

The Order for the Burial of the Dead

(Used at Funeral Homes)

The Words of the Holy Scriptures are always meant to edify, comfort, support us and to lift us up. May you be blessed, encouraged and given strength, by the words chosen this day.

In the Name of the Father (+), and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

[or]

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

We listen to God's Most Holy Word

(Music may be interspersed at a variety of places)

A Reading from the Hebraic Writings: *(choose one)*

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley.
I 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 my whole life long.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
And his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
His steadfast love endures forever,
And his faithfulness to all generations.

(Other readings may also be used as deemed appropriate)

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me. "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered. "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me. "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So, I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, Prophecy to the breath, prophesy,

mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds. O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me. “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them. Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

A Reading from a Letter of Paul:

Romans 8.31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am 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 creations, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child; I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

[or]

A Reading from the Revelation, According to St. John:

Revelation 7.9-17

After I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God singing.

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor and power
and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

A Reading from the Holy Gospel: (*choose one*)

John 11.21-27

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask for him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, 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. Do you believe this? She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

[or]

John 14.1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.

[or]

Mark 10.13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it. And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

A Homily (Brief Meditation)

[or]

Eulogy (May follow)

Other Family Member’s may speak, as desired

The Prayers Continue:

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional)

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.

More Prayers follow:

Lord Jesus, by your death, you took away the sting of death. Allow us, your sons and daughters today, so to follow “in faith”, where you have led the way, that we too, may one day fall asleep – peacefully-in-you, and awake in your likeness; to You, the Author and Giver of All Life - be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

[or]

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[or]

God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you...Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Benediction (*May follow*)

Almighty God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and...(+)
give you peace.

Amen.

**The Commendation (or)
The Liturgy at the Grave**

[May follow]

In the Name of the Father (+) and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed, truly blessed, are the dead, who die in the Lord. Yes says the Spirit, that they may now rest from their labors. I am the Resurrection and the life, said the Lord, he or she that believes in me, though they die, yet shall they live. And he or she who believes in me will never die – never!

For as much as it has pleased Almighty God in his great mercy and loving kindness, to take to himself the soul of _____
We therefore commit (his / her) body to the ground / to the deep / to the elements / to its final resting place:

The sign of the holy cross is made with dirt

Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Bless (him / her) and keep (him / her). The Lord make his face shine on (him / her) and be gracious to (him / her). The Lord look upon (him / her) with favor and give (him / her) his peace. In the Name of the Father (+), the Son (+) and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, Remember us in your kingdom and remind us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Traditional)

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

Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep – peacefully in You and wake in Your likeness: to You, the Author and the Giver of All life be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

Rest Eternal Grant (him / her), O Lord;
And let perpetual-light shine upon (him / her).

Blessing:

The God of Peace – who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant – make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you, that which is well pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Let us go (from here) in peace.