

APPENDIX H

ORDER FOR A FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE

Some of the alternatives below (some in round brackets) are for use if the deceased had explicit faith. Others are for when the deceased had no explicit faith.

The prayers in bold are to be said by the congregation. For this they will need to be printed and distributed beforehand or be projected overhead. (Otherwise the Minister says them alone.)

Entry

The coffin is brought, closed, into the church. It is either placed at the entrance of the church, to be carried in at the start of the service, or else directly placed in the front of the nave, with the feet towards the holy Table and/or the pulpit/lectern.

When the coffin is carried in at the start of the service, the Minister first calls the people to stand and face the entrance. The pallbearers or the family may then place a white pall over the coffin.

The Minister then says, for all the congregation to hear:

All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus

were baptized into his death...

in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead

by the glorious power of the Father,

we too might live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his,

we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. *Rom. 6:3-5*

Or

As many of you as were baptized into Christ

have clothed yourselves with Christ. *Gal. 3:27*

In his/her baptism [*full name*] was clothed with Christ.

At the day of Christ's coming he/she shall be clothed with glory.

The reader, carrying the Bible, and the Minister then precede the coffin into the church.

GOD'S CALL

Call to Worship

One of the following scriptural sentences is said:

The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deut. 33:27 RSV*

Or

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *Ps. 124:8*

One or two of the following are also said:

Job declared:

I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth...;
then in my flesh I shall see God
whom I shall see on my side. *Job 19:25-27*

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

Or

Jesus said:

Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden,
and I will give you rest. *Matt. 11:28*

Or

In the tender mercy of our God
the dawn from on high will break upon us
to give light to those who live in darkness, under the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Lk. 1:78f.*

Or

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves.
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,
so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. *Rom 14:7-9*

Or

Jesus said:

I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. *Jn. 11:25*

Welcome

Welcome to you all, members of this church and visitors,
as we come together to give thanks to God
for the life of [*first and last names*],
to commit him/her into God's hands
and to show our love and support for the family in their time of grief.

The Minister may add:

When Lazarus died, Jesus came to be with Mary and Martha.

He saw Mary weeping and was himself deeply moved.

Jesus wept.

So when a loved one dies, we too may weep

and know the grace of tears.

THE PEOPLE'S APPROACH

Hymn of Praise

Prayer of Praise

The congregation remains standing.

Let us pray.

Eternal and almighty God, our Creator,

we praise you because as morning after morning

the brightness of the dawn disperses the darkness of the night,

so you dispel the dark cloud of death

that hangs over humankind in the wake of sin

with the splendour of the Sun of Righteousness,

who is risen with healing in his wings— *Mal. 4:2*

Jesus Christ our Lord.

We praise you for your glory and for your grace

and pray that you will shine in our hearts

with a light that chases away every shadow of despair

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Holy, immortal God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father,
whose love and mercy are infinite,
we praise you because for your own love's sake
you created us mortals and breathed life into us.
We bless you because you will not let grow cold forever
the hands that have been raised to hallow your name,
the hearts that longed for your rest.
the eyes that looked for your glory.
You will not let perish in death for ever
those whom you have called
to eternal fellowship and communion with you.
You give to them a share in the mystery
of the death and resurrection of your Son.
You are worthy to receive blessing and honour and praise
through Jesus Christ our living Lord. *(Adapted from an Old Catholic Church prayer)*

Prayer of Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

Forgive us, O God, that we are so unworthy of your love.

For we have not lived as we ought to live;

nor have we loved as we ought to love.

We have not kept your commandments,

and our years are soon past.

Lord, God, have mercy upon us.

Forgive us all our sins, all our failures,

and heal us of all our vain regrets.

By your mercy in Christ Jesus raise us to a new life,

so that as long as we live, we may serve you,

**until, dying, we enter into your nearer presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Assurance of Grace

Hear the good news:

Christ lived for us; Christ died for us;

Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power and prays for us.

All who trust in him are forgiven.

Or

Hear the good news:

God proves his love for us

in that while we still were sinners, Christ died for us. *Rom. 5:8*

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,

so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness. *1 Pet. 2:24*

Or

God shows his love for us in that

while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,

that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

(Life Story and Tributes)

(Hymn)

GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

While we live, we are always being given up to death. *2 Cor. 4:11*

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. *Jn. 6:68*

Let us pray.

Let the light of your Holy Spirit illuminate your Word, O God,

that in your light we may see light,

in your truth find freedom

and in your gospel discover our peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Almighty God, whose love is everlasting,
and who can turn the shadow of death itself into daybreak,
help us to listen to your Word with believing hearts,
so that, through the comfort of the Scriptures
we may learn to have hope
and be lifted above our darkness and despair
into the light and peace of your presence.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or

Almighty God, our refuge and our strength,
our present help in trouble,
help us, we pray, to trust in you,
and to hold firmly to the promises of your Word,
that we may receive grace in this and in every time of need.
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Scripture Lessons

Listen to God speak in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Two or three lections should be read.

A Psalm may be read responsively.

