

Services for a Funeral – One

Prayers with the dying

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When death is near the Minister may be asked to be with the one who is dying and their family, loved ones and carers.

Scripture sentence

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Prayer of Assurance

Gracious God,
look upon ... N ... , (*your child through baptism,*)
may *they* know your love now and always;
the love from which nothing
in life or death can ever separate us.
And may *they* be comforted
with the promise of eternal life,
given in the resurrection of your Son, our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Commendation at the time of death

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world:
in the name of God the Father almighty, who created you;
in the name of Jesus Christ, who redeemed you;
in the name of the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies you;
may you rest in the peace of God's eternal kingdom.

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant ... N
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your redeeming.
Receive *them* into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

All **Amen.**

O Lord, support us 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 safe lodging,
a holy rest and peace at the last:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

Now Lord you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers with the family

Loving God, we turn to you now in our need.
The moment of death has come.
May we find the strength and faith
to release ... N ... to you,
confident that *they* may know the joy
of your eternal keeping.
You have shared these last days and hours
as you share all our days.
Stay close to us in the days to come.
Be our good shepherd,
light for our darkness, hope for our sorrow.
Hold us now and always
in the comfort and peace of your love.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

All **Amen.**

or

Holy and gracious God,
we thank you that death is past
and you welcome home your precious child, ... N
As we have waited and watched and prayed,
you have been with us.
Because you love us so much
we may trust ... N ... to your mercy
and ourselves to your care.
We thank you for the years shared,
the precious memories that remain,
the legacy of love that is treasure beyond price.
Now we turn to you for hope, strength and comfort,
and cling to your promise to be with us always.
Guide us in the ways of your love
and lead us to the glory of your eternity.

All **Amen.**

Service before a Funeral

This order may be used when a service is requested at the home, at the chapel of rest, or in church at some time before the funeral.

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Scripture sentences

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

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,
who consoles us in all our affliction.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4a

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

Matthew 5:4

Prayer of Approach

Eternal God,
Lord of life and conqueror of death,
our help in every time of trouble,
comfort us who mourn;
and give us grace, in the presence of death,
to worship you, the ever-living,
so that we may have sure hope of eternal life
and be enabled to put our whole trust
in your goodness and mercy:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

or

Merciful God,
you are our help in times of trouble,
and the source of our consolation,
to you we turn in times of sadness.
Comfort and strengthen us
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may trust in your promise of eternal life
and know your goodness and mercy:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

or

God, our strength and our hope,
our hearts cry out to you in our grief.
In Christ you wept at the grave of a friend,
hold us now in our weeping.
In Christ you healed those who came to you in their need,
touch us now to heal our pain.
In Christ you gave your life for us and conquered death,
comfort us now with your words of eternal life.

In our believing and in our doubting,
may we know you as the God of all love and compassion:
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Readings from Scripture

Prayer of Assurance

Loving God,
Lord of life and death,
we praise you that all people are made in your image
and held under your care;
we praise you that we are made to need each other's love
and so reflect your truth and life.
We thank you for the life of ... N ... ,
for the love and mercy *they* received from you
and gave to us.
Above all we rejoice
in the gift of your love in Jesus Christ.
Give us the confidence to believe
that as Jesus has conquered death,
nothing can separate us from your love.
We ask that we may at the last share with ... N ...
the completeness of your eternal kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

or

God of the living and the dead,
trusting that your compassion bears all our burdens
and gives us strength beyond ourselves,
we place this day before you.

We prepare now to give thanks
for the life of ... N ... whom we have loved
and to commend *them* to your sure keeping.

May we know your gifts of grace:
hope for our sorrow,
light for our darkness,
peace for our troubled hearts,
faith for our future.

In the name of Jesus we pray.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all evermore.

All **Amen.**

A service of witness to the resurrection

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Committal

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Scripture sentences

The Minister may lead the funeral procession into church saying:

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

The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms. Deuteronomy 33:27a (RSV)

No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life.
As I was with Moses, so I will be with you;
I will not fail you or forsake you. Joshua 1:5

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1

Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you;
he will never permit the righteous to be moved. Psalm 55:22

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms. Isaiah 40:11a

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

Do you not know that
all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus
were baptised into his death?
Therefore we have been buried with him
by baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
so we too might walk in newness of life.
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,
we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 6:3-5

We have come together to worship God;
to give thanks and praise for the life of ... N ... ,
whose days among us here have drawn to a close.
We are here to share our grief
for one loved and respected by those who knew *them*,
and one whose own love and concern have,
through the years, strengthened others.
We are here to pray for the comfort and strength
that God promises us
and to affirm the Christian conviction that,
while death is the end of human life,
it marks a new beginning in our relationship with God.

