



Order for a Funeral

Stand

Processional

A funeral pall may be used. A hymn may be sung.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Repeat after me:

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

Let us pray.

One of the following psalms or prayers may be said.

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me besides still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness,
for his name's sake.

Even 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.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Psalm 23 *ESV*).

- OR -

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word do I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities (Psalm 130).

Amen.

- OR -

PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, you have called us into the fellowship of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and graciously given us forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. By your tender mercies comfort and sustain your people that, even now in the presence of death, they may believe the glorious promise, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

- OR -

PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious Father, that you have called us into the fellowship of your Son, removed the sting of death, and given to us and to your *son/daughter*, _____ *Name* _____, forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation, binding us together in bonds of family, friendship, and faith. As we commit _____ *Name* _____ to your keeping, and continue under the consolation of your Word, refresh us with the promise of our Lord, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," until we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE "WAY OF SALVATION" TEXTS

Dear friends, let us hear what the Holy Scriptures testify concerning the way of salvation.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
 or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
 from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
 You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"
 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday
 when it is past, or as a watch in the night.
 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
 like grass that is renewed in the morning;
 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
 in the evening it fades and withers.
 So teach us to number our days
 that we may get a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:2-6, 12 *ESV*).

And furthermore it is written:

"Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned" (Romans 5:12 *ESV*).

"Each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment"
 (see Hebrews 9:27).

Let us also hear about the watchfulness and preparedness which the Lord desires to find in us.

“Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And that is what I say to all: Stay awake” (Mark 13:33-37 *ESV*).

Finally let us hear the blessed words concerning resurrection and everlasting life.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die” (John 11:25-26 *ESV*).

And the Apostle Paul writes, “For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

‘Death is swallowed up in victory!
‘O death, where is your victory?
O death where is your sting?’

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:53-55, 57 *ESV*).

The Word of the Lord.

If the above “Way of Salvation” texts are not used, an appropriate selection from the following may be used.

ALTERNATE SCRIPTURE TEXTS

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *ESV*).

- OR -

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24 ESV).

- OR -

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:3-5 ESV).

The following text may be used for the burial of children.

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them (Mark 10:13-16 ESV).

Additional texts to consider:

Romans 8:31-39

1 Corinthians 15:12-26

1 Peter 1:3-9

Revelation 7:9-17

John 11:21-27

John 14:1-10

An obituary may be read.

A eulogy may be included.

HYMN OR SOLO

LESSON

The Lesson is written in the _____ chapter of _____ .

After the Lesson the reader may say, "The Word of the Lord."

APOSTLES' CREED

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 into hell.

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 Christian* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON

The sermon ends with the Nunc Dimittis, which may be said or sung.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before the face of all people:

A light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

* *Christian* is the standard term used in the vernacular (German) translation of the Apostles' Creed by the Reformers.
The word "catholic" may be used here instead.

HYMN

PRAYER

One of the following prayers may be said, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful and everlasting God, who by the death of your Son has removed from us the doom of eternal death and has sanctified the grave to your faithful people so that it has become a peaceful resting place, help us to be diligently mindful of our last hour so that by true repentance and faith we may die daily to sin and to the corruptible ways of this world and together with all your saints be raised up daily to eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- OR -

Gracious Father, through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, you have given us abundant comfort against death. Comfort us now by your Word and Holy Spirit, that we be not turned away from you by any distress or assault of evil, but rather live in the hope you have given us and depart this life in your peace and in your keeping rest until we are raised by your power to join the redeemed where sin and death are no more, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- OR -

O God, our heavenly Father, to whom can we turn for help? Only you can heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds. Have compassion on your servants whose joy has been turned to sorrow. Do not leave them without comfort. Rather, let this sorrow draw them closer to you and to one another. Fill their lives with your presence and with a vision of that life where all mysteries will be revealed and all tears wiped away, that they may be able to abide until that morning breaks when all darkness flees, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Other prayers may be said.

LORD'S PRAYER

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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

- OR -

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 forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and ✝ give you peace. Amen.

HYMN

GRAVESIDE COMMITTAL

A hymn may be sung.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors" (Revelation 14:13 ESV).

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26 ESV).

I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God (Job 19:25-26 ESV).

In the sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, we commit _____ *Name* _____ body to the ground: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Earth may be cast upon the coffin three times saying:

Out of dust you were taken.
Unto dust you shall return.
Out of the dust you will rise again.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3 ESV).



At the burial of a child.

O God, whose dear Son took little children into his arms and blessed them; with confidence in your grace we now leave this child in your hands, praying that we may all come at last to your heavenly kingdom through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, who by your death did take away the sting of death, grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may fall peacefully asleep in you and awake in your likeness, through your mercy, O Lord, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

- OR -

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 forever. Amen.

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