Possible lessons are:

Job 2:11-13 Rom. 6:3-11 Matt. 5:1-12

Job 14:1-2,5-10,14-17 Rom. 8:9-18 Matt. 11:25-30

Job 19:21-27 Rom. 8:18-28 Matt. 25:1-13

Job 21:7-17,23-26 Rom. 8: 31-39 Matt.28:1-10

Ps. 161 Cor. 15: 1-12 Mk. 16:1-8
Ps. 231 Cor. 15:12-26,55-57 Lk. 7:1-17
Ps. 32:1-7, 10f. 1 Cor. 15:35-44 Lk. 23:32-33,39-43
Ps. 39:4-8,11-12 I Cor. 15:48-57 Lk. 24:1-11/12
Ps. 90:1-12/17 2 Cor. 4:6-18 Lk. 24: 13-32/35
Ps. 103:1-19,22 2 Cor. 4:13-5:10 Jn. 3:16-21
Ps. 116:1-9,12-17 Eph. 1:11-20 Jn. 5:19-29
Ps. 118:5-7,14-23 Phil. 3:4b-16,20f. Jn. 6:27-40
Ps. 121 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Jn. 6:47-58
Ps. 130 2 Tim. 2:8-13 Jn. 11:17-27
Ps. 139:1-12,17-18 Heb. 2:8b-17 Jn. 11:32-44
Eccl. 3:1-14 Heb. 11:1f.,13-16 Jn. 14:1-6,19,25-27
Isa. 25:6-9, 26:3-4 1 Pet. 1:3-9 Jn. 20:1-18
Isa. 26:2-9,19 1 Jn. 2:28-3:3 Jn.21:1-15-19
Isa. 40:1-11,28-31 Rev. 7:9-17
Isa. 43:1-7 Rev. 14:1-3,6f.,13
Isa. 55:1-3,6-13 Rev. 21:1-7
Isa. 65:17-25 Rev. 21:22-22:5
Dan. 12:1-9

Note: Some lections are included to articulate the desolation, despair or even anger of the bereaved .

The congregation may be invited to stand for the lection from the Gospel, which may be introduced with the words:

Hear and believe in the good news of the gospel.

After the reading of the Scriptures, the Minister may lead in prayer:

Eternal God, we praise you for your Word,
which is a light to us in our darkness.

Help us both to hear and to believe the promises you have spoken;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A short silence may follow each lection and this prayer.

Sermon

The sermon is preached in exposition of a Scripture lection. It begins:

In the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It is appropriate for the sermon to conclude with an Ascription of Praise and to be followed by a period of silence.

Statement about the Word and Sacraments

As an alternative to the ceremony with the pall at the start of the service, the following, if it is appropriate, may be said either after the tributes or here.

At the Lectern/Pulpit

(The apostle Paul declares:)

The gospel is the power of God for salvation

to everyone who has faith, as it is written,

"Whoever is righteous through faith shall live." *Rom. 1:16f.*

[Name] heard the gospel and put his/her faith in Christ.

At the Font

As many of you as have been baptized into Christ

have clothed yourselves with Christ. *Gal. 3:27*

By his/her baptism [name] was clothed with Christ;

At the day of Christ's coming he shall be clothed with glory.

At the Table

The bread that we break,

is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? *1 Cor. 10:16*

Through the sacrament at this Table

[name] was kept in communion with Christ and his Church.

It is a communion that continues with all the saints in glory.

THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

(Creed/Credal Hymn/Anthem)

Unless it will be said at the graveside or the crematorium, the people may stand to say a creed or liturgical confession of faith together. Alternatively a credal hymn or an anthem may be sung.

Prayer of Thanks

The people remain standing and say together:

O God, before whom the generations rise and pass away:

**we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith,
now live eternally with you.**

Especially we thank you for (your servant) [*name*],

for the gift of his/her life,

(for his/her baptism through which you laid claim on his/her life,

for your grace shown to him/her,

for the work of your Holy Spirit in his/her life

for his/her trust in Jesus Christ and walk with him,)

and for all in him/her that was good and kind and faithful.

Here specific service and/or characteristics may be mentioned.

We thank you that for him/her death is past

(and all pain in this life is ended),

and that we can now commit him/her into your mercy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

We thank you that for him/her death is past

and that he/she has entered into the joy

you have prepared for those who love you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastoral Prayer

God of all grace,

who in Jesus Christ our Saviour brought us eternal life:

we give you thanks that by this death and resurrection

he overcame the power of death and sin

and opened your kingdom to all who trust in you.

Grant us to know that because he lives, we may live also,

and that neither death nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be
able to separate us from your love,

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Or

O Heavenly Father, who in your Son Jesus Christ has given us

a true faith and a sure hope:

help us, we pray, to live as those who believe in the forgiveness of sins,

the communion of saints, and the resurrection to life everlasting;

and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

Or

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ

promised that in your house are many places to dwell:

grant us faith to see beyond our touch and sight

some sign of your reign

and, where our vision dims, to trust your love, which never fails.

