

The Funeral Liturgy

Form II

This form of the Funeral Liturgy is for use in a church or a chapel or other suitable place.

The celebrant welcomes the congregation and may at this time, or after the readings, express thanksgiving for the gifts of the deceased person, especially the marks of a Christian life. Such remarks, without denying the legitimate grief of the mourners, should relate the life and death of the Christian to the victory of Christ. The celebrant then says,

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and is committed to me in faith,
shall not die for ever. *John 11.25–26*

Let not your hearts be troubled;
believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many rooms;
if it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?
And when I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come again and will take you to myself,
that where I am you may be also. *John 14.1–3*

I am sure that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor principalities,
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*

Then a hymn may be sung, or a psalm or canticle said or sung. The following are suitable psalms.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;

The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and
your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 139

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

Other suitable psalms are 23, 122, 126, 130, 132, 134. After a psalm or canticle the following may be said or sung.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Then the celebrant shall say,

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy
you turn the darkness of death
into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of grief
to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying for us, conquered death
and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him,
and after our life on earth
be reunited with our brothers and sisters
where every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

People

Amen.

Two or three readings shall normally be read. Members of the family and friends of the deceased person may read readings. A psalm, canticle, hymn, anthem, or period of silence may follow. Suggested readings may be found on p. 604.

A brief sermon may be preached if the celebrant's greeting of the congregation has not been extensive.

The Apostles' Creed may be said.

Celebrant

I believe in God,
All the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of 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.

A lay person (appropriately a member of the family or a friend of the deceased person) may lead the prayers. A time for silent remembrance and thanksgiving may be kept. All or part of the following form, or a similar form, may be used.

Leader Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader May all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection die to sin and rise to newness of life, and may we with him pass through the grave and gate of death to our joyful resurrection.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Grant us grace to entrust *N* to your never-failing love which sustained *him/her* in this life. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him/her* according to the favour you bear for your people.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant Gathering all our cares into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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.
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

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

All **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.**

The Commendation

A hymn may be sung, or this anthem or some other suitable anthem may be sung or said.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

“You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth,
and to earth shall we return.

For so did you ordain when you created me, 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 servants with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The celebrant, facing the body, says,

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour,
we commend your servant *N*.

Acknowledge, we 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 in light. **Amen.**

The celebrant may then bless the people and dismiss them with these or similar words.

The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.

People

**Blessed is the Lord,
our strength and our salvation.**

Or

Celebrant Go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

As the body is removed, a psalm (or part thereof), a hymn, an anthem, or a canticle may be sung or said. The following are appropriate: The Song of Zechariah, The Song of Simeon, Christ our Passover.

The Committal

The following anthem, or a similar anthem, is sung or said.

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me. *John 6.37*

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit. *Romans 8.11*

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. *Psalm 16.9*

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. *Psalm 16.11*

Then (while earth is cast upon the coffin if appropriate), the celebrant 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* body to the ground; †
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
The Lord bless *him/her* and keep *him/her*,
the Lord make his face to shine upon *him/her*
and be gracious to *him/her*,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon *him/her*
and give *him/her* peace. **Amen.**

† Or to be consumed by fire, or to its resting place, or to the deep.

The celebrant says,

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The celebrant may offer any of the prayers on pp. 601–603, or other suitable prayers. If the committal does not take place immediately following the Funeral Liturgy in church, the Lord's Prayer may be said.

Then may be said,

Celebrant Rest eternal grant to *him/her*, O Lord.

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

Celebrant May his/her soul,
and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People **Amen.**

The celebrant dismisses the people with these or similar words.

May the God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good
that you may do his will,
working in you that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ,
to whom be glory for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**