

GENERAL SYNOD 2002

Bill No 5

SCHEDULE

FUNERAL SERVICES

FUNERAL SERVICES

Sentences

Sentences of scripture may be used at the entry, after the Introduction, where they lead into prayer, or at other suitable points.

Psalms and Readings

Psalms and readings should normally be drawn from those set out on page 000. A psalm should normally be included, except that a scriptural song may take its place. There must always be one reading from scripture. At Holy Communion there should be two readings, one of which is a gospel reading.

The Sermon

There should be a relevant exposition of the Scriptures read.

An appropriate place for any "tribute" to the deceased is before the Prayers of Penitence.

Hymns

Hymns may be sung at suitable places in the service.

The Committal

The Committal, though printed as the final section of the service, is used at the point at which it is needed:

when the body is buried in a cemetery or churchyard,

at the end of the service in church when cremation is not to follow immediately

or at a crematorium when the interment of ashes is not to follow immediately.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

Outline of the Rite

Gathering in God's Name

Prayers of Penitence

Collect

Proclaiming and Receiving God's Word

The Prayers

The Farewell

The Committal

The Dismissal

The Funeral Service with Holy Communion

After the Prayers

The Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

The Breaking of the Bread

The Communion

The Farewell, the Committal and the Dismissal follow

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

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 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 further selection of sentences of scripture is given on page 000.

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 here today to remember before God our dear *brother / sister* . . . ; to give thanks for *his/her* life, to leave *him/her* in the keeping of God *his/her* creator, redeemer and judge, to commit *his/her* body to be buried/cremated, and to comfort one another in our grief, in the hope that is ours through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Therefore we pray that here today we may know the peace of Christ in communion with all God's faithful servants.

Standing

God of all consolation,
whose Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears
at the grave of Lazarus his friend:
look with compassion on us your children in our loss;
give to our troubled hearts the light of hope,
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A HYMN may be sung.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The minister may say

As children of a loving heavenly Father,
let us seek the forgiveness of God,
for he is full of gentleness and compassion

Call to remembrance, O Lord, your compassion,
and your loving kindness,
for they have been from of old.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Remember not my sins nor my transgressions,
but according to your mercy think on me.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

O keep my life, and deliver me,
put me not to shame, for I have put my trust in you.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The minister may say

May God our Father forgive us our sins
and bring us to the eternal joy of his kingdom
where dust and ashes have no dominion. **Amen.**

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 GOD'S WORD

A READING FROM THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT may be read.

Romans 8: 18–21, 31–35, 37–39

or

I 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

Funeral Services

1 Corinthians 15:3–6, Philippians 3:7–14:2, Corinthians 4:14–18, Revelation 21:1–7

A PSALM is used.

Psalms 23, 42: 1–7, 90, 116:1–9, 118: 14–21, 130 are suitable [may be printed out].

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT (which is always a Gospel Reading at Holy Communion) is read.

John 5: 19–25

or

John 6: 35–40

or

John 14: 1–6, 27

or

Matthew 5.1–10

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED [printed out] or, Part 2 of the canticle TE DEUM page 000[printed out] is said. If the Holy Communion is celebrated, the NICENE CREED is used.

THE PRAYERS

The prayers usually follow this sequence:

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed.

Prayer for those who mourn

Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

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 (page 000) is said now.

This prayer may be added:

O God,

the maker and redeemer of all:

We pray for the coming of your kingdom,

that in the last day,

when you bring together all things in Christ,

we, with all who have died in him,

may enjoy the fulfilment of your promises;

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

or

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.**

or

To God the Father who loved us,

and made us accepted in the Beloved.

To God the Son who loved us,

and loosed us from our sins by his own blood,

To God the Holy Spirit

Funeral Services

who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts,
 To the one true God be all love and all glory
 for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

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 (verses 6–8)

1 Cor 15. 20–22

6 Christ has been raised from the dead:
 the firstfruits of those who sleep.
 7 For as by man came death:
 by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
 8 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 servant . . . 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.**

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

Either

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.

Funeral Services

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

Or:

Man that is born of a woman has but a short time to live
and is in need of mercy.
Like a flower we blossom and then wither,
like a shadow we flee and never stay.
In the midst of life we are in death;
to whom can we turn for help,
but to you, Lord, who are justly angered by our sins?

