, 31-33

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death,
but for life with you for ever.

Without you we have nothing to hope for;
with you we have nothing to fear.

Speak to us now your words of eternal life;
Lift us to the light and peace of your presence,
and set the glory of your love before us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

VI.

Pastoral Introduction to The Funeral Service



God's love and power extend over all creation. Every life is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as in life, and that there is new life in Christ beyond death.

Jesus said,

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die”

John 11. 25, 26

There is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one. We will each have had our own experiences of their life and death, with different memories and different feelings of love, grief and respect. To recognize this at the beginning of the service should help us to express our faith and our feelings as we say farewell, to acknowledge our loss and our sorrow, and to reflect on our own mortality. Those who mourn need support and consolation. Our presence here today is part of that continuing support.

VII. The Outline Order for Funerals



The Gathering

1. The coffin may be received at the door by the minister.
2. Sentences of scripture may be used.

Introduction

3. The minister welcomes the people and introduces the service.
4. A hymn may be sung.
5. The Collect is said.

Readings and Sermon

6. One or more readings from the Bible is used.
7. Psalms or hymns may follow the readings.
8. A sermon may be preached.

Prayers

9. 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.*
10. A hymn may be sung.

Commendation and Farewell

11. The dead person is commended to God.

The Committal

12. The body is committed to its resting place.

The Dismissal

13. The Lord's Prayer may be said.
14. The Nunc Dimittis may be used.
15. Suitable prayers may be said.
16. The service may end with a blessing.

If the Funeral Service takes place within a celebration of Holy Communion, the appropriate sections are followed for that part of the service.

VIII.
Supplementary Texts



Sentences

God will show us the path of life;
in his presence is the fullness of joy:
at his right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

cf. Psalm 16. 10.

Out of the depths have I cried to you,
O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplications.

cf. Psalm 130. 1

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;
and after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my body I will see God.
Yes, I will see him for myself
with my own eyes - I, and not another.

Job 19. 25-27

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe
that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep
in him. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore
encourage each other with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4. 14, 17b, 18

We brought nothing into the world,
and we can take nothing out of it.
The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised.

1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21b

At the celebration of the Holy Eucharist:

Jesus said,

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day”. (Alleluia!)

John 6. 54

Psalm 46. 1

Ecclesiastes 5. 15, 16

Lamentations 3. 22, 23

Matthew 5. 4

Matthew 25. 34

Luke 23. 43

John 3. 16

John 6. 40

John 11. 25, 26

John 14. 2, 3

Romans 8. 38, 39

1 Corinthians 2. 9-10a

1 Corinthians 15. 25, 26

2 Corinthians 1. 3, 4

2 Corinthians 5. 1

Some texts which may be used by the minister:

Receiving the Coffin

We receive the body of our *brother/sister N.*
with confidence in God, the giver of life,
who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead.

Sprinkling the Coffin with Holy Water

With this water we call to mind *N.*'s baptism.
As Christ went through the deep waters of death for us, so
may he bring us to the fullness of resurrection life with *N.*
and all the redeemed.

or

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:
and 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.**

Covering the Coffin with a Pall

We are already God's children,
but what we shall be has not yet been revealed.
Yet we know that when Christ appears
we shall be like him,
for we shall see him as he is.

or

On Mount Zion the Lord will remove the pall of sorrow
hanging over all nations.
He will destroy death for ever.
He will wipe away the tears from every face.

Placing a Bible on the Coffin

Lord Jesus Christ,
your living and imperishable word brings us to new birth.
Your eternal promises to us and to *N.* are proclaimed in
the Bible.

Placing a Cross on the Coffin

Lord Jesus Christ,
for love of *N.* and each one of us you bore our sins on
the cross.

The Blessing of a Grave

O God,
whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
bless, we pray, this grave
as the place where the body of *N.* your servant may rest
in peace,
through your Son, who is the resurrection and the life;
who died and is alive and reigns with you
now and for ever. **Amen.**

IX. **Funeral of a Child**



Notes

1. The general Notes to the Funeral Service (section I) and the Outline Order for Funerals (section VII) apply equally to this service.
2. The presence of young children at a child's funeral should be welcomed and their needs should be borne in mind. In particular it is helpful if there is an appropriate adult who can accompany all the children
3. Care should be taken to ensure that it is clear who is presiding throughout, who introduces and concludes the service, and that the number of other speakers, musical items and non-biblical readings does not unbalance the service from its focus on the word of God, prayer and thanksgiving.
4. Wherever possible, the name of the child should be used in the text of the service.
5. A parent may wish to carry the coffin of a very young child/baby.
6. Where there is a celebration of the eucharist and children are present suitable eucharistic prayers should be used.

Resources for the Funeral of a Child

These resources are suitable for different occasions and different ages.

The Gathering

Grace and peace be with you:
and keep you in the love of Christ.

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

We have come together to worship God,
whose own Son Jesus died on the Cross
that we might have eternal life;
to thank God for his love;
to remember the life on earth of this child *N.*;
to pray that *his/her* parents *N. and N.*,
brother N. and sister N., may be comforted in their sadness;
to share our grief and to commend *N.*
to the loving care of God.

Introductory Sentences

I tell you, in heaven the angels of these little ones
continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

cf. Matthew 18. 10b

Romans 8. 38, 39

Revelation 7. 17

1 John 3. 2

Mark 10. 14

Isaiah 66. 13

Opening Prayers

God of all mercies,
you make nothing in vain
and love all that you have made.
Comfort us in our grief,
and console us by the knowledge of your unfailing love,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief,
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of love,
you have bound us together in life with *N. / those we love*
and opened the door of heaven
through the suffering and resurrection of Jesus;
look upon us in your mercy,
give us courage to face our grief
and bring us all to the fullness of the risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings

One of the following Scriptural passages may be suitable.

Psalms 23

Mark 10. 13-16

Psalms 84. 1-4

John 6. 37-40

Song of Solomon 2. 10-13

John 10. 27, 28

Isaiah 49. 15, 16

Romans 8. 18, 28, 35, 37-39

Jeremiah 1. 4-8

1 Corinthians 13. 1-13

Jeremiah 31. 15-17

Ephesians 3. 14-19

Matthew 18. 1-5, 10

Prayers

The prayers usually follow this sequence:

Thanksgiving for the child's life, however brief.

Prayer for those who mourn.

Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

Some suggestions follow, from which a choice will need to be made according to age and circumstances.

1.

The Lord Jesus is the lover of his people
and our only sure hope.

Let us ask him to deepen our faith and sustain us
in this dark hour.

You became a little child for our sake,
sharing our human life.

To you we pray: **bless us and keep us, O Lord.**

You welcomed children, promising them your kingdom.

To you we pray: **bless us and keep us, O Lord.**

You comforted those who mourned the loss of children
and friends.

To you we pray: **bless us and keep us, O Lord.**

You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all.

To you we pray: **bless us and keep us, O Lord.**

You promised to raise up those who believe in you,
just as you were raised to glory by the Father.

To you we pray: **bless us and keep us, O Lord.**

2.

Father, you know our hearts and share our sorrows
at our parting from *N.*, whom we love:
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,
when we long for words of comfort,
yet find them hard to hear,
turn our grief to more patient faith,
our affliction to firmer hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3.

Father,
[the death of *N.* brings an emptiness into our lives.
We are separated from *him/her*
and feel broken and bewildered.]
Give us confidence that *N.* is safe
and *his/her* life is complete with you,
and bring us together at the last
to the wholeness and fullness of your presence in heaven,
where your saints and angels enjoy you for ever and ever.
Amen.

4.

Lord,
we pray for those who mourn,
for parents and children,
friends and neighbours.
Be gentle with them in their grief.
Show them the depths of your love,
a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.
Spare them the torment of guilt and despair.
Be with them as they weep,
as Mary wept beside the empty tomb
of our risen Saviour. **Amen.**

5.

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the family of *N.* with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your love,
and strength to meet the days to come.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

6.

God of hope,
we come to you in shock and grief and confusion of heart.
Help us to find peace
in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children,
and give us light to guide us out of darkness
into the assurance of your love
from which nothing can separate us. **Amen.**

7.

