

THE BURIAL SERVICE

AT HOME

It is appropriate for family and friends to gather for prayer, in the home on the day of the funeral.

Verses from the Scripture

Scripture verses such as the following are said:

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

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

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

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our sorrows, so that we can comfort others in their sorrow, with the consolation we have received from II Corinthians 1:3-4

A hymn or lyric may be sung

A psalm may be read:

Psalm 90: 1-6, 10, 12, 14, 16

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning,

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Prayer:

Holy God, Lord of life and death, you made us in your image and hold us in your care. O Lord, before whom generations rise and pass away, we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you. Especially we thank you for your servant *N*, for the gift of *his/her* life, and for the love and mercy *he/she* received from you and gave to us. We praise you for all in *him/her* that was good, kind and faithful, for the grace you gave *him/her*, that kindled in *him/her* the love of your dear name, and enabled *him/her* to serve you faithfully.

(Here mention may be made of the person's characteristics or service.)

We thank you that for *him/her* death is past, and pain ended, that *he/she* has now entered the joy you have prepared, through Jesus Christ who died and rose from the grave to free us from evil, and give us life eternal. Grant, that when our time on earth is ended, we may be united with all the saints in the joys of your eternal home, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously with those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

The minister may pronounce the blessing:

May God in endless mercy bring the whole church, the living and departed to a joyful resurrection in the fulfilment of the eternal kingdom. **AMEN**

A hymn or lyric may be sung as the funeral procession leaves to the church or chapel at the cemetery.

AT THE CHURCH

A hymn or lyric is sung as the body is carried into the church.

The minister reads the following appropriate set of readings from the Scripture:

AT THE BURIAL OF AN ADULT:

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, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. II Corinthians 1:3,4

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11

For his anger is but for a moment; his favour is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Psalm 30:5

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

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. John 14:19

Very truly, I tell **you**, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. John 14:27

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them." Revelation 14:13

The following prayers may be said:

O God, who gave us birth, you are evermore 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 solemn message of life and of death. 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 to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **AMEN**

Eternal God, we bless you for the great company of all those who have kept the faith, finished their race, and who now rest from their labour. We praise you for those dear to us whom we name in our hearts before you. Especially we thank you for N whom you have now received into your presence. Help us to believe where we have not seen, trusting you to lead us through our years. Bring us at last with all your saints into the joy of your home, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD:

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. Isaiah 40:11

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. Psalm 103:13

Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. Matthew 18:4,10

He said, 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.' Job 1:21

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 7:17

The' Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters. Psalm 23:1-2

The following prayers may be said:

Loving 'God, you are nearest to us when we need you most. In this hour of sorrow we turn to you, trusting in your loving mercy. We bless you for the gift of this child, for his/her baptism into your church, for the joy he/she gave all who knew him/her, for the precious memories that will abide with us, and for the assurance that he/she lives forever in the joy and peace of your presence.

O God, your love cares for us in life and watches over us in death. We bless you for our Saviour's joy in little children and for the assurance that of such is the kingdom of heaven. In our sorrow, make us strong to commit ourselves, and those we love, to your unfailing care. In our perplexity, help us to trust where we cannot understand. In our loneliness, may we remember N in love, trusting him/her to your keeping until the eternal morning breaks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

AT THE BURIAL OF YOUNGSTERS:

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, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. I Peter 1:3-4

Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Revelation 1:17-18

Jesus said, "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. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

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

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted. Isaiah 66:13

For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

Psalm 103:14-16

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

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14:8-9

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, I call my own sheep by name and lead them out. I go ahead of them, and the sheep follow me because they know my voice. John 10: 4

The following prayers may be said:

Holy God, yours is the beauty of youth and yours is the fullness of years. Comfort us in our sorrow, strengthen us with hope, and breathe peace into our troubled hearts. Assure us that the love in which we rejoiced for a time is not lost, and that N is with you, safe in your eternal love and care. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who cared for and loved young people. **AMEN**

Eternal God, we acknowledge the uncertainty of our life on earth. We are given a mere handful of days, and our span of life seems nothing in your sight. All flesh is as grass; and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades; but your word will stand forever. In this is our hope, for you are our God. Even in the valley of the shadow of death, you are with us. O Lord, let us know our end and the number of our days, that we may learn how fleeting life is. Turn your ear to our cry, and hear our prayer. Do not be silent at our tears, for we live as strangers before you, wandering pilgrims as all our ancestors were. But you are the same and your years shall have no end. **AMEN**

AT THE BURIAL OF THOSE WHO DIE BY ACCIDENT/ IN THE CASE OF SUDDEN DEATH:

The voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, heir constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

Isaiah 40:6-7

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, before or you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. Psalm 90:1-2,4-6

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Psalm 90:12 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:29-31

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the other sheep. Isaiah 40:11

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

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Romans 14 :8-9

The following prayers may be said:

God of compassion, comfort us with the great power of your love as we mourn the sudden death of N. In our grief and confusion, help us find peace in the knowledge of your loving mercy to all your children, and give us light to guide us into the assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

God, whose days are without end: Help us always to remember how brief life is, and that the hour of our death is known only to you. Lead us, by your Holy Spirit, to live in holiness and justice all our days. Then after serving you in the fellowship of your Church, in faith, hope, and love, may we enter with joy into the fullness of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

AT THE BURIAL OF SUICIDED

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Psalm 130:1-4

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, not will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Psalm 103:8-10

Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Psalm 90:11-12

The following prayers may be said:

Holy God, you see us as we are, and know our inmost thoughts. We confess that we are unworthy of your gracious care. We forget that all life comes from you and that to you all life returns. We have not always sought or done your will. We have not lived as your grateful children, nor loved as Christ loved us. Apart from you, we are nothing. Only your grace can sustain us. Lord, in your mercy, forgive us, heal us and make us whole. Set us free from our sin, and restore to us the joy of your salvation now and for ever. **AMEN**

God of compassion, in sorrow, we receive from you the comfort you alone can give. Enable us to see that you are always working for our good. You are our dwelling place, O God. Assure us of your love that we may be able to accept what we cannot understand. Help us to be aware not only of the, shadows of death, but also of the splendour of life eternal. Enable us even now to face life with courage; give us the grace and the strength to go on, and the peace of your eternal presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Common liturgical Section

A hymn or lyric is sung.

