**Resources for a Memorial Service after the time of pandemic**

**An Order for a Memorial Service**

**THE GATHERING**

*The minister offers informal words of welcome and introduces the service.*

*Sentences of Scripture may be said.*

*The minister says*

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,

who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

Grace and mercy be with you

**and also with you.**

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen;

for the things that are seen are transient but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Today we come together to remember before God our brother/sister N,

to give thanks for his/her life and to comfort one another in our grief.

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Either*

Father in heaven,

we thank you because you made us in your own image

and gave us gifts in body, mind and spirit.

We thank you now for N

and what s/he meant to each of us.

As we honour his/her memory,

make us more aware that you are the one

from whom comes every perfect gift,

including the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Or*

Father in heaven, we praise your name

for all who have finished this life loving and trusting you,

for the example of their lives,

the life and grace you gave them

and the peace in which they rest.

We praise you today for your servant N

and for all that you did through him/her.

Meet us in our sadness

and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving,

for the sake of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING(S) AND SERMON**

*At the end of each reading, the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Songs and non-biblical readings may be used, and tributes may be made.*

*One of these prayers may be used to provide a link with the Thanksgiving.*

*Either*

Father in heaven,

we give you thanks for your servant N.

We praise you as we recollect his/her life

and cherish his/her memory.

We bless you that in bearing your image

s/he has brought light to our lives; for we have seen

in his/her friendship reflections of your compassion,

in his/her integrity demonstrations of your goodness,

in his/her faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.

Grant to each of us, beloved and bereft,

the grace to follow his/her good example

so that we with him/her may come to your everlasting kingdom;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory,

to whom be praise for all eternity. **Amen.**

*Or*

Almighty Saviour,

those who have died in faith

have eternal joy in your presence.

For us who remain, be with us in our sadness

and turn our eyes to you.

By your death once for all upon the cross,

raise us to new life,

give us victory over death

and confidence to look forward to your coming. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Either*

Almighty Father, Creator God, source and goal of every life:

**have mercy upon us.**

Jesus Christ, crucified Saviour and living Lord, companion and guide:

**have mercy upon us.**

Holy Spirit, by whose power we are renewed, and by whose light we may walk without doubt or fear:

**have mercy upon us.**

In the weakness of our faith, the shallowness of our hope, and our lack of love:

**have mercy upon us.**

When we keep our gifts to ourselves, and endeavour to live without you:

**have mercy upon us.**

Because you have made us for yourself:

**we thank you, Lord.**

Because you hold all souls in life:

**we thank you, Lord.**

Because in all our griefs and troubles you refresh us, leading us by the waters of comfort:

**we thank you, Lord.**

Because by the resurrection of your Son

you have given us the assurance of faith, the light of hope and the power of love:

**we thank you, Lord.**

*Or*

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father,

who raised Christ his Son from the dead for the salvation of all.

Grant, Lord, that your servant may know the fullness of life

which you have promised to those who love you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be close to those who mourn: increase their faith in your undying love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May we be strengthened in our faith, live the rest of our lives in following your Son,

and be ready when you shall call us to eternal life.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Show your mercy to the dying; strengthen them with hope,

and fill them with the peace and joy of your presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we commend all those who have died to your unfailing love,

that in them your will may be fulfilled;

and we pray that we may share with them in your eternal kingdom;

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

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven** ...

*Or*

As our Saviour taught us, boldly we pray:

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

***Prayers for readiness to live in the light of eternity.***

Support us, O Lord, all the day long of this troublous life,

until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,

the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last;

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Or*

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ said,

"Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid", take away our fear of death;

bring us to the place that he has gone to prepare for us;

and give us his peace for ever. **Amen.**

*Or*

Bring us, O Lord, 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 or 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 habitations of your glory and dominion,

world without end. **Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF ENTRUSTING AND COMMENDING**

*Either*

Lord Jesus, our redeemer, you willingly gave yourself up to death,

so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.

By dying you unlocked the gates of life for all those who believe in you.

So we commend N into your arms of mercy, believing that, with sins forgiven,

s/he will share a place of happiness, light and peace

in the kingdom of your glory for ever. **Amen.**

*Or*

Heavenly Father,

you have assured us that everyone who looks to your Son

and believes in him shall have eternal life.

Trusting in your faithfulness, we commend N to your mercy

as we await that great day

when you raise us with him/her to life in triumph

and we shall stand before you,

with all your creation made new in him,

to the glory of your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

*Or*

God our creator and redeemer,

by your power Christ conquered death and returned to you in glory,

bearing in his body the marks of his passion.

Confident of your victory and claiming his promises,

we entrust N into your keeping in the name of Jesus our Lord,

who, though he died, is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**THE SENDING OUT AND CONCLUSION**

***The Peace***

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives give I unto you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

The peace of the risen Christ be always be with you.

**and also with you.**

Neither death nor life can separate us

from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Either*

May Christ the good shepherd

enfold you with love,

fill you with peace,

and lead you in hope,

to the end of your days;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Or*

May the love of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

console you and gently wipe every tear from your eyes.

May Almighty God bless you.

The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Or*

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,

the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,

the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**An outline Order for a Memorial Service**

The content for this service may be found in the Funeral Resources files on the Church in Wales website<https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/publications/liturgy/Funeral_Services_2008/>

THE GATHERING *to include*

* Words of welcome and introduction
* Sentence(s) of scripture
* A Collect

READINGS AND SERMON

* One or more Bible readings
* Psalms may follow the readings
* A Sermon is preached
* Other songs and readings may be used
* Other tributes may be made

PRAYERS *usually following this sequence:*

* Thanksgiving for the life of the departed
* Prayer for those who mourn
* Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

Appropriate words of commendation may be used

THE DISMISSAL

* The Lord's Prayer is said.
* A blessing.

*If the Memorial Service takes place within a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the appropriate sections are followed for that part of the service.*