O God,
you do not willingly grieve or afflict your children.
Look with pity on the suffering of this family in their loss.
Sustain them in their anguish;
and into the darkness of their grief
bring the light of your love;
through Jesus Christ we pray. **Amen.**

8.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

The Lord is near to those who call upon him:
to all who call upon him faithfully.

As a father is tender towards his children:
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.

As a mother comforts her child:
so shall the Lord bring you comfort.

Then Jesus took the children in his arms:
he placed his hands on each of them and blessed them.

For the Parents

9.

Heavenly Father,

you alone can heal our broken hearts;

you alone can wipe away the tears that well up inside us;

you alone can give us the peace we need;

you alone can strengthen us to carry on.

We ask you to be near those

whose time of joy has been turned into sadness.

Assure them that with you nothing is wasted or incomplete,
and uphold them with your tender love.

Supported by your strength,

may our love for one another be deepened

by the knowledge of your love for us all. **Amen.**

10.

Loving Father,

in your mercy you have brought your daughter *N.*
through childbirth in safety.

We pray that *N. (and N.)* will know your support and love
in this time of trouble and sorrow at the loss of their child,
and enjoy your protection always;

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

11.

Loving Father,

your servant *Mary*,

the mother of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ,
stood by the cross while her Son was dying.

May that same Jesus,

victorious over death,

risen and ascended,

give comfort to all grieving parents,

and strengthen their faith in you;

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

For the Children in the Family

12.

Lord Jesus,
we ask you to be close to the children of this family,
whose lives have been changed by sorrow.
Give them courage to face their loss,
and comfort them with your unchanging love. **Amen.**

13.

Please listen God,
while we talk to you about *N.* who has died.
Take care of *him/her* and please take care of us too.
Thank you for the times we had together,
Thank you for Jesus who shows us your love.
He is close to *N.*, and he is close to us.
Thank you God. **Amen.**

In times of Stillbirth or Miscarriage (also; see page 188)

14.

God our creator,
from whom all life comes,
comfort *N. (and N.)*, grieving for the loss of *his/her/their* baby.
Help *him/her/them* to find assurance
that with you no life is wasted or incomplete,
and uphold *him/her/them* with your love,
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

15.

Gracious God,
we thank you for the love in which this baby (*N.*) was
conceived and for the love of the home into which *he/she*
was to be born.
We pray that the love which *his/her* parents have for each
other may grow and deepen.
Give us grace, in patience and understanding, to listen to each
other, and to help one another in the days to come. **Amen.**

Prayer of Farewell

16.

Heavenly Father,
N. and N. have named their baby *N.* -
a name to be treasured for ever in their hearts.
But it was you who formed *him/her* in the womb;
you knew *him/her* by name before time began.
Now we commit *N.* into your ever-caring and gentle love;
he/she brought the promise of joy
to many lives for so short a time;
enfold *him/her* now in eternal life,
in the name of our risen Saviour who was born and died
and lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever.
Amen.

Prayers which may be commended for personal use by the parents

17.

God of love and life,
you gave *N.* to us as our *son/daughter*.
Give us now the assurance
that though *he/she* has passed from our sight,
he/she has not passed from your care.
Draw near to us in our sadness,
bring blessing out of grief,
and help us in our tears and pain
to know you standing alongside us
and to experience your love and healing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

18.

God of all mystery,
whose ways are beyond understanding,
lead us, who grieve at this untimely death,
to a new and deeper faith in your love,
which brought your only Son Jesus
through death into resurrection life.
We make our prayer in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

19.

God of unfailing compassion,
in your creative love and tenderness you gave us *N.*,
so full of hope for the future.
You are the source of all our lives,
the strength of all our days.
You did not make us for darkness and death
but to see you face to face
and to enjoy abundant life.
Help us to comfort one another
with the consolation we ourselves receive from you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

20.

God of all grace and comfort,
We thank you for *N.*,
and for the place *he/she* held in all our hearts.
We thank you for the love in which *he/she* was conceived
and for the care with which *he/she* was surrounded.
As we remember times of tears and laughter,
we thank you for the love we shared because of *him/her*,
reflecting that love which you poured upon us
in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

21.

God our Father,
you know our thoughts
and share our sorrows.
Lead us out of desolation
to the caring comfort of your love.
When we forget what happiness is,
renew in us fresh springs of hope.
When we feel bereft of peace,
restore our hearts and calm our fears.
And when we come at last to our departing,
bring us home with you for ever;
the family of God complete;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

22.

Heavenly Father,
our companion, whose love is always with us,
even in the dark mystery of suffering and loss:
we turn to you now in faith,
and ask you to give to our beloved child *N.*
the protection of your love.
Comfort us, Father,
and lead *him/her* to joy and fulfilment in your heavenly
kingdom, by the power of the love revealed to us in your
Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

23.

Lord of all, we thank you
for your work in creation,
for nourishing life in the womb,
for your love even in death.
Thank you for the life of this child *N.*,
whom you gave to us and have taken to yourself.
Thank you for the arms of your love,
embracing both us and *N.* in your family.
Thank you for your presence in our sorrow
and your strength as our family grows older.
Take our sadness, and fill us with your Spirit
to serve you on earth
and join your saints in glory;
though Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commendation and Farewell

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.
Confident of your victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust *N.* into your keeping
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who, though he died, is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

An Older Child

Into your hands, Lord,
our faithful creator and most loving redeemer,
we commend your child *N.*,
for *he/she* is yours in death as in life.
In your great mercy
gather *him/her* into your arms
and fulfil in *him/her* the purpose of your love;
that, rejoicing in the light and refreshment of your
presence,
he/she may enjoy that life which you have prepared
for all those who love you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Young Child

Heavenly Father,
whose Son our Saviour
took little children into his arms and blessed them:
receive, we pray, your child *N.*
into your never-failing care and love,
comfort all who have loved *him/her* on earth,
and bring us all to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Baby

To you, gentle Father,
we humbly entrust this child *N.*,
so precious in your sight.
Take *him/her* into your arms
and welcome *him/her* into your presence
where there is no sorrow nor pain,
but the fullness of peace and joy with you
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Stillbirth

God of compassion,
you make nothing in vain
and love all you have created;
we commend to you *N. and N.'s* child *N.*,
for whom they poured out such great love,
for whom they cherished so many hopes and dreams.
We had longed to welcome *him/her* amongst us;
grant us the assurance that *he/she* is now encircled
in your arms of love,
and shares in the resurrection life
of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Miscarriage

God of compassion,
you make nothing in vain
and love all you have created;
we commend to you *N. and N.'s* child (*N.*),
for whom they poured out such great love,
for whom they cherished so many hopes and dreams.
Grant them the assurance that their child,
though not seen by us, is seen and known by you,
and will share the risen life of your Son,
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Committal

The minister uses one of the following forms of Committal.

At the burial of a body:

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.* is in the hands of God, we commit *his/her* body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to take place then:

We have entrusted *N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
we commit *his/her* body to be cremated:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to follow at the Burial of cremated remains:

We have entrusted *N.* to God's mercy.
In the faith of Christ and believing that *N.*
is in the hands of God,
in preparation for *his/her* burial,
we give *his/her* body to be cremated:
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his saints
to reign with him in glory for ever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

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.**

Blessings

May Christ the good shepherd enfold you with love,
fill you with peace, and lead you in hope,
to the end of your days;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May God give you 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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

May the love of God
and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console you,
and all who have known and loved *N.*,
this day and for evermore. **Amen.**

X.

A Service at Home after the Funeral



This service may be adapted for use either immediately after the funeral or later. It may be led by a friend or family member or by a minister.

At the Door

The minister may say

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The peace of God our heavenly Father,
of Jesus Christ the source of peace,
and of the Holy Spirit the comforter
come upon this house and all who live here.

Open, O God, the door of this house;
let your light shine here to drive away all darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Word of God

One or more of the following readings may be used:

John 14. 1-3

Psalm 71. 1-6, 17-18

Matthew 11. 28-30

Psalm 126. 5-6

Philippians 3.20 – 4.1

Psalm 139. 7-11

Prayers

A suitable prayer or prayers from Section XII may be used, or informal prayer for the family may be more appropriate.

