ORDER OF SERVICE FOR
THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

Services for children of the faithful should be held in the church whenever possible. The casket should be closed before the service and thereafter remain closed. If there are to be flowers at the church, they should be limited to three or four pieces.

If the casket is in place, the service may begin with the Votum and Salutation. If the minister processes as the casket is brought forward, the service shall begin with the Sentences. The Votum and Salutation must be used to open the service from the pulpit.

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Salutation

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentences

Any of the following Sentences may be used:

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

John 11:25

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Isaiah 40:11

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8
As a father pities his children,  
so the Lord pities those who fear him.  

_Psalm 103:13_

Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.  

_John 14:1_

_Then the minister shall lead in prayer._

**Prayer**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, who loveth us with an everlasting love, and canst turn the shadow of death into the morning, help us now to wait upon thee with reverent and submissive hearts; that, as we read the words of eternal life, we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope, and be lifted above our darkness and distress into the light and peace of thy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Psalms**

_One or more of the following selections of the Psalms may be read:_

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 paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil;  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff,  
they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
thou anointest 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 Lord forever.  

_Psalm 23_
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor requite us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father pities his children,  
so the Lord pities those who fear him.
For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.
As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting  
upon those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children’s children,
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.

Psalm 103:1-5, 8-18

I lift up my eyes to the hills.  
From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved,  
he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade
on your right hand.
The sun shall not smite you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.

Psalm 121

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!
  Lord, hear my voice!
Let thy ears be attentive
  to the voice of my supplications!
If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,
  Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee,
  that thou mayest be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
  and in his word 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 plenteous redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
  from all his iniquities.

Psalm 130

At the close of the reading of the Psalter, the minister shall say, or the congregation may sing, the

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.
Then the minister shall read from the New Testament, choosing one or more of the following passages. Before the reading let him say:

Hear the Word of God as it is written in the New Testament.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 7:15-17

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them, and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:1-4

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 upon them.

Mark 10:13-16

“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way 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, but by me.”

John 14:1-6
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. 

*John 14:27*

*At the conclusion of the reading, the minister may say:*

Believe this Gospel and go forth to live in peace.

**Hymn**

*A suitable hymn, anthem, or solo may be sung.*

**Sermon**

*The minister may preach a brief sermon bearing testimony to the hope and promises set forth in Scripture, and may conclude with an ascription of praise.*

*Prayers of thanksgiving for the Christian Gospel and the Blessed Hope, for the light of the Gospel as displayed in this life, and for the comfort of the family, may then be read. The following prayers may be used.*

**Prayer**

Let us pray.

Most loving Father, whose ears are open to the cry of thy children, and who art nearest to us when we are most in need of thee, to thee do we turn in this hour of sorrow, knowing thy love to us, trusting in thy perfect wisdom, and seeking grace to say from the heart, “The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.”

We bless and praise thy name for the gift of this child whom thou hast taken, for the precious memories of him that will always abide; and for our assurance that for him all sickness and sorrow are ended, that death itself is past, and that he lives evermore in thy presence, wherein is fullness of joy.

O God whose Son took little children in his arms and laid his hands upon them, and blessed them, make us to know that thou hast called this child to thyself, and that thou wilt keep him, now and always in the arms of thy love.

O God, who healest the broken hearts, and bindest up their wounds, look down in tender pity and compassion on thy servants whose joy has been turned into mourning. Leave them not comfortless, but grant that they may
be drawn closer to one another by their common sorrow. As thou hast given them this new tie to bind them to the world unseen, so grant to them that where their treasure is, there may their hearts be also. Fill their souls with the light and comfort of thy presence. Grant to them such a vision of that life wherein all mysteries shall be revealed, and all tears wiped away, that they may be able to endure as seeing thee who art invisible. So dwell with them and be their God, until the day break and the shadows flee away; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we are bold to say:

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

A hymn may then be sung.

Benediction