Lord God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal,
holy and most merciful Saviour,
Judge of the living and the dead,
deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

You know the secrets of our hearts;
in your mercy hear our prayer,
forgive us our sins,
and in your love keep us in life everlasting.

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 our *brother/sister*... 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.**

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.
They are blessed indeed, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labours. *Revelation 14: 13*

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 this day 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 in 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 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 endings

Lord, you will show us the path of life:
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.
Psalms 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.**

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 Cor. 13.14

Other Sentences of Scripture

The eternal God is your refuge,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33.27

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
I myself will see him with my own eyes.
Job 19.25,27a

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.
Matthew 5.4

No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
nor has the heart of man conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him.
1 Corinthians 2.9

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.
Revelation 4.8b

Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.
1 Corinthians 15.20

Other sentences from Holy Scripture may be used.

Prayers

This form may be used.

God of mercy, Lord of Life,
you have made us in your own image
to reflect your truth and light:
we give you thanks for ...,
for the grace and mercy *he/she* received from you,
for all that was good and true in *his/her* life,
for the memories we treasure today.
[Especially we thank you]

Silence

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your mighty power brings good out of evil,
joy out of grief and life out of death.
Look in mercy on all who mourn (especially...),
give them patient faith in times of darkness
and strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are tender towards your children
and your mercy is over all your works.
Heal the memories of hurt and failure.
Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright
the time that is left to us on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps
in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Silence

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.**

THANKSGIVINGS

Father of all, in whom we are one with your saints,
we remember with thanksgiving
those whom we love but see no longer.
Keep us in unbroken fellowship
with your whole Church,
and grant that at the last
we may all rejoice together in your heavenly home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for your servant . . . ;
for the example *he/she* has left us,
and for the fellowship we have enjoyed with *him/her*.
We rejoice in your promise of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

in whom the bond of love is never broken. **Amen.**

**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.**

Eternal God, we give thanks
for all those who have died in faith,
for the unceasing praise of the company of heaven,
for the promise to those who mourn
that all tears shall be wiped away,
for the pledge of death destroyed and victory won,
for our foretaste of eternal life
through baptism and eucharist,
for our hope in the Spirit,
for the communion of saints.
**May we live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory
and you are all in all.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

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

Give faith and comfort, O Lord,
to all who are bereaved (especially to . . .)
Strengthen them to meet the days to come
with steadfastness and patience,
not sorrowing as those without hope,
but in thankful remembrance of your mercy in the past,
and waiting for a joyful reunion in heaven
in Jesus 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

Grant, Lord, that we who lay to rest
the body of our *brother/sister*,
in hope of resurrection to eternal life,
may firmly believe and continue
in the fellowship and communion of your saints;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Grant us, Lord, the wisdom and the grace
to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth.
Lead us to repent of our sins,
the evil we have done and the good we have not done;
and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son,
in the way that leads to the fulness of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

Eternal God, you hold all souls in life:
May the bright beams of your light and heavenly
comfort shine on your whole Church,
and grant that we, following the good example
of those who loved and served you here
and are now at rest,
may at last enter with them
into the fulness of your unending joy:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

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 is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
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 our *brother/sister*... 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.**

Bring us, Lord our God,
at our last awakening,
into the house and gate of heaven,

to enter into that gate,
and dwell in that house,
where there shall be
no darkness nor dazzling,
but one equal light;
no noise nor silence,
but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes,
but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings,
but one equal eternity;
in the habitation of your glory and dominion,
world without end. **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 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.**

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 N
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.**

The minister says one or more sentences of Scripture preceding the coffin into the church.

We believe that Jesus died and rose again
and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus
those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:14

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
blessed be the name of the Lord.

Job 1.21

I know that my Redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
I myself will see him with my own eyes.

Job 19.25,27a

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5.4

No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
nor has the heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2.9

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 4.8b

Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.

1 Corinthians 15.20

A HYMN may be sung.

PSALM 139: 1-11

[printed out]

**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.**

NUNC DIMITTIS
[*Modern language form printed out*]

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, 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

Other prayers may be said

A HYMN may be sung.

A Form for use at the Burial of Ashes after Cremation

SENTENCES

Some or all of these sentences may be read.

