

Services for a Funeral - Three

A service of Thanksgiving for One who has Died

to be preceded or followed by the committal

1. Opening Words
2. Scripture Sentences
3. Hymn or Song
4. Opening Prayers
5. Tributes from Family and Friends
6. Readings from Scripture (and other appropriate sources)
7. Sermon
8. Hymn or Song
9. Prayers
10. Words of Commendation
11. Hymn or Song
12. Blessing

1. Opening words

We are here today
because N has died.
We are here to remember *him/her* before God
and to give thanks for *his/her* life.
We are here to express our sorrow,
the grief which hurts because we loved *him/her*.
We are here to listen to words from the Bible
and in them to find comfort and hope.

2. Scripture Sentences

St Paul says;
as it is written,
'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
... God has prepared for those who love him'.

I Corinthians 2:9

3. Hymn or Song

4. Opening Prayers

God our Creator,
you made all the rhythms and patterns of creation,
and just as you give us birth
so you are there when death comes.
You have made us mortal beings,
of frail flesh and gentle spirit
and you give us a span of life,
a time to be born and a time to die.
Today we see the value of life
and are glad that it may be lived
within the knowledge of your eternity.

Loving God,
you comfort those who mourn.
We come before you
believing you share our love for N
and know our sense of loss at *his/her* death.

Assure us of your love
and support us with your strength,
today and in the days to come.
Even as we feel lost and sorrowful
hold us in your strong embrace.
Whenever sadness and regret fill us,
have mercy upon us and bring us your peace.
When we are cast down or low in spirit,
keep us safe in your love
awaiting the day when we will know again
the possibility of joy.

God of all creation,
Jesus, the risen one,
Spirit bringing hope and new life,
God the Holy Trinity,
we give you praise and claim your comforting love
this day and always,

Amen.

We pray in the name of Jesus
who taught us to pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father....

5. Tributes from Family and Friends

Members of the family, or friends, may speak about the life of the one who has died.

6. Readings from Scripture (and other appropriate sources)

7. Sermon

8. Hymn or Song

9. Prayers

God, source of all life,
mysterious, profound, generous in love,
we give thanks because we have seen you in N.
We give thanks for *his/her* life;
for all that *he/she* was,
and for all that *he/she* gave of *himself/herself*
to *his/her* family, to friends,
to the community of faith in the Church,
to the world of work
and to the wider community.
We thank you for....

We give thanks
for what *he/she* was to each one of us.

We give thanks that *he/she* was such a person
that we are moved to grief and sorrow by *his/her* loss.
Help us, through *his/her* death,
to see more clearly the significance of life
and to grasp more firmly the hope
that we are more than our years
and that love is stronger than death.

We pray for ourselves,
disturbed by the great mystery of death,
facing the questions it raises and the loss it brings.
We pray that we will not be overwhelmed,
but may face honestly what confronts us,
so that we may sorrow freely
and turn to life again
with courage and with hope.

As we honour N
we commit ourselves to care for each other,
to bring hope to the despairing,
and joy to those who sorrow.
God, be with us here this day
and in all the days to come.
May we live as those who remember the past
and who have hope for the future.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ
our Lord and our Redeemer.

Amen.

The congregation may be asked to stand

10. Words of Commendation

O God, who gives us life
and in whose arms we die,
we entrust N
to your safe keeping
in the faith of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Receive one of your own,
one in whom you have been at work,
who carries with *him/her* our love.

Welcome *him/her* into your presence,
into the rest of everlasting peace
and into the company of all the saints.

Living God,
in the mystery of your eternity,
we are not separated from...
for your love holds us together.
While we live *he/she* will not be forgotten among us.
In your eternal love, *he/she* will never be lost.
May our memories of *him/her* enrich our lives.
May the good things of *his/her* life leave a trace on earth.
May your keeping of *him/her* glorify heaven.

Amen.

11. Hymn or Song

12. Blessing

The blessing of God be with you;
the blessing of the Creator,
the blessing of the Son,
the blessing of the Spirit,
now and always.

Amen.

