

THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR A CHILD

Gathering in God's Name

RECEIVING THE COFFIN AT THE DOOR

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

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

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

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

The minister may use any of the sentences on pages 466 and 490.

The following may be used:

The Lord tends his flock like a shepherd:
he gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart. *Isaiah 40: 11*

Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God. *Matthew 5: 8*

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been
revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like
him, for we will see him as he is. *1 John 3: 2*

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as
these that the kingdom of God belongs. *Mark 10: 14*

I will comfort you, says the Lord, as a mother comforts her child,
and you shall be comforted. *Isaiah 66: 13*

GREETING

The minister says

We meet in the name of Christ
who died and was raised by the glory of God the Father.
Grace and mercy be with you all
and also with you.

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

We have come together to worship God,
to thank him for his love,
and to remember the [short] life on earth of;
to share our grief
and to leave him/her to the eternal care of God.
[We meet in the faith that death is not the end,
and may be faced without fear, bitterness or guilt.]

Standing

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.**

A hymn may be sung.

THE COLLECT

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

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

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

A READING FROM THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT

may be read.

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

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

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

A PSALM

Psalm 23 or 84: 1-4 is suitable.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

is read.

At Holy Communion this is always a Gospel Reading.

Romans 8: 18,28,35,37-39; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Matthew 18: 1-5, 10; Mark 10: 13-16; John 6: 35-40 or John 14: 1-6,27

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

or

Part 2 of the canticle **TE DEUM**

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

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

THE PRAYERS
as on pages 510-513

The prayers are concluded with this prayer:

**Heavenly Father,
in your Son Jesus Christ
you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.
Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,
that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sin,
and the resurrection to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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

The prayers on pages 511-513 may be added.

The Farewell in Christ

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

The minister says

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

A time of silence is kept.

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

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

The minister says

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

or

Lord, faithful creator and most loving redeemer,
whose Son took little children in his arms and blessed them:
we now leave your child in your gracious keeping.
We believe *he/she* is yours in death as in life.
Comfort, we pray, all who have loved *him/her* on earth,
and bring us all to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Committal

Sentences of scripture may be used.

The minister says

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

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

For he himself knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field.

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children.

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

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

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

We here commit the body of to the ground
(or to be cremated):

earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust;

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who died, and was buried, and rose again for us,

and who shall change our mortal body

that it may be like his glorious body,

according to the mighty working

by which he is able to subdue all things to himself.

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

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd, and will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. *Revelation 7: 17*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

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

Give us today our daily bread.

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

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

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

or

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say
Our Father, who art in heaven ...

THE DISMISSAL

The minister may say

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

The minister may use one of the following.

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

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

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or

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

Prayers at the Funeral of a Child

This form may be used:

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.

Merciful Father,

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

Thanksgiving

Almighty God,

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

We bless you for the grace of the sacraments,

for our fellowship in Christ
with you and with each other,
for the teaching of the scriptures,
and for the preaching of your word.
We thank you for the holy example of your saints,
for your faithful servants departed this life,
and for the memory and example
of all that has been good and true in their lives.
Number us with them, we pray you,
in the company of the redeemed in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those who mourn

Almighty God,
Father of all mercies, and giver of all comfort:
we pray, with those who mourn,
parents and children, family, friends and neighbours.
Be gentle with them in their grief.
Show them the depths of your love,
and a glimpse of the kingdom of heaven.
Spare them the torments of guilt and despair.
Be with them as they weep
and help them to know that there is a greater light
where all tears will be wiped away.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the family of 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.**

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

For grace to live in the light of eternity

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.**

Following a miscarriage or stillbirth

God of compassion,
you make nothing in vain
and love all you have created;
we commend to you and's child,,
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 the resurrection life of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Communion of Saints

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

Resurrection

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

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

An Act of Thanksgiving

Let us thank Almighty God for all his blessings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer for the hallowing of a grave

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