The following prayer may be especially appropriate if there is to be food after the funeral.

Almighty God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose disciples recognized him
as he broke bread with them after the resurrection:
we thank you for your strength upholding us
in what we have done today,
and now we ask for your presence to be recognized in this
place;
bring your peace and joy to each place which stirs the
memory;
give your strength and presence in those daily tasks which
used to be shared;
and in all the changes of life give us grace to do your will
day by day,
and to look for the glorious coming of Christ,
when you will gather us together to your table in heaven
to be with you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Conclusion

The minister may say Psalm 121:

I lift up my eyes to the
hills — from where will my
help come?

My help comes from the
Lord, who made heaven
and earth.

He will not let your foot be
moved; he who keeps you
will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber
nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at
your right hand.

The sun shall not strike
you by day, nor the moon
by night.

The Lord will keep you from
all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your
going out and your coming
in from this time on and
for evermore.

XI. A Memorial Service



An outline Order for a Memorial Service

The Gathering

1. The minister welcomes the people and introduces the service.
2. A hymn may be sung
3. Sentences of scripture may be used.
4. A tribute may be read here or later in the service.
5. The Collect may be said here or after the Prayers.

Readings and Sermon

6. One or more readings from the Bible is used.
7. Psalms or hymns may follow the readings.
8. A Sermon is preached.
9. Other songs and readings may be used, and tributes may be made.

Prayers

10. 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.*
11. The Lord's Prayer is said.
12. Time may be allowed for prayer and reflection, in silence or with appropriate music.

Commendation and Thanksgiving

13. In appropriate circumstances, the dead person is commended to God with authorised words.
14. An appropriate act of thanksgiving is made at the end of the service.

The Dismissal

15. A hymn may be sung.
16. The service may end with a blessing.

If the Memorial Service takes place within a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the appropriate sections are followed for that part of the service.

Notes

These outline orders are designed for use in church several weeks after the Funeral service has taken place.

One example is provided below.

If the memorial service takes place on the same day as, or very soon after the Funeral, the Funeral service should be used without the committal.

Care should be taken to ensure that it is clear who is presiding throughout, who introduces and concludes the service, and that the number of other speakers, musical items and non-biblical readings does not unbalance the service from its focus on the word of God, prayer and thanksgiving.

Memorial Service (A Sample Service)

The Gathering

The minister welcomes the people and introduces the service. Sentences of Scripture may be sung or said, and a hymn may be sung.

The minister says:

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
Grace and peace be with you.
(and keep you in the love of Christ).

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

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.
Today we come together
to remember before God our *brother/sister N.*,
to give thanks for *his/her* life,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

Opening Prayer. One of these prayers is said:

Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your own image
and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.
We thank you now for *N.*
and for what *he/she* meant to each of us.
As we honour *his/her* memory,
make us more aware that you are the one
from whom comes every perfect gift,
including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

or

Father in heaven,
we praise your name
for all who have finished this life loving
and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave to them
and the peace in which they now rest.
We praise you today for your servant *N.*
and for all that you did through *him/her*.
Meet us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Readings and Sermon

This canticle may be used:

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:
the desert shall burst into song.
They shall see the glory of the Lord:
the majesty of our God.

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Strengthen the weary hands:
make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious,
Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement:
coming with judgement to save you.

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Isaiah 35. 1, 2b, 3-4, 10a

One or more readings from Scripture are used.

At the end the reader may say:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

A Sermon may be preached.

Songs and non-biblical readings may be used, and tributes may be made.

One of these prayers may be used to provide a link with the Affirmation of Faith or the Thanksgiving:

Father in heaven,
we give you thanks for your servant *N*.
We praise you as we recollect *his/her* life
and cherish *his/her* memory.
We bless you that in bearing your image
he/she has brought light to our lives;
in *his/her* friendship we have seen reflections of your
compassion,
in *his/her* integrity demonstrations of your goodness,
in *his/her* faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.
Grant to each of us, beloved and bereft,
the grace to follow *his/her* good example
so that we with *him/her* may come to your everlasting
kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory,
to whom be praise for all eternity. **Amen.**

or

Almighty Saviour,
those who have died in faith
have eternal joy in your presence.
For us who remain, be with us in our sadness
and turn our eyes to you.
By your death once for all upon the cross,
raise us to new life,
give us victory over death
and confidence to look forward to your coming. **Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

This Affirmation of Faith may be used:

Let us affirm the good news we have received,
in which we stand,
through which we are saved
and which we hand on to others.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.**

cf. 1 Corinthians 15. 3-7

Prayers of Intercession

Suitable prayers are said (see Section XII).

This introduction and response may be used:

In peace let us pray to the Lord,

using the response,

Hear us, risen Lord:

Our Resurrection and our Life.

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Hymns may be sung and testimony given.

Either the whole of the Te Deum, or these verses, may be used:

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 and 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.

One or more of these thanksgivings may be used:

You are worthy, O Lord our God:
to receive glory and honour and power .
**For you created all things:
and by your will they have their being.**

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain:
and by your blood you bought for God
people of every tribe and language, nation and grace.
**You have made them a kingdom of priests,
to stand and serve before our God:
and they will reign with you on earth.**

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb:
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

or

We give you thanks and praise, almighty Father,
that you sent your Son to die, and raised him from the
dead. We praise you in the confidence that you save all your
people, living and departed.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We thank you for *N.*, who in baptism was given the pledge
of eternal life and is now admitted to the company of the
saints.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We thank you for our *brother/sister* who shared the bread
of life, a foretaste of the eternal banquet of heaven.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We thank you for our relatives and friends and for all who
have walked with us on our earthly pilgrimage.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray that the family and friends of our *brother/sister N.*
may be consoled in their grief by the Lord, who wept at the
death of Lazarus his friend.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We pray for all of us assembled here to worship in faith,
that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Lord, hear us: **Lord, graciously hear us.**

or

Lord God, creator of all,
you have made us creatures of this earth,
but have also promised us a share in life eternal.
According to your promises,
may all who have died in the peace of Christ
share with your saints in the joy of heaven,
where there is neither sorrow nor pain
but life everlasting.

Alleluia! Amen.

If the Eucharist is not celebrated:

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

Our Father in heaven ...

or

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

Our Father who art in heaven ...

Commendation and Thanksgiving

Almighty God,
in your great love
you crafted us by your hand
and breathed life into us by your Spirit.
Although we became a rebellious people,
you did not abandon us.
In your tender mercy
you sent your Son
to restore us in your image.
He showed his love
by dying for us on the cross.
By your mighty power
you raised him from the grave
and exalted him to the throne of glory.
Rejoicing in his victory
and trusting in your promise
to give eternal life to all who turn to Christ,
we commend *N.* to your mercy
and we join with all your faithful people
and the whole company of heaven
in the one unending song of praise:
Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Jesus said:

Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives give I unto you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The Conclusion

Neither death nor life can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but also for those whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power
to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
so may we trust your love
to give eternal life to all who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

XII.

Prayers at Funeral and Memorial Services



These prayers reflect the sequence found in the services, from the time of gathering until after the Funeral:

Gathering Prayers

Prayers of Penitence (Kyries and Absolutions)

Collects for Funeral and Memorial Services

Thanksgiving for the Life of the Departed

Prayers for those who Mourn

Prayers for Readiness to Live in the Light of Eternity

Litanies and Responsive Prayers

Prayers of Entrusting and Commending

Blessings and other Endings

Prayers for Use after Psalms

Other suitable prayers may be found in sections II - V (Before the Funeral) and X (After the Funeral).

Prayers suitable for a child may be found in section IX.

Gathering Prayers

1.

God our refuge and strength,
close at hand in our distress;
meet us in our sorrow and lift our eyes
to the peace and light of your constant care.
Help us so to hear the word of your grace
that our fear may be dispelled by your love,
our loneliness eased by your presence
and our hope renewed by your promises
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

2.

Gracious Father,
in darkness and light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us to trust your love,
to serve your purpose
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3.

Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death,
but for life with you for ever.
Without you we have nothing to hope for;
with you we have nothing to fear.
Speak to us now your words of eternal life.
Lift us from anxiety and guilt
to the light and peace of your presence,
and set the glory of your love before us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Kyries

4.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are everlasting.
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to
your steadfast love.
Christ, have mercy. **(Christ, have mercy)**

O keep my soul and deliver me;
let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in you.
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

5.