The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27

Trust in the Lord at all times,
pour out your hearts before him: God is a refuge for us.
Psalms 62: 8

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
John 3:16

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

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,
1 Peter 1: 3,4

PRAYER

God, Lord of life and conqueror of death,
our help in every time of trouble.
We thank you for the assurance of the Gospel
that in your keeping the souls of the faithful find lasting peace and joy,
and that though we see our loved ones no more they are safe with you.
Comfort all who mourn.
May memories of ...
be a consolation for the present and a strength for the future.
By the glorious resurrection of your Son
confirm in us the hope of eternal life,
and enable us to put our whole trust
in your goodness and mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or 2 Corinthians 4: 16 – 5:1 are suitable.

THE INTERMENT

The Minister says:

The Lord says: "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, and I am the Living One. I was dead, and I am alive for ever and ever."

We have entrusted our *brother/ sister* ... to God's gracious keeping.
We now commit *his/her* ashes to the ground
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life,
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.**

PRAYER

Eternal God,
by your Son's rising from the dead,
you have destroyed the power of death.
In you the dead find life for ever
and the faithful who served you on earth
praise you for all eternity in heaven.
Comfort us in the hope of everlasting life
and support us with your sure love and your guiding hand.
Bring us at the last, with all the faithful,
to the full knowledge of your love
and the unclouded vision of your glory;
though Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE GRACE

Notes

1. Ashes when buried should be placed either directly in the soil or in a container or other biodegradable material.
2. Care must be taken to ensure that no burial of ashes takes place on church property other than in consecrated ground. No ground may be consecrated (even as a Garden of Remembrance only for the burial of ashes) without the appropriate faculty from the Bishop of the diocese, and without the appropriate permission of the civil authorities including planning permission.
3. Ashes, once interred in consecrated ground or placed in a consecrated area, (such as a columbarium) should not be moved except for essential purposes and then only under the supervision of clergy, to be placed in another consecrated place. Such removal would require a faculty.
4. In the case of the burial of ashes at sea, care should be taken that the ashes are reverently committed to the deep and not scattered on the surface.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE FOR A CHILD

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The coffin may be received at the door of the Church see page 000..

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

The minister may use any of the sentences on pages 000 and 000.

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*

A further selection of sentences of scripture is given on page 000.

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* in 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 GOD'S WORD

A READING FROM THE OLD OR NEW TESTAMENT may be read.
Suitable readings are noted on pages 000

A PSALM is used.
Psalms 23 or 84: 1-4 are suitable

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT (which is always a Gospel Reading at Holy Communion) is read.
Romans 8: 18, 28, 35,37-39, 1 Corinthians 13
Matthew 18: 1-5, 10, or Mark 10: 13-16,
or
John 6: 35-40
or
John 14: 1-6, 27

SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED [printed out] or, Part 2 of the canticle TE DEUM page 000[printed out] is said. If the Holy Communion is celebrated, the NICENE CREED is used.

THE PRAYERS

The prayers usually follow this sequence:
Thanksgiving for the life of the departed.
Prayer for those who mourn
Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

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 (page 000) is said now.

This prayer may be added:
O God,
the maker and redeemer of all:
We pray for the coming of your kingdom,
that in the last day,
when you bring together all things in Christ,

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 we, with all who have died in him,
 may enjoy the fulfilment of your promises;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

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.**

or

To God the Father who loved us,
 and made us accepted in the Beloved.
 To God the Son who loved us,
 and loosed us from our sins by his own blood,
 To God the Holy Spirit
 who sheds the love of God abroad in our hearts,
 To the one true God be all love and all glory
 for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

THE FAREWELL IN CHRIST

The minister stands by the coffin and may invite others may 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 (verses 6–8)

I Corinthians 15. 20–22

6 Christ has been raised from the dead:
 the firstfruits of those who sleep.
 7 For as by man came death:
 by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
 8 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 ... 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,

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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 this day 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

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 in 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 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 endings

Lord, you will show us the path of life:
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.
Psalms 16.11

Or

May Christ the good shepherd
enfold you with his love,
fill you with peace
lead you in hope to the end of your days on earth
and may he give you a place in heaven with all the redeemed
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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 Cor. 13.14

PRAYERS

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,

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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.**

Gracious God,
 surround us and all who mourn this day
 with your continuing compassion.
 Do not let grief or anger be unending,
 or turn us against you.
 May we travel a little more peacefully because of today,
 and come at last, in the fellowship of all whom you love,
 to the haven where we long to be;
 through Jesus 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.**

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

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to the life of righteousness,
 that when we depart this life we may rest in him,
 as our hope is ... 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 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

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* 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 this day 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 in 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.**

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.