

For those Unable to be Present at the Funeral

The Gathering

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
We join with those in (*place*)
in remembering 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.

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.

All **Amen.**

Those present may be encouraged to share briefly their memories of the one who has died.

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 lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading(s)

One or more of the following passages of Scripture is read.

First Reading

Psalms 121

Refrain: The Lord shall keep you from all evil.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; ♦
from where is my help to come?

- 2 My help comes from the Lord, ♦
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble; ♦
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ♦
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; ♦
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ♦
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; ♦
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out
and your coming in, ♦
from this time forth for evermore.

Revelation 21.1-7

¹I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ ⁶Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’

John 14.1-6

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ ⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

Prayers

Prayers appropriate to the circumstances may follow.

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 *he/she* received from you,
for all that was good in *his/her* life,
for the memories we treasure today.
[Especially we thank you ...]

Silence

[Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.]**

You promised eternal life to those who believe.
Remember for good this your servant *N*
as we also remember *him/her*.
Bring all who rest in Christ
into the fullness of your kingdom
where sins have been forgiven
and death is no more.

Silence

[Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.]**

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief
and life out of death.
Look in mercy on [... *and*] all who mourn.
Give them patient faith in times of darkness.
Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

Silence

[Lord, in your mercy

All **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 here on earth,
to turn to Christ and follow in his steps
in the way that leads to everlasting life.

Silence

[Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.]**

All **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.**

Commendation and Farewell

With those in [place] let us commend *N* to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen.**

A time of silence may be kept.

The Lord's Prayer

***All* Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Ending

May the eternal God bless and keep us, guard our bodies,
save our souls and bring us safe to the heavenly country,
our eternal home, where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit ever reign,
one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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