

A FORM FOR USE IN THE HOME, FUNERAL HOME OR MORTUARY

PRIOR TO THE SERVICE IN CHURCH

The minister greets those present with words of scripture such as the following:

Jesus said,

‘I am the resurrection and the life. 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*

The minister may say

God is with us,

God’s love unites us,

God’s purpose steadies us,

God’s spirit comforts us.

Blessed be God for ever.

Merciful and compassionate God,
we bring you our grief in the loss of
and ask for courage to bear it.

We bring you our thanks for all you give us in those we love;
and we bring you our prayers for peace of heart
in the knowledge of your mercy and love, in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

This prayer or another suitable prayer may be used.

Heavenly Father,

your Son Jesus Christ wept at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on those who are now in sorrow and affliction.

Comfort them with your gracious consolation;

make them know that all things work together for good

to those who love you;

and give them always sure confidence in your fatherly care;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Verses from one or both of the following may be read:

Psalm 27 or Psalm 23

This or some other appropriate reading may follow:

Romans 8: 31b-39

The minister may stand beside the body and say

We leave in God's gracious keeping
as *his/her* body is taken on its last earthly journey.

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy you turn
the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death,
and by rising again, restored life.

May we not be afraid of death but desire to be with Christ,
and after our life on earth,
to be with those we love,
where every tear is wiped away and all things are made new.
We ask this through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

Either or both of the following may be used:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father,

you love us with an everlasting love

and you can turn the shadow of death into the morning.

We bow before you now with longing and submissive hearts.

Speak to us afresh your gracious promises,

that through patience and the comfort of the scriptures we may have hope

and be lifted above our darkness and distress

into the light and peace of your presence;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Now to the one who can keep us from falling

and set us in the presence of the divine glory,

jubilant and above reproach,

to the only God our Saviour,

be glory and majesty, might and authority,

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

before all time, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

The minister may add

Let us proceed in peace and in the faith of Christ. **Amen.**

