

The Funeral Liturgy

Form I

This form of the Funeral Liturgy consists of three parts: prayers for use in the home of the deceased or in another appropriate place (these prayers may, in abbreviated form, be used to greet the body at the door of the church); a form of service for use in church, which may or may not include a celebration of the eucharist; and a form of committal.

When the eucharist is celebrated in Part 2 of this form of the Funeral Liturgy, the celebrant shall be a bishop or priest. At other times the celebrant may be a deacon or lay person.

Part 1

Prayers in the Home or Elsewhere

The following form of service may be used in the home of the deceased (or elsewhere) or in the church at some suitable interval of time before the Funeral Liturgy.

If this form of service is used to greet the body at the door of the church, it should be limited to one or more of the opening sentences and a prayer.

The celebrant shall greet those present with words of Holy Scripture such as the following:

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 all may say one of the following psalms.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall 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 is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice *

let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *

O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you; *

therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *

in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord,

more than watchmen for the morning, *

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, *

for with the Lord there is mercy;

With him there is plenteous redemption, *

and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Other suitable psalms are 90, 121, 122, 126, 132, 134. Silence may be kept after the psalm and an appropriate Psalm Prayer may be said; or the following may be said:

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.

One of the readings suggested on p. 604 may be read.

Then the celebrant shall say,

The Lord be with you.

People 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.**

*Other suitable prayers may be used and silence may be kept for a time.
Additional prayers may be found on pp. 601–603.*

Then the celebrant shall say,

All Gathering all our cares into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
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,
**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.**

Then the celebrant shall dismiss the congregation with these or other words.

People The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
**Blessed is the Lord,
our strength and our salvation.**

Funeral Liturgy for Use in Church

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.

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Then may follow a hymn, anthem, or canticle, or the following. The refrain alone may be said or sung.

In the midst of life we are in death;
from whom can we seek help?
From you alone, O Lord,
who by our sins are justly angered.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

Lord you know the secrets of our hearts;
shut not your ears to our prayers,
but spare us, O Lord.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

O worthy and eternal Judge,
do not let the pains of death
turn us away from you at our last hour.

**Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

Celebrant Let us pray.

All may pray silently. The celebrant then sings or says the collect.

O God, the maker and redeemer of all,
grant us, with your servant N
and all the faithful departed,
the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion
and glorious resurrection;
that in the last day,
when you gather up all things in Christ,
we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Two or three readings shall normally be read. A Gospel reading is read when the eucharist is celebrated. 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.

At the conclusion of readings from the Old Testament and the Epistles, the reader shall say, The word of the Lord, and the congregation shall reply,
Thanks be to God.

Before the Gospel the reader shall say,

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

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to . . .

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,

The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Apostles' Creed

The celebrant may invite the people, in these or similar words, to join in the recitation of the creed.

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All **I believe in God,
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.**

The Prayers of the People

A deacon or lay member of the community (appropriately a member of the family or a friend of the deceased person) leads the Prayers of the People. 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.**

If the eucharist is not to be celebrated, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer on p. 583 or 584, followed by the Commendation on p. 586.

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

People The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

A hymn may be sung. Members of the family or friends of the deceased person may present the gifts of bread and wine for the eucharist to the deacon or celebrant.

When the gifts have been prepared, the celebrant may say the Prayer over the Gifts.

Celebrant God of mercy,
accept the worship we offer you this day.
Increase, we pray, our faith,
deepen our hope,
and confirm us in your eternal love.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Other eucharistic prayers may be found on pp. 193–210.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
whose victorious rising from the dead
has given to us the hope of resurrection
and the promise of eternal life.
Therefore with angels and archangels
and all who have served you in every age,
we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love
you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat:
this is my body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

Celebrant and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant
All

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
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.**

If the eucharist is not celebrated the service continues with the Commendation on p. 586.

Silence

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and may say the following:

This is the bread which has come down from
heaven.

All **Those who eat this bread will live for ever.**

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,

People The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

The sacrament is given with the following words.

The body of Christ (given for you).
The blood of Christ (shed for you).

Or The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

The communicant responds each time, Amen.

During the breaking of the bread and the communion, psalms, hymns, and anthems such as the following may be sung.

(Alleluia!) Christ our passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast (Alleluia!).

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us (or grant them rest).

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us (or grant them rest).

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace (or grant them rest eternal).

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

Standing, the community prays in silence. Then the celebrant says one of the following:

God of love,
you have fed us at the table of your kingdom.
Teach us to trust, without fear,
in your eternal goodness and mercy.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Almighty God, we thank you
that in your great love you have fed us
with the spiritual food and drink
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ,
and have given us a foretaste
of your heavenly banquet.
Grant that this sacrament may be to us
a comfort in affliction,
and a pledge of our inheritance
in that kingdom where there is no death,
neither sorrow nor crying,
but fullness of joy with all your saints;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Commendation

The celebrant and other ministers stand by the body, where they may be joined by members of the family and friends of the deceased person.

This anthem, or some other suitable anthem, or a hymn, 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, or the bishop if present, may then bless the people, and a deacon or other minister may dismiss them, saying,

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

As the body is borne from the church, 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.

Part 3

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. *Psalms 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. *Psalms 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.**

Go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**