Before the reading, one of the following prayers may be said:

Source of all true wisdom, calm the troubled waters of our hearts, and still all other voices but your own, that we may hear and obey what you tell us in your Word, through the power of your Spirit. **AMEN**

Eternal God, your love for us is everlasting; you alone can turn the shadow of death into the brightness of the morning light. Help us to turn to you with "believing hearts. In the stillness of this hour, speak to us of eternal things, so that, hearing the promises in Scripture, we may have hope and be lifted above our distress into the peace of your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Scripture Reading Sermon

A message may be given based on the Scripture passage read.

Expressions of gratitude to God for the life of the deceased may follow

A hymn or a lyric is sung.

The following prayers may be said:

O God of grace, you have given us new and living hope in Jesus Christ. We thank you that by dying Christ destroyed the power of death, and by rising from the grave opened the way to eternal life. Help us to know that because he lives, we shall live also; and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **AMEN**

For our brother/sister N, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' Lord, you who consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for N, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, O Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, O Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother/sister eternal life.

Hear us, O Lord.

You promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring N to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, O Lord.

Our brother/sister was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him/her fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, O Lord.

He/she was nourished at your table on earth; welcome him/her at your table in the heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, O Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of N; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. **AMEN**

COMMENDATION

AT THE BURIAL OF AN ADULT:

Let us commend our *brother/sister* departed to God.

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God:

And no torment will ever touch them.

Wisdom 3:1

Holy God, by your creative power you gave us life, and in your redeeming love you have given us new life in Christ. We commend N to your merciful care in the faith of Christ our Lord who died and rose again to save us, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN]**

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

Loving God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace that we may entrust N to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN]**

Let us pray for those who mourn:

Blessed are those who mourn;

For they shall be comforted.

Father of mercies, and God of all comfort: Look in your tender love and pity, we ask you, on your sorrowing servants. Be to them their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; make them know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge; who by death has conquered death, and by-rising again has opened the gates of everlasting life; even Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Let us pray for faith and hope.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord:

In the land of the living.

O heavenly Father, who in your Son Jesus Christ gave us a true faith, and a sure hope: Help us, we pray, to live as those who believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting; and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life, through your Son Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

And now in sure and steadfast hope; let us declare our faith:

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. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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

The people may sing a lyric or a hymn.

The minister and people say together:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. **AMEN**

THE BURIAL

As the body is taken to the grave, the minister says verses from the Bible, such as the following:

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, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. I Peter 1:3-4

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. I Corinthians 15:20-22

Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever. Revelation 1:17-18

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

At the graveside the minister says:

Let us pray

O Lord Jesus Christ, who rested in a sepulcher, and thereby sanctified the grave to be a bed of hope for your people: grant, we pray you, that this grave may be a resting place for the body of your servant, who we believe is at rest in you; who are the resurrection and the life. **AMEN**

Eternal rest grant to *him/her*, O Lord: -

And let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

THE COMMITTAL

While the body is being lowered into the grave, a short lyric, or hymn may be sung.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all. We are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return.. This you ordained when you created us saying, `you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with all your saints, where there is neither pain nor sorrow nor sighing but life everlasting.

Some earth is cast upon the coffin, and the minister says:

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant N, and we commit *his/her* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come. Acknowledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him/ her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints of light. **AMEN**

When the body is cremated, the minister says:

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 He commit *his/her* body to be returned to its elements, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They rest from their labours, and their works follow them.

At the burial of the ashes after cremation, the minister says:

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 we commit *his/her* ashes to their final resting place. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They rest from their labours, and their works follow them.

One or two of the following prayers may be said:

God of all mercies and giver of all comfort: Look graciously, we pray, on those who mourn, that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Almighty God, Father of the whole family in heaven and on earth: stand by those who sorrow, that, as they lean on your strength, they may be upheld, and believe the good news of life beyond life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

God of all consolation, our refuge and strength in sorrow, by dying, our Lord Jesus Christ conquered death; by rising from the grave he restored us to life. Enable us to go forward in faith to meet him, that, when our life on earth is ended, we may be united with all who love him in your heavenly kingdom, where every tear will be wiped away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Gracious God, your mercies are beyond number. Lead us, by your Spirit, in holiness and righteousness, in confidence of a living faith, and in the strength of a sure hope, that we may live in favour with you, and in perfect love with all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Eternal God make us this day to remember the unseen cloud of witnesses who encompass us. We thank you for their witness in life and in death. Help us to walk worthily of those in whose unseen presence life is lived. Grant us grace that in this life we may never forget those who have gone before us, whose life is hidden in you so that in the life to come we may share their blessedness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

Eternal God make us this day to remember the unseen cloud of witnesses who have gone before us to be with you and yet continue to inspire us by their courage, sacrifice, witness and communion. Following the examples of our saints help us to stand firm in our faith and be courageous and bold to walk in the new ways you show us so that in your good time we may share

with them the blessedness of your nearer presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, remain with you always. **AMEN** Philippians 4:7

OR

Go in peace, and may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working among us that which is pleasing in God's sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. **AMEN**

OR

Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **AMEN** I Thessalonians 5:23