THE GATHERING

The coffin may be received by the minister.

One or more sentences of Scripture may be used.

‘I am the resurrection and the life’, says the Lord. ‘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)

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)

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. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

(I Thessalonians 4.14,17b,18)

We brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.

(I Timothy 6.7: Job 1.21b)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness.

(Lamentations 3.22,23)

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

(Matthew 5.4)

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3.16)

While we are alive, we are living for the Lord, and when we die, we die for the Lord: and so, alive or dead, we belong to the Lord. It was for this purpose that Christ both died and came to life again: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

(Romans 14.8,9)

Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling places in my Father’s house; if it were not so I should have told you; for I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.

(John 14.1-3)

The minister says

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you

and keep you in the love of Christ.

Or in Eastertide

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

One of the following introductions may be used.

We have come together to commend our *brother/sister N.*

into the hands of Almighty God our heavenly Father.

In the presence of death,

Christians have sure ground for hope and confidence,

and even for joy,

because the Lord Jesus Christ,

who shared our human life and death,

was raised again triumphant

and lives for evermore.

In him his people find eternal life,

and, in this faith,

we put our whole trust

in his goodness and mercy.

Or

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,

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

We have come here today

to remember before God our *brother/sister N.*

to give thanks for *his/her* life;

to commend *him/her* to God our merciful redeemer and judge;

to commit *his/her* body to be buried/cremated,

and to comfort one another in our grief.

Or other similar words.

Almighty God,

you judge us with infinite mercy and justice

and love everything you have made.

In your mercy

help us to know that you turn the darkness of death

into the dawn of new life,

and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;

through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

THE COLLECT

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says

either of these or another suitable Collect.

Either

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 lives and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

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

Or

God of all consolation,

your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears

at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on your children in their loss;

give to troubled hearts the light of hope

and strengthen in us the gift of faith

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

READINGS AND SERMON

A reading from the Old or New Testament may be read. This or another psalm or hymn is used.

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures: and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul: and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me:

you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

(Psalm 23)

A reading from the New Testament (which may be a Gospel reading) is used.

A sermon may be preached.

PRAYERS

A minister leads the prayers of the people.

The prayers usually follow this sequence:

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed

Prayer for those who mourn

Prayers of Penitence (if not already used)

Prayer for readiness to live in the light of eternity.

This form may be used. If occasion demands, the responses may be omitted and the concluding prayer said by the minister alone.

God of mercy, Lord of life,

you have made us in your image

to reflect your truth and light:

we give you thanks for *N*.,

for the grace and mercy *s/he* received from you,

for all that was good in *his/her* life,

for the memories we treasure today.

(Especially we thank you ...)

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We thank you for all who through your grace

have lived according to your will

and are now at rest.

May their good example encourage and guide us

all the days of our life.

Meet us in our sadness

and fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your Son you promise eternal life to those who believe.

Bring *N.* and all who rest in Christ

into the fullness of your kingdom

where sins have been forgiven

and death is no more.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief

and life out of death.

Look in mercy on (*N*. and) all who mourn.

Give them patient faith in times of darkness.

Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are tender towards your children

and your mercy is over all your works.

Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright

the time that is left to us here on earth,

to turn to Christ and follow in his steps

in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of mercy,

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.

The Lord’s Prayer may be said.

Either

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen

Or

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:

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.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

The minister stands by the coffin and may invite others to gather around it.

*The minister says*

Let us commend *N*. into the hands of God,

our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

The minister uses this or another prayer of entrusting and commending.

God our creator and redeemer,

by your power Christ conquered death

and entered into glory.

Confident of his victory

and claiming his promises,

we entrust *N*. to your mercy

in the name of Jesus our Lord,

who died and is alive

and reigns with you,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

If the Committal does not follow as part of the same service in the same place, some sections of the Dismissal may be used here.

THE COMMITTAL

Sentences of Scripture may be used.

*The minister says*

Either

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

slow to anger and of great goodness.

As a father is tender towards his children,

so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.

