

The Burial of the Dead: Rite One



Concerning the Service

Local customs are to be honored regarding the placement of the casket in the church or worship space. However, it is the Episcopal Church's tradition that the coffin is closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter.

When the services of a priest or deacon cannot be obtained, a Worship Leader may preside at the service.

The Worship Leader may wear a black cassock (long black robe) with a white surplice (white top that goes over the cassock), or a simple white robe (alb), or other ceremonial dress as local tradition dictates.

Prior to the beginning of the service, the Worship Leader should arrange for Readers for the scriptures. If there are no Readers, the Worship Leader reads the scriptures.

Then the Worship Leader says:

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Worship Leader Let us pray.

Everyone together:

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, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Worship Leader then says:

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon him.

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

The burial service is now ended and the grave is filled in.

The Worship Leader stands at the casket and says:

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant *N*. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive *him* into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen*.

Worship Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

The Pall Bearers now carry the body out of the church and to the grave.

A hymn or song may be sung.

At the Grave before the casket is lowered into the ground, the Worship Leader says:

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. He that raised up Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies, by his Spirit that dwelleth in us.

Wherefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope.

Thou shalt show me the path of life; in thy presence is the fullness of joy, and at thy right hand there is pleasure for evermore.

The casket is now lowered into the ground.

The Worship Leader or a family member assigned by the Worship Leader, throws a handful of dirt into the grave as the Worship Leader says these words:

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our *brother N.*, and we commit *his* body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him* and keep *him*, the Lord make his face to shine upon *him* and be gracious to *him*, the Lord lift up his countenance upon *him* and give *him* peace. *Amen*.

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The service may begin with a hymn or song.

All stand. The Worship Leader says:

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.

For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.

Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

The Worship Leader says the following Collect, first saying:

The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Worship Leader Let us pray.

The Worship Leaders says the following Collect, using the person's name where N appears.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant *N.*, and grant *him* an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The people sit.

The Prayers

All stand for the prayers.

The Worship Leader says:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

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, For ever and ever. *Amen.*

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. *Amen.*

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *Amen.*

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. *Amen.*

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. *Amen.*

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. *Amen.*

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we do not understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. *Amen.*

Grant us grace to entrust *N.* to thy never-failing love; receive *him* into the arms of thy mercy, and remember *him* according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, *he* may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with [bless-ed *N.* and] all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reign-eth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel Lesson

All remain seated.

The Gospel Lesson is read by an assigned Reader or the Worship Leader.

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 of 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.'

At the end of the lesson the reader says:

The Word of the Lord

After the Gospel Lesson the Worship Leader, or a member of the family, or a friend may say a few words. The words should express the hope of the Resurrection of Jesus.

The Worship Leader or the family may choose a different Gospel lesson, or use one of these;

John 5:24-27

John 6:37-40

John 10:11-16

John 14:1-6

A hymn or song is sung here.

First Lesson

Read by an assigned Reader or by the Worship Leader.

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

The Worship Leader or family may choose a different Old Testament lesson or you may pick one of these;

Isaiah 25:6-9

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

After the reading the congregation joins in saying Psalm 23. The people will find the words printed on page 476, or a hymn or song may be sung instead.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will 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 mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

From the New Testament

Read by an assigned Reader or by the Worship Leader.

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 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?

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 creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

At the end of the lesson the reader says:

The Word of the Lord

The Worship Leader or the family may choose a different New Testament lesson, or use one of these;

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

1 John 3:1-2

Revelation 7:9-17

Revelation 21:2-7

After the reading of the New Testament lesson, sing a hymn or song or if Psalm 23 was not said after the 1st Lesson, you may do so here.