Hymn or song

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Eternal God,
the creator and upholder of all things,
your ways are not our ways,
nor your thoughts our thoughts;
your wisdom is unsearchable;
your purposes cannot fail.
Humbly we worship you,
and as trusting children we come to you.
Let not our hearts be troubled,
neither let them be afraid.
Comfort us in the natural grief of parting,
and help us bear ourselves as Christian people,
for whom death itself is swallowed up in victory;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

or

God of comfort and compassion,
we come seeking the faith to trust that ... N ... is with you.
We come seeking the peace you promise to us.
We come to open our hearts to you.
In the pain of grieving,
may your strong love hold us.
In the joy of treasured memories,
may your peace comfort us.
In the love and support of family and friends,
may your grace keep us.
Grant us strength for today and hope for tomorrow
as we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

or

God who gave us birth,
you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray.
You know our needs before we ask,
and our ignorance in asking.
Show us now your grace,
that as we face the mystery of death
we may see the light of eternity.
Speak to us once more
your joyful message of life and of death overcome.
Help us to live as those who are prepared to die,
and when our days here are ended,
enable us to die as those who go forth and live,
so that living or dying
our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Saviour.

All **Amen.**

God of compassion and grace,
faced now with the reality of death, sorrow and sin,
grieving and guilt intertwine.
In our frailty we confess
the regrets we can do nothing to change
and the unfulfilled hopes of what might have been.
We ask you to heal our hurt with pardon and love.
In the mystery and mercy of your eternal love
from which nothing in life or death can ever separate us,
may our freedom, hope and peace be in Christ Jesus.

All **Amen.**

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:
'Your sins are forgiven.' Thanks be to God.

All **Amen.**

Readings from Scripture

Loving God,
we turn to you now, and to your Word,
so that we may renew our trust and our hope,
and be lifted from darkness and distress
into the light and peace of your presence,
through Jesus Christ, the Living Word.

or

In scripture we read:

'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life.'

John 6:68

Sermon on the Christian hope

Hymn or song

Thanksgiving for the victory of Christ

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to die for us and rise again.
His cross declares your love to be without limit;
his resurrection that death, our last enemy, is doomed.
By his victory we are assured of the promise
that you will never leave us or forsake us;
that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come,
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed

Eternal God,
before whose face the generations rise and pass away;
we praise you for all your servants
departed this life in your faith and love,
especially for ... N ... ,
each of us recalling, in a moment of silence,
what *they* have meant
to *their* loved ones, friends and colleagues....
We give thanks for all your goodness towards *them*;
all *they* accomplished by your grace;
and all that *they* were to those who loved *them*.
And now we praise you that for *them*
sorrow and sickness are ended,
death itself is past,
and *they* live for ever in your love and care;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayers of petition and Intercession

God of all compassion,
We bring to you all who mourn ... N ... now,
especially those whose loss is deepest,
whose need is greatest ...
(mourners may be named).

May they cling to your firm promises
and know the strength and comfort of your love.
May they find beyond their tears
the light of your eternity,
and receive from your treasure-store
gifts beyond human giving; peace, hope, joy and faith,
gifts for their grieving and gifts for their future.
Through the bonds of family and friendships
may we be channels of your grace.
We pray through Jesus Christ your Son and our Saviour
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn or song

Commendation

Holy God,
by your mighty power you gave us life,
and in your love you have given us new life in Jesus Christ.
We now entrust ... N ... to your merciful keeping:
in the faith of Christ Jesus, your Son 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.

All **Amen.**

All Rest eternal grant to *them*, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon *them*.

or

All May *they* rest in peace
and rise in glory.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling,
and to make you stand without blemish
in the presence of his glory with rejoicing,
to the only God our Saviour,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, power, and authority,
before all time and now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Jude: 24-25

The peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus.

And the blessing of God our Creator,
Christ, our Saviour,
and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter,
be with you always.

All **Amen.**

or

The blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you,
now and evermore.

All **Amen.**

or

All **The grace**

The funeral party may proceed from the church to the place of committal.

Scripture sentences

Come to me,
all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

So you have pain now;
but I will see you again,
and your hearts will rejoice,
and no one will take your joy from you.

John 16:22

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 8:38-39

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died.
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.

1 Corinthians 15:20, 42-43

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us
a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7:16-17

Words of committal

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life,
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend to almighty God our *brother/sister* ... N ... ,
and commit *their* mortal body *to the ground/to the elements:*
(*earth to earth,*) ashes to ashes, dust to dust,
trusting in the infinite mercy of God
and the victory of Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Rest eternal grant to *them*, O Lord,
All **and let light perpetual shine upon *them*.**
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer

Almighty God,
you have bound together all your people
in heaven and on earth
in one holy fellowship:
let not our thoughts linger here,
but help us to believe
that your servant's life has made a new beginning,
with your mercy and your love still around *them*.

Strengthened by this assurance,
may we return to the duties which await us in the world,
resolved to be more faithful to you
and more helpful to one another,
for the sake of those no longer with us upon earth;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal and blessing

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Go in the peace of Christ.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and always.

All **Amen.**