**The Christian Funeral**

**Alternative Texts**

**A Prayer Of Confession**

Lord,

you invite us to come to you,

you know all about us;

you know how hard life can be,

how weak we are, and how easily

we stray from your way.

In this moment, as we bow before you,

not one of us can claim anything save your mercy.

God of mercy,

assure us of your pardon,

and that your love

is always ready to welcome us

and to forgive us.

In the name of Christ, we pray;

who came to restore us

to fellowship with you,

and with your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Affirmation Of Faith**

*The selections from Living Faith, chapter 10 are appropriate as an affirmation of faith at the time of a funeral. Although not as complete as a creed, the brief statement in contemporary language may speak more directly to those who are not familiar with the dogma and doctrines of the church.*

**God has prepared for us**

**things beyond our imagining.**

**Our hope is for a renewed world**

**and for fullness of life in the age to come.**

**As Jesus taught us, we pray:**

**"Thy kingdom come."**

**In Baptism by faith we die and rise with Christ**

**and so are one with the risen Lord.**

**In death we commit our future confidently to God.**

**Life had its beginning in God.**

**In God it will come to completion**

**and its meaning be fully revealed.**

**All creation will find fulfilment in God.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Only God knows when and how**

**our Lord will return.**

**Now we see in part.**

**Then we shall see face to face.**

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

**May the God of hope**

**fill us with joy and peace in believing**

**so that by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**we abound in hope!** *Living Faith, 10.1,4,5,6,7.*

**OR**

*The following words of Scripture may provide comfort as well as an affirmation of faith in the face of death.*

*Leader:*

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress,

or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

*People:*

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors**

**through him who loved us.**

**For we are convinced that neither death, nor life,**

**nor angels, nor rulers,**

**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. Amen.** *Rom. 8:35, 37-39*.

**Prayers**

Gracious God, our heavenly Father,

in your mercy you sent Jesus Christ

to be for us

the way, the truth, and the life.

He lived our life,

he died our death,

he rose again

to give us new life and hope.

To you we give our thanks and praise.

Draw near to us as we draw near to you

and speak to us of your steadfast love,

from which not even death can separate us.

God of all consolation,

your blessed Son Jesus Christ wept at the grave of Lazarus;

look with compassion upon those who are now

in sorrow and affliction;

comfort them with your gracious presence;

cause them to know that all things work together for good

to those that love you;

and grant to them

a sure trust and confidence in your care.

We remember before you your servant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

We give thanks for all that was *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

 to enjoy,

 to share with others,

 to give and to receive,

 to know and to experience,

 to feel and to understand.

And now we thank you that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

is in your keeping forever.

You accepted *\_\_\_\_\_\_*  in Holy Baptism

making *\_\_\_\_\_\_* a child of your kingdom

and an heir of your promises.

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Almighty God:

by the death of your dear Son

you have destroyed sin and death;

by his resurrection

you have given us the hope of eternal life.

Grant that, believing this firmly in our hearts,

we can live free from the fear of death,

and come to participate in the joyful resurrection of your faithful people;

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

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**Thanksgivings And Intercessions**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us with confidence present our prayers to God,

who sent Jesus Christ our Lord,

to live and die for us;

who raised him from the dead
that we might have the hope of eternal life in him.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy church,

the body of Christ our Lord:

grant that those who serve you on earth,

in company with the saints who serve you in heaven,

may be filled with the power of your presence.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, before whose face the generations rise and pass away:

we thank you for your servants
who departed this life in faith and love

and especially \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

whom we remember today

as we recall what *\_\_\_\_\_\_* meant to family,
friends, and community.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

O Lord, through the ministry of your church,

your servant was baptized into Christ's death,

anointed with the Holy Spirit,

nourished in faith at the table of your grace;

now, Lord, may *\_\_\_\_\_\_* feast at the heavenly table

in company with you

and those who have loved you on earth.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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Blessed God:

strengthen the faith of your people in the church,

that we may live as those who believe

in the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

and the resurrection to eternal life.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

**Our Father. . .**