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

Lord Jesus, you have given us knowledge of your truth:
Christ, have mercy. **(Christ, have mercy)**

Lord Jesus, you are the good shepherd,
leading us into everlasting life:
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

6.

Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits:
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

Who forgives all your sin
and heals all your infirmities:
Christ, have mercy. **(Christ, have mercy)**

Who saves your life from destruction
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness:
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

7.

Out of the depths I cry to you:
Lord, hear my voice.
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

If you should mark what is done amiss:
who may abide it?
Christ, have mercy. **(Christ, have mercy)**

Trust in the Lord,
for with him there is mercy:
for with him is ample redemption.
Lord, have mercy. **(Lord, have mercy)**

Absolutions

Where the minister is a priest, 'you' may be used in place of 'us'.

8.

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

9.

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the fellowship of his table
with his saints for ever. **Amen.**

Collects for Funeral and Memorial Services

10.

Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that (*N. and*) all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection;
who lives and reigns with you,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

11.

Eternal God, our maker and redeemer,
grant us (*with N.*) and all the faithful departed
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion
and glorious resurrection;
that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may, with them, enjoy the fullness of your promises;
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the Life of the Departed

12.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us all with the gift of this earthly life and has given to our *brother/sister N. his/her* span of years and gifts of character.

God our Father, we thank you now for *his/her* life, for every memory of love and joy, for every good deed done by *him/her* and every sorrow shared with us.

We thank you for *his/her* life; for our memories of *him/her*, and for giving *him/her* to us.

Hear our prayers

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

13.

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light.

We thank you for the life of your child *N.*, for the love *he/she* received from you and showed among us.

Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ.

And we ask that in due time

we may share with our *brother/sister* that clearer vision, when we shall see your face

in the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

14.

Father in heaven, we praise your name
for all who have finished this life
loving and trusting you,
for the example of their lives,
the life and grace you gave them,
and the peace in which they rest.
We praise you today for your servant *N*.
and for all that you did through *him/her*.
Comfort us in our sadness
and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,
for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

15.

Father in heaven,
we thank you because you made us in your own image
and gave us gifts in mind, body and spirit.
We thank you now for *N*.
and for what *he/she* meant to each of us.
As we honour *his/her* memory,
make us more aware that you are the one
from whom comes every perfect gift,
including the gift of eternal life
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

16.

God our Father,
we thank you that you have made each of us
in your own image,
and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.
We thank you for *N*,
the years we shared with *him/her*,
the good we saw in *him/her*,
the love we received from *him/her*.
Now give us strength and courage
to entrust *him/her* to your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

17.

Eternal God and Father,
we praise you that you have made us to share life together
and to reflect your glory in the world.
We thank you now for *N.*,
for all that we saw of your goodness and love in *his/her* life
and for all that *he/she* meant to each one of us.
As we journey towards death
may we do so in the company of Jesus,
who came to share our life
that we might share the life of eternity.
To him be glory with you and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

18.

Lord God, creator of all,
you have made us creatures of this earth
and promised us a share in eternal life:
receive our thanks and praise
that, through the passion and death of Christ,
your child *N.*, our *brother/sister*,
whom we commend into your hands today,
shares with your saints in the joy of heaven,
where there is neither sorrow nor pain
but life everlasting. Alleluia! **Amen.**

19.

Almighty God,
you love everything you have made,
and judge us with infinite mercy and justice.
We rejoice in your promises of pardon, joy and peace
to all those who love you.
In your mercy
turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,
and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who died, rose again, and lives for evermore. **Amen.**

20.

Almighty God,
we come before you, the supreme judge,
and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect;
we give you thanks for giving us an unshakeable kingdom
and worship you in reverence and awe,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for those who Mourn

21.

God of mercy,
as we mourn the death of *N.*,
and thank you for *his/her* life,
we also remember times when it was hard for us to
understand,
to forgive, and to be forgiven.
Heal our memories of hurt and failure,
and bring us to forgiveness and life
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

22.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you comforted your disciples when you were going to die:
set our troubled hearts at rest
and banish our fears.
You are the way: help us to follow you.
You are the truth: bring us to know you.
You are the life: give us the grace to live with you
now and for ever. **Amen.**

23.

O God,
who brought us to birth,
and in whose arms we die,
in our grief and shock
contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love,
give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life;
through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

24.

Father,
you know our hurts and share our sorrows.
When we are hurt by our parting from *N.* whom we loved;
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained;
when we long for words of comfort,
yet find them hard to hear;
turn our grief to truer living,
our affliction to firmer hope
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

25.

Gracious God,
surround all who mourn this day
with your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children,
or turn them against you.
When sorrow seems never-ending,
take them one step at a time
along your road of death and resurrection
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

26.

Father,

the death of those we love brings emptiness into our lives.

We are separated from *him/her*

and feel broken and confused.

Give us confidence that *he/she* is safe

and *his/her* life complete with you,

and bring us together at the last to the wholeness and

fullness of your presence in heaven, where your saints and

angels enjoy you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

27.

God of all mercy,

in love you gave us your Son

to conquer death

and restore eternal life to your people.

Comfort your servants in their sorrow,

and strengthen our faith and hope in your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

28.

Most merciful God,

whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,

surround the family of *N.* with your love,

that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,

but have confidence in your goodness

and strength to meet the days to come.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

29.

Father of all mercies and God of all consolation,

you pursue us with untiring love

and dispel the shadow of death with the bright dawn of life.

(Give courage to this family in their loss and sorrow.

Be their refuge and strength, reassure them of your

continuing love and lift them from the depths of grief

into the peace and light of your presence.)

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

by dying destroyed our death,

and by rising, restored our life.
Your Holy Spirit, our comforter,
speaks for us in sighs too deep for words.
Come alongside your people,
remind them of your eternal presence
and give them your comfort and strength. **Amen.**

30.

Lord God,
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.
Let us find in your Son
comfort in our sadness,
certainty in our doubt
and courage to live;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

31.

Risen Lord Jesus,
draw near to us as we walk this lonely road.
Pierce our sorrow and weariness,
and gladden our heavy hearts as you walk with us,
and bring us at the last to your heavenly table. **Amen.**

32.

O God,
you do not willingly grieve or afflict your children.
Look with pity on the suffering of this family in their loss.
Sustain them in their anguish;
and into the darkness of their grief
bring the light of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

33.

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.**

34.

Out of the depths of our grief,
we cry to you, O Lord.
You gave *N.* to us,
and now *he/she* is gone from us.
Turn to us, have compassion,
and give us the comfort that you alone can give,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After a Short Life

35.

Lord our God,
you blessed us through the gift of *N.*,
whose loss we mourn.
Help us, through our tears and pain,
to glimpse your hand at work
to bring blessing out of grief.
To you be glory for ever. **Amen.**

36.

God of all mystery,
whose ways are beyond understanding,
lead us, who grieve at this untimely death,
to a deeper trust in your love,
which brought your only Son Jesus
through death into resurrection life.
We make our prayer in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

After a Sudden Death

37.

God of hope,
we come to you in shock and grief.
Help us to find peace
in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children,
and give us light to guide us out of our darkness
into the assurance of your love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After a Violent Death

38.

Merciful God,
the death of *N.* is beyond our understanding
and more than we can bear.
Hear the cries of our grief,
for you know the anguish of our hearts.
Accept our prayer
that as *N.* has been released from this world's cruelty
so may *he/she* be received into your safe hands and secure love.
We pray that justice may be done
and that we may treasure the memory of *his/her* life
more than the manner of *his/her* death.
For Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

When the Body is Not Present

39.

Father of all,
we pray to you for *N.*,
whom we love but now no longer see.
Grant *him/her* your peace;
let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*;
and in your loving wisdom and almighty power
work in *him/her* the good purpose of your perfect will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After a Suicide

40.

Eternal God and Father,
look in mercy on those who remember *N.* before you.
For *N.* the trials of this world are over
and death is past.
Accept from us all that we feel when words fail;
deliver us from despair
and give us strength to meet the days to come
in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

41.

