

Funeral at the Graveside

This service should be adapted according to circumstance and pastoral need. It may be used when a funeral is conducted simply at the graveside. Only immediate family members can attend, keeping their distance in the prescribed way.

The Gathering

The minister receives the coffin at the place of burial. If mourners are present, the minister may introduce the service in suitable words. 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

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

Psalms 46.1

I am convinced that neither death, nor life ... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38,39

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12.24

If the grave is to be blessed, this prayer may be used:

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
bless, we pray, this grave
as the place where the body of this 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.

Commendation and Farewell

The minister says

Let us commend *N* to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept

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.

The Committal

The minister may recite this psalm at the lowering of the coffin:

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.

Verses from Psalm 103

The minister uses this or one of the authorized forms of Committal.

We have entrusted this our *brother/sister N* to God's mercy,
and we now 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.

The Prayers

The minister may add this or other prayers as time permits:

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more,

neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all:
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth,
and unto earth shall we return.

For so you ordained when you created me, saying:
'Dust you are and to dust you shall return.'

All of us go down to the dust,
yet weeping at the grave, we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

or

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The minister concludes with either or both these prayers, or an appropriate blessing:

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 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.