ORDER OF SERVICE FOR BURIAL
FOR ONE WHO HAS
LIVED APART FROM THE CHURCH

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:

All flesh is grass
    and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
    when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
    but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Isaiah 40:6b, 7, 8

For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance,
but the Lord looks on the heart.

I Samuel 16:7b

I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.

II Samuel 12:23c

Lord, thou has been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.

Psalm 90:1, 2
God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear.  

Psalm 46:1, 2a

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.

Psalm 46:4-7

Be still, and know that I am God.  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth!  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  

Psalm 46:10, 11

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place  
in all generations.  
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, 
from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. 

For a thousand years in thy sight 
are but as yesterday when it is past, 
or as a watch in the night. 

Thou dost sweep men away; they are like a dream, 
like grass which is renewed in the morning: 
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; 
in the evening it fades and withers. 

The years of our life are threescore and ten, 
or even by reason of strength fourscore; 
yet their span is but toil and trouble; 
they are soon gone, and we fly away. 

So teach us to number our days 
that we may get a heart of wisdom. 

Satisfy us in the morning with thy steadfast love, 
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. 

Make us glad as many days as thou hast afflicted us, 
and as many years as we have seen evil. 

Let thy work be manifest to thy servants, 
and thy glorious power to their children. 

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, 
and establish thou the work of our hands upon us, 
yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. 

Psalm 90:1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12, 14-17

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 103:13-18
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.

Scripture

Then the minister shall read from the Scripture, choosing one or more of the following passages. Before the reading, let him say:

Hear the Word of God.

Why to you say, O Jacob,
   and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hid from the Lord,
   and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
The Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary,
    his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
    and to him who has no might he increases strength.
Even youths shall faint and be weary,
    and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
    they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
    they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:27-31

Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we share in Christ, if only we hold our first confidence firm to the end, while it is said, “Today, when you hear his voice do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

Hebrews 3:12-15

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, that no one fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:11-16

What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.” Even so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.” Even so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:4-10

At the conclusion of the reading of the Scripture, 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.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who sees not as man sees, neither judges as man judges, we give thee thanks for all that was worthy in the life of him who has now passed from this world. We praise thee for every deed of kindness, every word of affection, and every useful labor of this one departed from this life. Since it is through thy mercy alone that we are not cut off, and by thy grace that we are saved, we pray thee so to impress our hearts with a sense of sinfulness and our need of thy forgiveness that, earnestly desiring the best gifts, we may henceforth walk humbly before thee and serve thee in faith, hope, and love; until the day break and the shadows flee away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered, make us, we pray thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life. Let thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives, that, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered to our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of thy Church; in the confidence of
a certain faith, in the comfort of a Christian and holy hope; in favor with thee, our God; and in perfect charity with the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we conclude our prayers, saying:

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.

Benediction