

THE FUNERAL SERVICE

A BASIC SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

1. Call to Worship
2. Invocation
3. Hymn
4. Reading of Old Testament Scriptures
5. Musical presentation (if desired)
6. Reading of New Testament Scriptures
7. Thanksgiving for the Life
8. Response from the family (if desired)
9. Prayers, including the Lord's Prayer
10. Hymn or musical presentation (as desired)
11. Meditation and challenge
12. Hymn
13. Dedication

THESE RUBICS MAY BE HELPFUL:

- Appropriate music prior to and following the service
- Appropriate poetry may be used as desired in place of line 5
- The message is an evangelistic opportunity in which persons may be invited to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.
- The Apostle's Creed or other Statement of Faith may be used following line 3.
- The Lord's Supper may be inserted following line 11 if desired. This would include the invitation, prayer of consecration and the distribution of elements.

The Committal:

The service of committal is not meant to be an extension, let alone a recapitulation of the funeral or memorial. Rather, it is a reminder of what has been already affirmed; hope, for the Christian, is hope grounded in Jesus' victory over death.

It is important to leave the sorrowing family and friends with a firm sense of closure while reassuring them once again that, for those who are in Jesus Christ, there is no final goodbye.

The service proposed here is in four parts:

1. One or two scripture sentences
2. The words of committal (which will vary according to the disposition of the body)
3. A brief prayer of committal
4. A benediction

COMMITTALS:

For earth burial:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we commend to God's merciful care our brother/sister (Name); and we commit his/her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

“Blessed are the dead who... die in the Lord...they will rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

For burial at sea:

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we commend to God’s merciful care our brother/sister (Name); and we commit his/her body to the deed.

“Blessed are the dead who... die in the Lord... they will rest from their labors for their deeds will follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

For cremation:

In the name of the our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, we commend to God’s merciful care our brother/sister (Name); and we commit his/her body to be returned to the elements, ashes to ashes. (If committal takes place in a columbarium substitute: “We commit his/her ashes to their final resting place.”)

“Blessed are the dead who... die in the Lord... they will rest from their labors for their deeds will follow them.” (Revelation 14:13).

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE SENTENCES:

1. “Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people.” 1 Kings 8:56a
2. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” John 14:27
3. “If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raise Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit that dwells in you.” Romans 8:11
4. “God gives us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.” 1 John 5:11
5. “Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You.” Psalm 32:22

SUGGESTED PRAYERS:

You sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We entrust (Name) to your everlasting care. Grant us the awareness that each of our days is a true gift from you, to be lived preciously and joyously in hopeful expectation of eternal life in divine presence with those whom we love. In the name of Jesus, the Lord of life, we pray. Amen.

O LORD, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our LORD. Amen.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FUNERALS

OLD TESTAMENT

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. 2 Samuel 12:16-23 | Death of David’s infant son |
| 2. Job 19-23-27 | My Redeemer lives |
| 3. Proverbs 31:10-31 | Portrait of a Godly woman |
| 4. Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 | For everything there is a season |
| 5. Isaiah 35:3-10 | The ransomed shall return |
| 6. Isaiah 40:1-11 | He shall feed His flock |

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 7. Isaiah 40:27-32 | They who wait for the Lord |
| 8. Isaiah 65:17-25 | A new heaven and a new earth |

PSALMS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9. Psalm 23 | The LORD is my Shepherd |
| 10. Psalm 27:1, 4-5, 13-14 | Whom shall I fear? |
| 11. Psalm 46 | God is our refuge |
| 12. Psalm 90:1-6, 10, 12-17 | Teach us to number our days |
| 13. Psalm 91:1-2, 9-12, 14-16 | In the shadow of the Almighty |
| 14. Psalm 103:1-5, 10-18 | God's steadfast love |
| 15. Psalm 116:1-9, 12-15 | Precious is the death of his saints |
| 16. Psalm 121 | The LORD will keep you |

EPISTLE

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17. Romans 5:1-11 | While we were yet sinners |
| 18. Romans 8:14-23 | Joint heirs |
| 19. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 | Who shall separate us? |
| 20. 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 | O death, where is thy sting? |
| 21. 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 | A house not made with hands |
| 22. Ephesians 3:14-21 | The love of Christ |
| 23. Philippians 2:5-11 | He emptied Himself |
| 24. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | The Comfort of His coming again |
| 25. Hebrews 11:32-12:2 | A cloud of witnesses |
| 26. 1 Peter 1:3-9 | Born anew to a living hope |
| 27. Revelation 7:9-17 | A great multitude in white robes |

GOSPEL

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 28. Mark 10:13-16 | Let the children come |
| 29. John 3:16-21 | God so Loved the world |
| 30. John 10:7-16 | The Good Shepherd |
| 31. John 11:17-27, 38-44 | I am the resurrection |
| 32. John 14:1-7, 15-21, 25-27 | The way, truth and life |