God our strength and our redeemer:
you do not leave us in this life
nor abandon us in death.
Hear our prayer for those in despair,
when days are full of darkness
and the future empty of hope.
Renew in them your sustaining strength
for nothing in all creation
can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

After a Long Illness

42.

God of deliverance,
you called our *brother/sister N.*
to serve you in weakness and pain,
and gave *him/her* the grace of sharing the cross of your Son.
Reward *his/her* patience and forbearance,
and grant *him/her* the fullness of Christ's victory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In Sorrow, Guilt and Regret

43.

Forgiving God,
in the face of death we discover
how many things remain undone,
how much might have been done otherwise.
Redeem our failure;
Bind up the wounds of past mistakes;
Transform our guilt to active love;
and by your forgiveness make us whole;
in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Prayers for Readiness to Live in the Light of Eternity

44.

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

45.

Grant us, Lord,
the wisdom and the grace
to use aright the time
left to us 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 fullness of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

46.

God, our Father,
we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to die for us and rise again.
His cross declares your limitless love;
his resurrection, that death has no dominion:
By his victory we are assured
that you will never leave us or forsake us;
and that neither death nor life,
nor things present nor things to come,
can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

47.

Almighty God,
encouraged by the example of your saints,
may we run with patience the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith;
so that at the last we may join those whom we love in your
eternal presence where there is fullness of joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

48.

Almighty God,
you have surrounded us by a great cloud of witnesses.
As you strengthened them,
inspire us to throw off all that weighs us down
and the sin that clings so closely.
As you sustained them,
keep us running in the race that lies ahead,
fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
Hear us as we offer with them,
in the power of your eternal Spirit,
the unending song of praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

49.

Father,
your Son has become the source of eternal salvation for
all who follow him.
When we are tempted to turn from your way,
form us in the obedience of Christ, our brother.
When our consciences are stained by sin,
cleanse us with the sacrifice of Christ, our priest.
When we fear our death and the death of those we love,
strengthen us in the knowledge that Christ has gone before
us and entered your holy presence, crowned with glory and
honour, where he is alive and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

50.

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ said,
“Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid”,
take away our fear of death;
bring us to the place he has gone to prepare for us;
and give us his peace for ever. **Amen.**

51.

Bring us, O Lord, 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 habitations of your glory and dominion,
world without end. **Amen.**

52.

Dear Father of life,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.
Grant us so to love and serve you,
and live each day for you,
that we may, at the last,
reach out for you and know that we are loved,
open our hearts to you and know that we are forgiven;
and so, loved and accepted, we may rest in you;
through the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

53.

Eternal God,
you give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death;
let your light shine on those who mourn
that they may rejoice in your holy comfort
and live in the light of the resurrection
of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

54.

Father of all,
by whose mercy and grace
your saints remain in everlasting light and peace:
we remember with thanksgiving
those whom we love but see no longer;
and we pray that in them
your perfect will may be fulfilled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

55.

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

Litanies and Responsive Prayers

56.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Jesus, bread from heaven,
you satisfy the hungry with good things:
grant us a share with all the faithful departed
in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord,

Our Resurrection and our Life.

Jesus, the light of the world,
you gave the man born blind the gift of sight
and opened the eyes of his faith:
bring those in darkness to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us, risen Lord,

Our Resurrection and our Life.

Jesus, Son of the living God,
you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life:
raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord,

Our Resurrection and our Life.

Jesus, crucified Saviour,
in your dying you entrusted each to the other,
Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple:
sustain and comfort all who mourn.

Hear us, risen Lord,

Our Resurrection and our Life.

Jesus, our way and truth and life,
you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith:
reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us, risen Lord,

Our Resurrection and our Life.

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.**

57.

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence
and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection.

Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Promise and image of what we shall be:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, gentle shepherd who brings rest to our souls,
give peace to *N.* for ever:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain.
Bless *N.*'s family and friends who gather around *him/her*
today:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

58.

The Lord Jesus is the lover of his people and our only sure
hope.

Let us ask him to deepen our faith and sustain us in this
dark hour.

You became a little child for our sake, sharing our human
life.

To you we pray:

Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You grew in wisdom, age and grace
and learned obedience through suffering.

To you we pray:

Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You welcomed children, promising them your kingdom.

To you we pray:

Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You comforted those who mourned the loss of children and friends.

To you we pray:

Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You took upon yourself the suffering and death of us all.

To you we pray:

Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

You promised to raise up those who believe in you, just as you were raised up in glory by the Father.

To you we pray:

Bless us and keep us, O Lord.

59.

Dear friends, our Lord comes to raise the dead and comforts us with the solace of his love.

Let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, creator of the earth to which *N.* now returns, in baptism you called *N.* to eternal life to praise your Father for ever:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Son of God, you raise up the just and clothe them with the glory of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Crucified Lord, you protect the soul of *N.* by the power of your cross, and on the day of your coming will show mercy to all the faithful departed:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Judge of the living and the dead, at your voice the tombs will open and all the just who sleep in your peace will rise and sing the glory of God:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

All praise to you, Jesus our Saviour, death is in your hands and all the living depend on you alone:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

60.

Lord Jesus Christ, you know the thoughts of our hearts, you share our joys and sorrows; deepen our faith and sustain us in this dark hour.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for *N.*, and dry the tears of all who weep.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord, you wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend, comfort us also in our sorrow.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

(Lord, your child *N.* was washed in the waters of baptism, and anointed with the Holy Spirit; grant *him/her* fellowship with all your saints.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

(Lord, you nourished *N.* with your Body and Blood; grant *him/her* a place at the table in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

(Lord, your *deacon/priest/bishop N.* led your people in prayer and sacraments; may *he/she* now share in the worship of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**)

Lord, let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

61.

Almighty Father, Creator God, source and goal of every life:

Have mercy upon us.

Jesus Christ, crucified Saviour and living Lord, companion and guide:

Have mercy upon us.

Holy Spirit, by whose power we are renewed, and by whose light we may walk without doubt or fear:

Have mercy upon us.

In the weakness of our faith, the shallowness of our hope, and our lack of love:

Have mercy upon us.

When we keep our gifts to ourselves, and endeavour to live without you:

Have mercy upon us.

Because you have made us for yourself:

We thank you, Lord.

Because you hold all souls in life:

We thank you, Lord.

Because in all our griefs and troubles you refresh us, leading us by the waters of comfort:

We thank you, Lord.

Because by the resurrection of your Son you have given us the assurance of faith, the light of hope and the power of love:

We thank you, Lord.

62.

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,
who raised Christ his Son from the dead for the salvation
of all.

Grant, Lord, that your servant may know the fullness of life
which you have promised to those who love you.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Be close to those who mourn:
increase their faith in your undying love.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

May we be strengthened in our faith, live the rest of our
lives in following your Son, and be ready when you shall
call us to eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Show your mercy to the dying; strengthen them with hope,
and fill them with the peace and joy of your presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord,
we commend all those who have died to your unfailing love,
that in them your will may be fulfilled;
and we pray that we may share with them
in your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Entrusting and Commending

63.

Lord Jesus, our redeemer,
you willingly gave yourself up to death,
that all might be saved and pass from death to life.
By dying you unlocked the gates of life
for all those who believe in you.

We commend *N.* into your arms of mercy,
believing that, with sins forgiven,
he/she will share a place of happiness, light and peace
in the kingdom of your glory for ever. **Amen.**

64.

N. has died in the peace of Christ.

We entrust *him/her*, with faith and hope in everlasting life,
to the love and mercy of our Father

and surround *him/her* with our love and prayer.

(In baptism, *he/she* was made by adoption a child of God.

At the eucharist, *he/she* was sustained and fed.

God now welcomes *him/her* to his table in heaven
to share in eternal life with all the saints.) **Amen.**

65.

Heavenly Father,

your Son Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
will raise up the bodies of his faithful people
to be like his in glory.

We commend *N.* to your mercy

and pray that as you gather *him/her* to yourself,

you will give us your blessing of peace;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who died and rose again to save us,

and is now alive and reigns with you

and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. **Amen.**

66.

Heavenly Father,

you have assured us

that everyone who looks to your Son

and believes in him

shall have eternal life.