For he 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 will know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures

for ever and ever toward those that fear him

and his righteousness upon their children’s children.

Or

We have but a short time to live.

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?

Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most mighty,

O holy and most merciful Saviour,

deliver us from the bitter pain of eternal death.

Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;

hear our prayer, O God most mighty;

spare us, most worthy judge eternal;

at our last hour let us not fall from you,

O holy and merciful Saviour.

At the burial of a body

Either

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N*. is in the hands of God,

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 to eternal life

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who will transform our frail bodies

that they may be conformed to his glorious body,

who died, was buried, and rose again for us.

To him be glory for ever. **Amen**.

Or

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;

and 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**.

Or

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who by his sojourn in the tomb

made holy the graves of all who believe in him

and whose abiding presence

strengthens the hope of resurrection in us,

whose mortal bodies are subject to decay;

may your servant *N.* rest here in peace

until that hour when the voice of the Saviour

calls *him/her* to resurrection and to life.

We ask this through your Son,

who was dead but was brought to life by your Spirit

and reigns as Lord for ever and ever. **Amen**.

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to take place then

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N*. to God’s mercy,

and we now commit *his/her* body to be cremated:

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who will transform our frail bodies

that they may be conformed to his glorious body,

who died, was buried, and rose again for us.

To him be glory for ever. **Amen**.

In a crematorium, if the Committal is to follow at the

Burial of the Ashes

Either

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N*. to God’s mercy,

and now, in preparation for burial,

we give *his/her* body to be cremated.

We look for the fullness of the resurrection

when Christ shall gather all his saints

to reign with him in glory for ever. **Amen**.

Or

Almighty God,

from whose love in Christ Jesus

neither death nor life can separate us,

and whose kindness embraces all your children

in this world and the next:

draw *N*. to yourself

that in our fellowship with you

we may know ourselves to be united with *him/her.*

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

At the burial of a body at sea

In the faith of Christ and believing that *N*. is in the hands of God,

we commit *his/her* body to the deep:

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who will transform our frail bodies

that they may be conformed to his glorious body,

who died, was buried, and rose again for us.

To him be glory for ever. **Amen**.

THE SENDING OUT

This may include:

The Lord’s Prayer (if not used earlier)

The Nunc Dimittis

One or more suitable prayers

An Ending.

The Lord’s Prayer

Either

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.

Save us from the time of trial

and 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,

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.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

Lord, now you have set your servant free:

to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen your salvation:

which you have prepared for all the world to see;

A light to reveal you to the nations:

and to give glory to 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.

One or more of these prayers, or other suitable prayers, may be used.

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 sins

and the resurrection to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God be in my head,

and in my understanding;

God be in my 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 my end,

and at my departing. Amen.

May the angels lead you home to paradise,

The martyrs welcome you as you draw near;

may they lead you into the heavenly Jerusalem.

May the choirs of angels welcome you;

and, with Lazarus who is poor no longer,

may you find eternal rest. Amen.

Give rest with the saints, O Christ,

to the soul of your servant departed,

that *s/he* may repose in a place

where pain and sorrow and grief are no more,

but life everlasting.

You are the immortal one,

O creator and maker of us all.

We are mortals:

from earth we were fashioned, to earth we return;

for so did you ordain when you made me, saying:

“Dust you are, and unto dust you will return”.

All we go down to the dust

yet even over the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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**.

One of these, or another suitable ending, may be used.

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**.

May God give you

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

God will show us the path of life;

in his presence is the fullness of joy:

and at his right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

(cf. Psalm 16.11)

To him who is able to keep you from falling

and to present you before his glorious presence

without fault and with great joy,

to the only God our Saviour

be glory, majesty,

power and authority,

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

before all ages,

now and for evermore. **Amen**.

(Jude 24, 25.)

Eternal rest grant unto *him/her*, O Lord,

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

in the name of Christ. **Amen**.

May God’s help remain with us

and may our departed brothers and sisters in the Lord rest in peace,

and rise in glory. Amen.