

# An order of service for those unable to be present at a funeral

*This order can be adapted to suit the specific circumstances, and can be led by a friend or family member or by a minister.*

## Gathering

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.

*(Romans 8. 38–39)*

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who, for our sake, died and was raised.  
We join those at *(place)* in commending our *brother/sister N.* to God,  
giving thanks for *his/her* life.  
And as *his/her* body is committed to be *buried/cremated*,  
we comfort one another as we mourn.

God our maker,  
your creative will gives life to all that is;  
your quickening power brings us to birth  
and raises us from death:  
take your *son/daughter N.* into your keeping  
and give *him/her* the new life  
that is promised in Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who once was dead and lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Lord, you alone are the source of life:  
may your life-giving Spirit flow through us;  
grant us your compassion for one another,  
in our sorrow give us the calm of your peace,  
kindle our hope and let our grief give way to joy,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;  
therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.  
He shall refresh my soul  
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil  
and my cup shall be full.  
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

## Gospel

Jesus said, 'Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

*(John 6. 37-40)*

*Alternative readings can be found in Funeral Rites 1987.*

*A period of reflection on the person (write, think, draw, say aloud with others.) This period can include a time of silence.*

## Prayer

Lord of life and death  
you are with us in the daylight and the dark:  
as our *brother/sister N.* goes from us,  
may your love be with *him/her* in the shadows  
and lead *him/her* to your presence,  
where the life that began with you  
is sustained for ever;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Most loving God,  
the death of your Son has opened for us a  
new and living way:  
give us hope to overcome our fear;  
help us to surrender *N.* into your keeping  
and let our sorrow find comfort in your care, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(Burial Rites, TEC)*

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.  
Do not bring us to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

### **Suggestions**

*When it is not possible for family and friends to gather, one of the on-line meeting platforms may be used. When screen-sharing is not possible, the order of service would need to be circulated in advance. Meet up online to share memories and say this service together. A period of reflection by the minister officiating at the funeral may be shared with everyone to be read in the reflection section.*

*A specific Memorial Service can be held in church at a later date.*

*Include further resources in the order of service – the priest's contact details, as well as some helplines such as Samaritans 116 123 or Cruse : 0808 808 1677, [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk) - this would be more appropriate to accompanying notes for clergy and readers, than to the order of service circulated to "congregants" unless there are pastorally sensitive notes to accompany this.*