

FUNERAL SERVICES

When the Body is brought to church on the eve of a funeral

This form may also be adapted for use in the home before the funeral service.

The coffin is received at the door of the church.

The minister says

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 add 'Alleluia!' to any of these sentences.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord.

'Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet shall they live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.' *John 11: 25,26*

I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
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 brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out.
The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away,
blessed be the name of the Lord. *1 Timothy 6: 7; Job 1: 21*

A hymn may be sung.

PSALM

Psalm 139: 1-11

- 1 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.
- 2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place ■
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 For there is not a word on my tongue, ■
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
- 4 You encompass me behind and before ■
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ■
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit? ■
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ■
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning ■
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me, ■
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me ■
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;
the night is as clear as the day; ■
darkness and light to you are both alike.
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.**

*A READING
from scripture*

NUNC DIMITTIS

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ■
your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ■
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations ■
and the glory of 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.**

PRAYERS

Eternal God, we come to you
because . . . , whom we knew and loved, has died:
and our hearts are numb, our minds perplexed.
Whatever we may be thinking and feeling,
we know that you understand.
For you made us,
and in your Son Jesus you shared our life and experience.
Accept us as we are,
forgive us our lack of faith,
inspire in us a living hope;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
God of hope and giver of all comfort:
we thank you for all the gifts of your providence and grace.
We thank you for . . .
and for all that he/she has meant to us all.
Comfort those who mourn with the assurance
of the life which is beyond this life,
and of a reunion with those we have loved
and who wait for us in your heavenly presence;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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

Lighten our darkness, O Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 **Our Father who art in heaven,.....**

Other prayers may be said.

A hymn may be sung.