Trusting in your faithfulness,

we commend *N.* to your mercy

as we await that great day

when you raise us with *him/her* to life in triumph

and we shall stand before you,

with all your creation made new

in the glory of your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

67.

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory,
bearing in his body the marks of his passion.
Confident of your victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust *N.* into your keeping
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who, though he died, is now alive
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

68.

Almighty God,
as you bring us face to face with our mortality,
we thank you for making each one of us in your own image
and giving us gifts in body, mind and spirit.
We thank you now as we honour the memory of *N.*,
whom you gave to us and have taken away.
We entrust *him/her* to your mercy,
and pray that you will show us the path of life,
and the fullness of joy in your presence
through all eternity. **Amen.**

69.

Almighty God,
in your great love
you crafted us by your hand
and breathed life into us by your Spirit.
Although we became a rebellious people,
you did not abandon us.
In your tender mercy
you sent your Son
to restore us in your image.
He showed his love
by dying for us on the cross.
By your mighty power
you raised him from the grave

and exalted him to the throne of glory.
Rejoicing in his victory
and trusting in your promise
to give eternal life to all who turn to Christ,
we commend *N.* to your mercy
and we join with all your faithful people
and the whole company of heaven
in the one unending song of praise:

**Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be yours, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessings and Other Endings

70.

And now to him
who is able to keep us from falling,
and lift us from the dark valley of despair
to the bright mountain of hope,
from the midnight of desperation
to the daybreak of joy;
to him be power and authority, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

71.

God be in my head,
and in my understanding;
God be in my 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 my end,
and at my departing. **Amen.**

72.

May Christ the good shepherd
enfold you with love,
fill you with peace,
and lead you in hope to the end of your days;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

73.

May the love of God
and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
console you and gently wipe every tear from your eyes.
May Almighty God bless you,
The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

74.

May the eternal God
bless and keep us, guard our bodies,
save our souls
and bring us safe to the heavenly country,
our eternal home,
where Father, Son and Holy Spirit reign,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

For a Memorial Service

75.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

76.

May the infinite and glorious Trinity,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
direct our life in good works,
and after our journey through this world,
grant us eternal rest with the saints. **Amen.**

77.

The Lord God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard us, save us,
and bring us to that heavenly city
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

78.

The Lord God almighty is our Father:
He loves us and tenderly cares for us.

The Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour:
He has redeemed us and will defend us to the end.

The Lord, the Holy Spirit is among us:
He will lead us in God's holy way.

To God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.

Prayers for use after Psalms

For use after Psalm 6:

Our eyes are sore with grief;
Lord, you know we are weary with groaning.
As we remember our death
in the dark emptiness of the night,
have mercy on us and heal us;
forgive us and take away our fear
through the dying and rising of Jesus your Son. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 32:

Lord, our hiding place in times of trouble,
you bring our guilt to mind.
Your hand seems heavy;
our tongues dry up
and we openly confess our guilt.
Embrace us with your mercy.
Teach us to trust you,
and bring us at the last
to rejoice in your presence for ever and ever. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 38:

Lord, have mercy
on those who go about in mourning all the day long,
who feel numb and crushed
and are filled with the pain of grief,
whose strength has given up
and whose friends and neighbours are distant.
You know all our sighings and longings:
be near to us and teach us to fix our hope on you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 39:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
grant that we may ever seek you
and feed on you all our days,
for you are in all and with all and through all,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 90:

Teach us, Lord, to number our days;
to see the span of our life in the light of eternity.
Reveal your splendour to us.
Give us the wisdom and grace to know your love
and to rejoice in your forgiveness and life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 116:

Lord of life,
we walk through eternity in your presence.
Lord of death,
we call to you in grief and sorrow:
you hear us and rescue us.
Watch over us as we mourn the death of your servant,
precious in your sight,
and keep us faithful to our vows to you. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 120:

God of mercy,
we are in trouble and we call to you.
Deliver us from lies and deceit
and the pain of the enemy's attack.
And give us peace,
the peace of Christ won upon the cross. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 121:

Faithful Lord,
lift us up when we are down.
Watch over us and keep us safe.
Be with us in our going out and in our coming in,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 130:

Lord of mercy and redemption,
rescue us, we pray, from the depths of sin and death;
forgive us what we do wrong,
and give us grace to stand in your presence,
to serve you in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 138:

Lord,
do not abandon us in our desolation.
Keep us safe in the midst of trouble,
and complete your purpose for us
through your steadfast love and faithfulness,
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

For use after Psalm 139:

Lord,
you created and fashioned us,
you know us and search us out,
you abide with us through light and dark:
help us to know your presence in this life
and, in the life to come, still to be with you;
where you are alive and reign,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

XIII.

Bible Readings and Psalms for use at Funeral Services and Memorial Services



*The readings and psalms marked with an asterisk * are particularly appropriate at the funeral of a child.*

Bible Readings

- Ecclesiastes 3. 1-8; *A time for everything.*
Isaiah 25. 6-9; 26. 3,4; *He will swallow up death for ever.*
* Isaiah 61. 1-3; *Good news for the broken hearted.*
Lamentations 3. 22-26, 31-33;
The love of the Lord never ends.
Wisdom of Solomon 3. 1-9; *No torment will touch them.*
* Matthew 5. 1-12a; *The Beatitudes.*
* Matthew 11. 25-30; *I will give you rest.*
* Matthew 18. 1-5, 10; *The greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.*
* Mark 10. 13-16; *Let the children come to me.*
Mark 15. 33-39; 16. 1-7; *Christ's death and resurrection.*
Luke 24. 13-16, (17-27), 28-35; *The road to Emmaus.*
John 5. 24-29; 6. 37-40; *Seeing the Son and believing in him.*
John 6. 53-58; *He who eats this bread will live for ever.*
* John 10. 11-16; *I am the good Shepherd.*
John 11. 21-27; *I am the resurrection and the life.*
John 14. 1-6, 18, 19; *I am the way, the truth and the life.*
John 20. 1-9, (10-19); *The risen Christ.*

Romans 8. 31b-39;

Nothing will separate us from God's love in Christ.

Romans 14. 7-9, (10-13, 16, 17);

The Lord of the dead and of the living.

1 Corinthians 15. 3-20; *Witness to the risen Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15. 20-26, 35-38, (39-41), 42-58;

Death, where is your victory?

2 Corinthians 4.16 – 5.9; *Incomparable glory.*

Philippians 3. 7-11, (12-21);

The power of Christ's resurrection (Citizens of heaven).

2 Timothy 2. 8-13; *We shall live with Christ.*

* 1 Peter 1. 3-9; *A living hope.*

* 1 John 3. 1,2; *God's children.*

* 1 John 4. 7-18a; *God is love.*

Revelation 7. 9-17; *God will wipe away every tear.*

Revelation 20. 11-13; *The book of life.*

* Revelation 21. 1-7; *The new Jerusalem.*

Psalms

* Psalm 23.

Psalm 90. 1-6, 10, 12-17.

* Psalm 103. 1-4, 13-18.

* Psalm 121.

Psalm 139. 1-12.

See also the section "Prayers for use after Psalms" on page 169.

XIV.
**Canticles for use at
Funeral and Memorial Services**



1. *A Song of the Redeemer*

**Proclaim the time of the Lord's favour,
and comfort all who grieve.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, *
because he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, *
to announce release from darkness for the prisoners.

To proclaim the time of the Lord's favour, *
and to comfort all who grieve.

To give them oil of gladness instead of mourners' tears, *
a garment of splendour for the heavy heart.

They will be called trees of righteousness, *
planted by the Lord for his praise.

For God shall make his righteousness and praise *
blossom before all the nations.

Buildings long in ruins will be rebuilt *
and the desolate cities restored.

And you shall be called the Redeemed of the Lord, *
a city no longer forsaken.

Isaiah 61. 1-3, 11b, 4; 62. 12

**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.**

2. *The Song of Manasseh*

**Full of compassion and mercy and love
is God, the Most High, the Almighty.**

O Lord God almighty and God of our forebears,*
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence,*
before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promise of mercy,*
for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion and very merciful,*
and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness,*
you have promised repentance and forgiveness
to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you *
are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up and see the heavens,*
because of my many sins and iniquities.

