**The Christian Funeral**

**An Order**

**Called To Worship**

**Placing Of The Pall**

*As the pall is placed over the coffin by the pallbearers, silence may be kept, or one of the following may be said by the presiding minister.*

**All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus,**

**were baptized into his death.**

**Therefore, we have been buried with him**

**by baptism into death,**

**so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead**

**by the glory of the Father,**

**so we too might walk in newness of life.**

**For if we have been united with him in a death like his,**

**we will certainly be united with him**

**in a resurrection like his.***Rom. 6:3-5*.

**OR**

**The eternal God is your dwelling place,**

**and underneath are the everlasting arms.***Deut. 33:27*, **RSV.**

**Procession**

*Appropriate music may be offered as the people gather.*

*If there is a procession into the place of worship, it is led by the minister. The usual order for a procession is minister, lay leaders, pallbearers and mourners.*

**Greeting And Scripture Sentences**

*The minister may begin the service with a Christian greeting in words similar to those below and shall say one or more of the sentences from Scripture.*

**The Lord be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**OR**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.**

**And also with you.**

**AND**

*One or more of the following sentences of Scripture*.

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,**

God's mercies never come to an end. *Lam. 3:22*.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth. *Ps. 124:8*.

I will say of the Lord: God is my refuge and fortress,

my God, in whom I trust. *Ps. 91:2*.

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear. *Ps. 46:1, 2*.

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you;

not as the world gives do I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid. *John 14:27*.

Jesus said: Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted. *Matt. 5:4*.

**Preface**

*The purpose of the occasion may be introduced with the following or similar words.*

**Dear Friends:**

**We are united today**

**by a common sorrow,**

**a common affection,**

**and a common hope.**

**We have come together**

**to give thanks for the life of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_;**

**to remember the ways *\_\_\_\_\_* life touched ours;**

**to entrust them into the keeping of God.**

**We have also come**

**to share the sorrow**

**of those who mourn,**

**and to offer them**

**our love and support.**

**And we are here**

**to bear witness to our hope in Jesus Christ, who said:**

**I am the resurrection and the life.**

**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.*

**With faith in Christ**

**let us lift up our hearts to God,**

**that the Lord may bless us with**

**strength and peace.**

**Prayers**

*Prayers including adoration, confession of sin and assurance of pardon may be offered as appropriate. The following or similar prayers may be used.*

**Let us pray.**

**In the silence of this hour, O God,**

**we lift our hearts to you**

**for grace and help in time of need.**

**You are able to deliver us safely**

**through the darkness of this present time,**

**into the light and peace of your presence.**

**In your loving mercy we place our trust,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**OR**

**Gracious God,**

**in whom we live and move and have our being:**

**we open our lives to you--**

**lives broken, confused, saddened--**

**you know all about us;**

**you know the pain and sorrow that we feel.**

**Speak to us today the words**

**we cannot speak to ourselves;**

**words of courage, hope and healing**

**that you alone can give**

**through your son, Jesus Christ,**

**in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*A prayer of confession and pardon may be said*.

**O God of peace,**

**since we cannot have peace**

**without your forgiveness,**

**we ask you to cleanse our hearts**

**and renew us in your love.**

*Unison*

**God of mercy,**

**whose loving kindness endures forever:**

**we confess that often we have failed**

**to receive and give love;**

**to care for others as we care for ourselves;**

**to pardon and to accept pardon.**

**We remember**

**good intentions that were not put into actions;**

**harsh words that were hurtful;**

**selfish purposes that caused pain;**

**persistent pride that would not yield.**

**We acknowledge our fear in the face of death**

**and our failure to accept the hope you offer us in Christ.**

**Hear us, O Lord,**

**as in this silence, we make our confession to you.**

*Silence.*

**Gracious God,**

**forgive us and help us to forgive others;**

**heal us from the pain of self condemnation;**

**free us from the burden of failures that cannot be corrected;**

**renew us with your loving assurance that**

**our sins have been forgiven,**

**through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.**

**OR**

**We confess the burden of knowing**

**a love like yours and our failure**

**to serve you and to serve one another,**

**to receive and give love,**

**to pardon and to accept pardon.**

**Forgive us for the things we have done**

**that we regret,**

**and for the things we might have done**

**but which we withheld.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*Silence.*

**Assurance Of Pardon**

**The Lord has mercy on all who place their**

**trust in the saving power of Jesus Christ.**

**Accept God's pardon and be at peace. Amen.**

**OR**

**Who is in a position to condemn?**

**Only Christ,**

**and Christ died for us,**

**Christ rose for us,**

**Christ reigns in power for us,**

**Christ prays for us.** *Rom. 8:34.*

**Believe the gospel;**

**in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

**OR**

**On the day of resurrection,**

**our Lord declared peace**

**to those who had been shattered by his death.**

**To all who have turned to God,**

**trusting in Christ as Lord and Saviour,**

**the same risen Christ says to you**

**in the midst of your sorrow**

**"Peace be with you."**

**HYMN**

*A Psalm, Hymn, or Canticle may be sung*.

