

## Service at home for those unable to be present at a Funeral

### Gathering

*Music – it may be helpful to play some music as you collect your thoughts, perhaps something that reminds you of your loved one.*

We come before God with all the saints down the ages in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.  
We join with others, either present with us or elsewhere,  
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. **Amen.**

*Reflection - a time to bring to mind memories of the one who has died, and if others are present to share some of your memories.*

### 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 may be read.*

#### **Psalm 23**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦  
therefore can I lack nothing.

- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.**

***Psalm 121***

- 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.
- 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.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.**

### ***Revelation 21.1-7***

<sup>1</sup>I, 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. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>3</sup>And 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;

<sup>4</sup>he 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.’

<sup>5</sup>And 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.’ <sup>6</sup>Then 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. <sup>7</sup>Those 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: <sup>1</sup>‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In 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? <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’

### **Prayers**

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

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief  
and life out of death.  
Look in mercy on 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.  
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.  
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.**

*In a moment of quiet we offer our own thoughts and prayers to God*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Commendation and Farewell**

With those who are at the funeral 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. **Amen.**

*A time of silence may be kept.*

## **Nunc Dimittis**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. 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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