

ELW Funeral without Communion

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The ministers may meet the coffin and the bereaved at the entrance to the church. The assembly stands and faces them.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly using one or both of these paragraphs, or in similar words.*

### ***OPTION A: Welcome in the name of Jesus***

Welcome in the name of Jesus,  
the Savior of the world.  
We are gathered to worship,  
to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,  
to remember before God our *sister/brother* name,  
to give thanks for *her/his* life,  
to commend *her/him* to our merciful redeemer,  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

### ***OPTION B: Blessed be the God and Father***

Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the source of all mercy  
and the God of all consolation,  
who comforts us in all our sorrows  
so that we can comfort others in their sorrows  
with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*A thanksgiving for baptism may follow. As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall may be placed on the coffin by family members, pallbearers, or other assisting ministers. The minister or a representative of the congregation may say:*

### ***OPTION A: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus***

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we were baptized into his death.  
We were buried therefore with him  
by baptism into death,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live a new life.  
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,  
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

### ***OPTION B: All who are baptized into Christ***

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.  
In *her/his* baptism,

name was clothed with Christ.  
In the day of Christ's coming,  
*she/he* shall be clothed with glory.

*The presiding minister may lead this acclamation.*

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

**We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

**We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*A procession may form and enter, the ministers leading. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

## **GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

### ***OPTION A: O God of grace and glory***

O God of grace and glory,

we remember before you today our *sister/brother name*.

We thank you for giving *her/him* to us to know and to love  
as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.

In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.

Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up

in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ,

so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call,

we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### ***OPTION B: Almighty God, source of all mercy***

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort,

graciously tend those who mourn,

that, casting all their sorrow on you,

they may know the consolation of your love;

through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***OPTION C: At the death of a child***

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them.  
Help us to entrust name to your never-failing care and love.  
Comfort us as we bear the pain of *her/his* death,  
and receive us all into your everlasting arms,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**READINGS**

*The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.*

**SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

**CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed may be spoken.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The prayers of intercession, prepared or adapted for the occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ.

Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn,  
and a sure and certain hope in your loving care,  
that, casting all their sorrow on you,  
they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith,  
that, where this world groans in grief and pain,  
your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand,  
to believe and trust in the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.*

### ***OPTION A: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### ***OPTION B: Lord, remember us***

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

***OPTION C: No Introduction***

***OPTION A: Our Father in heaven***

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

***OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven***

**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.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**COMMENDATION**

*The ministers take their places at the coffin. The presiding minister leads the commendation.*

Let us commend name to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

*The presiding minister may place her/his hand on the coffin during this prayer.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant name.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.

Receive *her/him* into the arms of your mercy,  
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**Amen.**

*Here or during the procession out, a farewell may be sung: "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace," an acclamation (#222–223), or another hymn or song.*

*If the committal occurs at another time, a blessing may precede these words of sending.*

Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A procession may form and leave the church, the ministers leading.*

### **COMMITTAL**

*The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During or at the conclusion of the procession, words of comfort may include any of the following:*

Job 19:25 *I know that my Redeemer lives*  
Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd*  
Psalm 42:1-7 *As a deer longs for flowing streams*  
Psalm 121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills*  
Colossians 3:1-4 *Your life is hidden with Christ in God*  
Romans 14:8 *If we live, we live to the Lord*  
Revelation 21:1-4 *I saw a new heaven and a new earth*  
John 11:25-26a *I am the resurrection and the life*

*Especially at the committal of a child:*

Isaiah 40:11 *God will gather the lambs*  
Hosea 11:1, 3-4 *When Israel was a child*  
Revelation 7:17 *The Lamb will be their shepherd*  
Matthew 19:14 *Let the little children come*  
*The presiding minister greets the assembly.*

Grace and peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.  
Let us pray.

Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our *sister/brother name*, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise *her/him* up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*One of the following, or other appropriate texts, may be read.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 *Where, O death, is your victory*  
Philippians 3:20-21 *Our citizenship is in heaven*  
John 12:23-26 *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth*  
*Especially at the committal of a child:*  
Revelation 7:15-17 *God will wipe away every tear*  
Revelation 21:3b-4, 7 *I will be their God and they will be my children*

*The coffin may be lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place.*

*Earth may be cast on the coffin as the presiding minister says:*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *sister/brother* name, and we commit *her/his* body to

*the ground / the deep / the elements / its resting place;*

earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless *her/him* and keep *her/him*.

The Lord's face shine on *her/him* with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon *her/him* with favor and ✝ give *her/him* peace.

**Amen.**

*The following response may be sung, or may be spoken by the minister.*

Rest eternal grant *her/him*, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon *her/him*.

*One of the following prayers may be said.*

***OPTION A: O Lord, support us***

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done.

Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***OPTION B: Merciful God, you heal the broken***

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted.

Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits,  
and dispel our doubts and fears.

In Christ's rising from the dead,

you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life.

Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love

we shall one day be brought together again with our *sister/brother* name.

Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer may be prayed.*

***OPTION A: Our Father in heaven***

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

***OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven***

**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.**

*The assembly is blessed and sent forth.*

***OPTION A: The God of peace***

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

***OPTION B: Almighty God***

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

Let us go in peace.

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