**The Word Proclaimed**

*Before the reading of the Scripture lessons, a brief introductory statement may be made and/or a Prayer for Illumination may be said by the reader*.

**The Christian church finds comfort and instruction in the words of Scripture. Written over many centuries, these words express the faith of people who came to a profound understanding of God in the midst of suffering and hardship.**

**AND/OR**

**Let us pray.**

**Eternal Lord,**

**speak to us your living Word**

**that through the encouragement of the Scriptures**

**we may be renewed in faith and hope;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**OR**

**Help us, Lord God,**

**with the aid of these Scriptures,**

**to see with your light which no darkness can put out,**

**and to hold fast to your love,**

**which is an anchor sure and steadfast;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings**

*One or more lessons from the Scripture shall be read, concluding with a Gospel reading. Suggested readings are listed on pages 251 to 253*.

*After a reading from the Old Testament or a New Testament epistle, the reader and people may say:*

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

*After a psalm, the following ascription of glory 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.**

*After a gospel reading, the reader and people may say:*

**The gospel of the Lord.**

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

**Sermon**

*A brief sermon may be preached proclaiming the gospel.*

**Affirmation Of Faith**

*The congregation may respond to the reading and preaching of the Word of God by standing and saying the Apostles' Creed or another affirmation of faith. (See pages 256 to 257 for alternative texts.)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

 **creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

 **who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

 **born of the Virgin Mary,**

 **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,**

 **he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

 **and he will come 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.**

**Prayers Of The People**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Eternal God,**

**you are always near to us.**

**Help us to draw near to you**

**and to know that nothing can separate us**

**from your steadfast love.**

**We come to you through Christ our Lord,**

**who said: Blessed are they that mourn**

**for they shall be comforted.**

**In this, and every hour, help us to know**

**your friendship and protection.**

**Kindle anew the hope that death is swallowed up in victory**

**and that because you live,**

**we shall live also.**

**O God, you arrange us in families**

**and give us friends for companionship;**

**we acknowledge our gratitude for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**and rejoice in the love and friendship**

**we have shared with them.**

**We thank you for those gifts of mind, heart and spirit which were uniquely their life.**

*Here specific reasons for thanksgiving may be mentioned or a space of silent remembrance may be observed.*

**For your grace at work in *\_\_\_\_\_* life**

**we give you thanks;**

**for the good that entered the world through them**

**we bless you and give you praise.**

**[And now we thank you that for *\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**sorrow and sickness are ended,**

**death itself is past,**

**and *\_\_\_\_\_* has entered into the new life which you have prepared for those that love you.]**

**Bestow your deep peace upon those who mourn;**

**walk with them in this time of sorrow**

**until grief is overcome in thanksgiving and victory.**

**Almighty and eternal God,**

**you inspire us with the example**

**of those who hold**

**steadfastly to your truth,**

**looking to Jesus Christ as**

**the author and finisher of their faith;**

**grant that we, sharing the faith and hope**

**that directed them towards your kingdom,**

**may come to dwell with them in your presence,**

**there to serve and enjoy you forever.**

**We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**and pray as he 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 forever. 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory**

 **for ever. Amen**

**The Dismissal**

*The minister moves to the coffin or ashes and the congregation stands.*

With God's help,

let us entrust our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

to the mercy of God our Maker and Redeemer.

Let us pray.

Was omitted online due to copyright see page 548.

A HYMN OR PSALM MAY BE SUNG

**The Committal**

*When circumstances require a delay in burial, a committal may be included here. The minister shall say these or similar words:*

We have released \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

into the hands of God,

and we now commit *\_\_\_\_\_* body

to be taken to its last resting place

in the sure and certain hope

of the resurrection to eternal life

through our Lord Jesus Christ.

To God be glory forever. **Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*With hands raised in blessing, the minister says:*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,

keep your hearts and minds

in Christ Jesus. *Phil. 4:7, RSV*.

May the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

remain with you always. **Amen.**

**OR**

Go in peace.

And may the God of peace

who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep,

by the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you complete in everything good

so that you may do God's will,

working in you what is pleasing in God's sight,

through Jesus Christ;

to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Heb. 13:20-21*.

**OR**

Let us go in the peace and strength of the Lord.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.  **Amen.**  *II Cor. 13:13.*

**The Funeral Procession**

*The people remain standing as the procession forms and leaves the church or chapel. The ministers precede the coffin. The mourners follow the coffin.*

*As the procession leaves the church, a hymn or canticle may be sung. The canticle, "Now, Lord, you let your servant go" (Nunc Dimittis) may be sung by the people or it may be recited by the minister leading the procession.*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

 *The Song of Simeon, Luke 2:29-32,ELLC.*