Lift from us the weight of sorrow

and give us all such a good hope in Jesus

that we may bravely walk this earthly way

and at last be joined in glory with those whom we love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who was dead but is risen,

and to whom be honour and praise, now and forever.

Amen.

Or

O God our Father, we thank you

that those whom you love pass from this world into a world of light

even though our earthly frailty and sadness hides that light from us.

But draw near to us in our need:

be a father and mother to all who have lost their fathers or mothers;

be a close Companion to all who have lost a husband or a wife ;

be a comfort to all parents who have lost a child.

Comfort us all in our sorrow.

Help us to lift up our hearts to remember

the promise of your new creation

when your kingdom will come and all the world will be young again,

and we shall rejoice with our loved ones in the presence of your glory

through Jesus Christ who lived and died for us and lives for ever.

Amen.

(Hymn)

If the committal is to take place elsewhere, at a graveside or a crematorium, the service concludes with a hymn, the Commission and the Benediction.

THE COMMITTAL

The people stand.

The Minister may invite the family to come forward and stand around the coffin. They may place their hands on the coffin for the committal, to symbolize their release of the deceased into God's hands.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. *I Pet. 1:3f.*

O God, who has ordered this wondrous world

and who knows all things in earth and heaven:

so fill our hearts with trust in you, we pray,

that by night and by day, at all times and in all seasons,

we may without fear commit those who are dear to us

to your never-failing love for this life and for the life to come;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Holy Father, we thank you

that [name] was baptised in your name

that he/she is a forgiven sinner, cleansed by the blood of Jesus
and that your Holy Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead,
abides with him/her in accordance with the sign of his/her baptism,,
so that now he/she no longer knows in part
but instead sees face to face and knows the fullness of your love,
even as you have always fully known and loved him/her.
Grant therefore that he/she may shine in glory,
transformed to be like our Saviour in all his resurrected majesty.
For truly she is now a sheep in your pasture, a lamb of your Fold.
So we now commit his/her earthly body to be consumed
(*or to return to the dust from which it was made*),
trusting in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Or

Almighty God, we now commit our departed brother/sister
to you and your great mercy,
as we commit his/her body to be consumed
(*or to its last resting place*),
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
in the sure hope that you will resurrect all those who trust in you
to eternal life, in union with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Thus we eagerly await our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transfigure our weak, mortal bodies
to be like his own glorious body,
by the power with which he is able to subject all things to his rule. *Phil.*
3:20f.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ! *1 Cor. 15:57*

Jesus said:

Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one;

I was dead, and see, I am alive for ever and ever. *Rev. 1:17f.*

Or

Jesus said:

This is the will of him who sent me,

that I shall lose not even one of those whom he has given me,

but raise them all up at the last day.

For it is my Father's will

that everyone who looks to the Son and has faith in him

should have eternal life;

and I will raise him up on the last day. *Jn. 6:39*

If the family have come forward for the committal, they now return to their places.

If the committal is at a graveside or a crematorium and the Apostles' Creed has not been said after the sermon, it is appropriate for the Minister to lead the believers present in saying it as the coffin is lowered, or at least say it him/herself.

Alternatively he/she may say:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. *Rom. 8.1*

Who will bring a 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 shall separate us from the love of Christ?

We are convinced 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. *Rom. 8:33-35,38f.*

Amen.

Final Prayers

The Minister may offer more than one of the following prayers:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, giver of comfort,
deal graciously, we pray, with all those who mourn,
that, casting every care on you,
they may know the comfort of your love.

O God, who has called us from death to life:
we offer ourselves to you;
and with your church through all the ages we thank and praise you
for your redeeming love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Or

O God, whose days are without end,
and whose mercies cannot be numbered:
make us deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of life;
and let your Holy Spirit lead us through this present world
in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives;
so that having served you in our day and generation,
we may be gathered to be with all the faithful who have preceded us
in the fellowship of your Church militant,
in the confidence of a sure faith,
in the comfort of a holy hope,
in favour with you our God,
and in perfect peace with all our fellow men and women.
So raise us at the end of time, when your Son comes in glory
and makes everything new,
so that then (together with [name] and with all your people
we may share the never-ending life of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Or

Abide with us at the evening of the day, O Lord,
the evening of the day, the evening of life, the evening of the world.

Abide with us when the night of tribulation and fear,
the night of bitter death, comes upon us.

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

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

Amen.

Notices

If any brief notices are announced (for example, an invitation to tea), the congregation are seated for these.

Hymn

GOD'S SENDING

Commission

Jesus said:

I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever has faith in me, even though he die, will live,
and everyone who lives and has faith in me will never die. *Jn. 11:25f.*

Go forth therefore and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Or

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,
who comforts us in our affliction,
so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction

with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. *2 Cor. 1:3f.*

Go from this place, therefore,

and make it your ministry to bring comfort and hope to others.

Benediction

Jesus said:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid. *Jn. 14:27*

So may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

keep guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus for ever. *Phil. 4:7*

Amen.

Exit

Will the pallbearers please take their places.

The Bible, the Minister and the coffin, in that order, process out through the main entrance.