And now my heart bows before you,*
imploping your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned,*
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, I know that you will save me,*
according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise,*
and your glory is for ever and ever.

Manasseh 1a, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9a, 9c, 11, 12, 14b, 15b

**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.**

3. *Iustorum Animae*

**God has found the righteous worthy
and their hope is full of immortality.**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God *
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish, they seem to have died *
but they are at peace.

For though, in the sight of others, they were punished, *
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,*
because God tested them and found them worthy.

Like gold in a furnace, God tried them *
and, like a sacrificial burnt offering, accepted them.

In the time of their visitation, they will shine forth *
and will run like sparks through the stubble.

They will govern nations and rule over peoples *
and God will reign over them for ever.

Those who have put their trust in them will understand
that he is true, *
and the faithful will attend upon him in love;

They are his chosen, *
and grace and mercy will be theirs.

Wisdom 3. 1, 2a, 3b-9

**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.**

4. *Nunc Dimittis*

**Awake may we watch with Christ:
asleep may we rest in peace.**

Lord, now you have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen your salvation *
which you have prepared for all the world to see;

A light to reveal you to the nations *
and to give glory to your people Israel.

Luke 2. 29-32

**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.**

5. *A Song of the Justified*

**Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

God reckons as righteous those who believe, *
who believe in him who raised Jesus from the dead.

For Christ was handed over to death for our sins,*
and raised to life for our justification.

Since we are justified by faith, *
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Christ we have gained access
to the grace in which we stand, *
and rejoice in our hope of the glory of God.

We even exult in our sufferings, *
for suffering produces endurance,

And endurance brings hope,*
and our hope is not in vain.

Because God's love has been poured into our hearts, *
through the Holy Spirit, given to us.

God proves his love for us:*
while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

Since we have been justified by his death, *
how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath.

Therefore, we exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
in whom we have now received our reconciliation.

Romans 4. 24, 25; 5. 1-5, 8, 9, 11.

**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.**

6. *A Song of God's Children*

**The Spirit of the Father,
who raises Christ Jesus from the dead,
gives life to the people of God.**

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus *
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God;*
for we have received the Spirit
that enables us to cry, 'Abba, Father'.

The Spirit himself bears witness that we are children of God *
and if God's children, then heirs of God;

If heirs of God, then fellow-heirs with Christ;*
since we suffer with him now,
that we may be glorified with him.

These sufferings that we now endure *
are not worth comparing to the glory that shall be revealed.

For the creation waits with eager longing *
for the revealing of the children of God.

Romans 8. 2, 14, 15b-19

**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.**

7. *A Song of Faith*

**God raised Christ from the dead,
the Lamb without spot or stain.**

Blessed be the God and Father *
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living
hope,*
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Into an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled and unfading,*
kept in heaven for you.

Who are being protected by the power of God
through faith for a salvation,*
ready to be revealed in the last time.

You were ransomed from the futile ways of your ancestors *
not with perishable things like silver or gold

But with the precious blood of Christ *
like that of a lamb without spot or stain.

Through him you have confidence in God,
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,*
so that your faith and hope are set on God.

1 Peter 1. 3-5, 18, 19, 21

**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**

8. *A Song of the Redeemed*

**Salvation belongs to our God,
who will guide us to springs of living water.**

Behold, a great multitude *
which no one could number.

From every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues,*
standing before the throne and the Lamb.

They were clothed in white robes
and had palms in their hands, *
and they cried with a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, *
and to the Lamb.’

These are they who have come out of the great tribulation,*
they have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb;

Therefore they stand before the throne of God, *
whom they serve day and night within the temple.

And the One who sits upon the throne *
will shelter them with his presence.

They shall never again feel hunger or thirst, *
the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the heart of the throne *
will be their Shepherd,

He will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7. 9, 10, 14b-17

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might,*
for ever and ever. Amen.**

9. *A Song of the Lamb*

**Let us rejoice and exult
and give glory and homage to our God.**

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,*
whose judgements are true and just.

Praise our God, all you his servants, *
all who fear him, both small and great.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns:*
let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

For the marriage of the Lamb has come *
and his bride has made herself ready.

Blessed are those who are invited *
to the wedding banquet of the Lamb.

Revelation 19. 1b, 2b, 5b, 6b, 7, 9b

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might,*
for ever and ever. Amen.**

10. *A Song of St. Anselm*

**Gather your little ones to you, O God,
as a hen gathers her brood to protect them.**

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;★
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Often you weep over our sins and our pride, ★
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.

You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, ★
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;★
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;★
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead, ★
your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;★
in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,★
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

from Anselm of Canterbury

**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.**

XV.

**A Selection of suggested Hymns and Anthems for use at
Funeral Services and Memorial Services**



Hymns

*Hymns marked with an asterisk * are particularly appropriate at the funeral of a child.*

Hymns marked with a cross + are metrical versions of psalms and may be used in place of the psalms provided.

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide. (*H.F. Lyte*)
2. Alleluia, Sing to Jesus. (*W. Chatterton Dix*)
- * + 3. Be still and know that I am God. (*cf. Psalm 46*)
4. Be still, my soul, the Lord is on your side.
5. Brief life is here our portion.
(*Bernard of Cluny, Tr. J.M. Neale*)
6. Christ, enthroned in highest heaven.
(*Tr. R.F. Littledale*)
7. Faithful vigil ended. (*T. Dudley-Smith*)
- * 8. For all the saints who from their labours rest.
(*W. Walsham How*)
- * 9. God be in my head. (*Horae BVM Sarum*)
10. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah/Redeemer.
(*W. Williams*)
11. He wants not friends that hath thy love. (*R. Baxter*)
- * 12. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds. (*J. Newton*)
13. I know that my Redeemer lives. (*S. Medley*)
14. Immortal love, for ever full. (*J.G. Whittier*)
15. In heavenly love abiding. (*A.L. Waring*)
16. Jerusalem the golden.
(*Bernard of Cluny, Tr. J.M. Neale*)
17. Jesu, lover of my soul. (*C. Wesley*)
18. Jesu, Son of Mary. (*Tr. E.S. Palmer*)
19. Jesus lives, thy terrors now.
(*C.F. Gellert, Tr. F.E. Cox, etc.*)
- * 20. Jesus, remember me (*Taize*).

21. Jesus, stand among us in thy risen power
(*W. Pennefather*).
22. Joy and triumph everlasting
(*Adam of St. Victor, Tr. R. Bridges*).
23. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us (*ƒ. Edmeston*).
24. Let saints on earth in concert sing (*C. Wesley*).
25. Lord, it belongs not to my care (*R. Baxter*).
- * 26. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy
(*ƒan Struther*).
- * 27. Love divine, all loves excelling (*C. Wesley*).
28. Love's redeeming work is done (*C. Wesley*).
29. Now is eternal life (*G. W. Briggs*).
30. Now thank we all our God
(*M. Rinkart, Tr. C. Winkworth*).
- + 31. O God, our help in ages past (*I. Watts*).
32. O Lamb of God, most holy (*M. Forster*).
33. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder (*S. Hine*).
34. O love that wilt not let me go (*G. Matheson*).
35. Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?
(*E.H. Bickersteth*).
- * + 36. Praise, my soul, the king of heaven (*H.F. Lyte*).
37. Rock of ages, cleft for me (*A.M. Toplady*).
38. The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended (*ƒ. Ellerton*).
- * + 39. The King of love my shepherd is (*H. W. Baker*).
- * + 40. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want
(*W. Whittingham*).
41. The strife is o'er, the battle done (*Tr. F. Pott*).
- * 42. There is a green hill far away (*C.F. Alexander*).
43. There is a land of pure delight (*I. Watts*).
44. There's a wideness in God's mercy (*F.W. Faber*).
45. They whose course on earth is o'er (*ƒ.M. Neale*).
- * 46. Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son
(*E.L. Budry, Tr. R.B. Hoyle*).
47. Welcome happy morning, age to age shall say
(*Venantius Fortunatus, Tr. ƒ. Ellerton*).
48. What sweet of life endureth
(*S. ƒohn of Damascus, Tr. A. Riley*).
49. Within our darkest night (*Taize*).

Anthems

1. Ave, verum corpus. (*W.A. Mozart*)
2. Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening. (*W.H. Harris*)
3. Christ who doth all his sheep. (*C. Wood*)
4. Come, sweetest death. (*J.S. Bach*)
5. Funeral Ikos. (*J. Tavener*)
6. Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant. (*Kiev Melody*)
7. Give us the wings of faith. (*E. Bullock*)
8. God, be in my head. (*J. Rutter*)
9. God be in my head. (*W. Davies*)
10. God so loved the world. (*J. Goss*)
11. God so loved the world. (*J. Stainer*)
12. Holy is the true light. (*W.H. Harris*)
13. If we believe that Jesus died and rose again. (*J. Goss*)
14. Jesu, hope of men despairing. (*J.S. Bach*)
15. Let us now praise famous men. (*R.V. Williams*)
16. Lord, give me faith. (*K. Robson*)
17. My shepherd is Lord. (*H. Oxley*)
18. My soul, there is a country. (*C.H.H. Parry*)
19. Never weather beaten sail. (*C.H.H. Parry*)
20. Never weather beaten sail. (*R. Shephard*)
21. Never weather beaten sail. (*T. Campion*)
22. O Lord, support us. (*M. Besly*)
23. O Nata Lux. (*T. Tallis*)
24. Pie Iesu. (*G. Faure*)
25. Song for Athene. (*J. Tavener*)
26. So they gave their bodies. (*P. Aston*)
27. Sunset and evening star. (*C.H.H. Parry*)
28. The Lord is my shepherd. (*H. Goodall*)
29. The souls of the righteous. (*S. Marchant*)
30. They shall grow not old. (*D. Guest*)
31. They shall grow not old. (*P. Irving*)
32. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts. (*H. Purcell*)
33. Thou judge of quick and dead. (*S.S. Wesley*)
34. View me, Lord. (*R.H. Lloyd*)
35. When to the Temple Mary went. (*J. Eccard*)

Part three

**ADDITIONAL LITURGIES
FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
APPROVED BY
THE BENCH OF BISHOPS
(not part of the Book of Common Prayer)**



PRAYERS FOR A CHILD

PRAYERS AFTER A MISCARRIAGE

The Liturgy included on pages 188 – 193 has been approved by the Bench of Bishops (*June 2015*) and produced by the Standing Liturgical Advisory Commission for use in services within the Church in Wales.

Gathering

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Greeting

May the God of all consolation and hope be with you.
And also with you.

Introduction

Our lives, once filled with so much hope and joy, have now been touched by sadness at the death of this little child. And yet, with breaking hearts, we can find comfort in the Lord who has known this child (*even whilst he/she was growing in his/her mother's womb*) for God is the Lord of life. In Jesus, who took flesh in the womb (*or: who was born*) of Mary, he leads us home to heaven. And so we can, with faith and hope, commend this little one into the loving care of God *his/her* heavenly Father.

Reading

One or more of the following or other appropriate readings may be used:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.'

Revelation 21. 1a, 3-5a

I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

Psalm 121

Prayers of Intercession

O God, you know us through and through.
Strengthen *N.* and *N.* and give them new hope.

Your hand will guide me:
your right hand holds me fast.

You know our rising and our going to rest.
Give this family the assurance of eternal life.

Your hand will guide me:
your right hand holds me fast.

You have known this child,
even before *he/she* came into being.
Receive *him/her* into your loving care.

Your hand will guide me:
your right hand holds me fast.

[You keep close behind and before.
We pray for *N.*, who had looked forward with such joy and
excitement to the birth of a new baby *brother/sister*.
May *he/she* know the closeness of your love.

Your hand will guide me:
your right hand holds me fast.]

Your knowledge is beyond our grasp.
Help us to perceive your will
and to stand in awe of your presence.

Let us pray to God our loving and compassionate Father:

**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.**

or

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

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

Prayer after a Miscarriage

Lord God,
full of gentleness and compassion,
we commit to your love this little one.
Brought to life for so short a time,
embrace *him/her* in your eternal love.
May *his/her* parents,
deeply saddened by the loss of their child,
have courage and hope.
Bring them through their pain and grief
to days filled with happiness and joy.
May they all meet one day
in the joy and peace of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

Loving Father,
you are our refuge and strength,
our hope and constant care.
Comfort these parents with the knowledge
that the child for whom they grieve
is now entrusted to your loving embrace.
Wipe every tear from their eyes
and mend their broken hearts that, yearning for life,
they may find fulfilment in Jesus your Son
whose rising from the dead
restores our lives to you,
and leads us to the life of heaven.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

Lord God,
the heaviness of grief is laid upon these parents.
You know their pain and sadness
which they feel at the loss of the child.
Console them with the knowledge
that *he/she* lives in your loving care.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep watch over you;
the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the Lord look lovingly on you and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

A TIME OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A FUNERAL

The Liturgy included on pages 194 – 200 has been approved by the Bench of Bishops (*May 2020*).

When someone we know and love dies, it is important to say ‘farewell’, to remember them and to honour a life that has meant a lot to us. The current circumstances mean that some people who would have wished to attend the funeral may be prevented from doing so. This short guide will help you to say your formal goodbyes at home.

As you read through this short act of worship and remembrance, mention the name of the person who has died where you see *N*. You may like to light a candle, to place it near a photograph of the person you are thinking of and perhaps play a piece of music that meant a lot to them. Take a few moments to sit quietly. Think about those who are attending the funeral and hold them before God in the stillness of the moment.

Lighting the candle

You may say these words as you light a candle:

Jesus is the Light of the World. May his light, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Some words of comfort from the Bible

The eternal God is your refuge: and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33. 27

Jesus said,
‘Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid’.

John 14. 27

Opening Prayer

Loving Jesus, you promised your disciples that you would be with them for ever. Help us to know that you are with us now in our sadness and our grief. When you faced the cross you told your disciples not to be anxious or afraid, because you were going before them. Trusting that *N.* is safe in your love, help us to have faith and peace of mind. Be with us in these moments of reflection and surround us with your love and your peace, now and always. Amen.

Read either Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

or Psalm 139. 1-11, 13

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:
you know my sitting down and my rising up, you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark out my journeys and my resting place:
and are acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word on my tongue: but you,
O Lord, know it altogether.
You encompass me behind and before:
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:
so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go then from your spirit:
or where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there:
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning:
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand shall lead me:
your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me:
and the light around me turn to night",
Even darkness is no darkness with you,
the night is as clear as the day:
darkness and light to you are both alike.
I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

You might also like to read one of the following Bible passages:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5. 1-12

Martha said to Jesus,
‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

John 11. 21-27

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 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. 28-39

Time to reflect

Now spend a few moments thinking about the readings and any words that particularly speak to you. Take a few moments to think about the person who has died. If you are with other people you may like to share your memories together. Think about what made that person special to you, the things you did with and for them – things they did for you. Think about what you might like to say to them if they were here now. There will be things that you will want to thank God for and things you might regret or feel sorry about. There is also the sadness of not being able to attend the funeral. You can offer all these thoughts to God. After some moments of stillness continue with these prayers:

God our Father,
we thank you that you have made each of us in your own
image and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you.
We thank you for *N.*, the years we shared with *him/her*,
the good we saw in *him/her*,
the love we received from *him/her*.
Now give us strength and courage to leave *him/her* in your
care, confident in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*In this prayer at “A. and B.” mention the names of those you know
who may be attending the funeral.*

O God,
you brought us to birth, and in your arms we die.
In your gentle compassion, look with tenderness on
A. and B. as they gather today to mourn *N.*, to give
thanks for *his/her* life and entrust *him/her* to you.
In our shared grief and shock contain and comfort us;
embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion
and grace to let go into new life; through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 following prayer is used at the end of the funeral service to commend the person who has died to God's love and care for ever. We conclude this short time of reflection with this special prayer:

God our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,
we entrust *N.* to your mercy in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive and reigns with you,
now and for ever. Amen.

Closing prayers

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God's love and help remain with us always and may *N.*
and all the faithful departed rest for ever in peace. Amen.

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