Interment

This order is used for a moment of prayer when the remains of a dead person are in a coffin that is buried in the ground after the funeral service has taken place far away from the site of the grave. It is also possible to follow this order when an urn is interred, and parts of this order can also be used for a funeral of a person whose remains are missing.

This moment of prayer is led by a pastor or some other church worker or some other Christian. A candle lamp may be lit to burn during this time.

1. Hymn

2. Introduction

Invocation

The invocation may be said or sung.

P/R In the name of the Father,

 and of the (B) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

 C Amen.

P/R The Lord be with you.

C and with your spirit.

Introductory words

Introductory words may be formulated freely, but some examples are given here.

P/R Dear friends. A grave reminds us that life is fleeting, but the promise of life and resurrection also reaches us. Christ says, “I am the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.” (Rev. 1:18)

OR

P/R Dear friends. A grave reminds us that life is fleeting, but we are also within the reach of a message that assures us: God is in control. He rules everything; he rules life and death. It says in the Bible, “I know that my redeemer lives. He will have the last word on earth.” (Job 19:25)

3. Psalm

Two alternatives are given below, but some other Psalm may be used instead, particularly a Psalm that follows the time of the church year.

Instead of a Psalm, a hymn may be sung at this point.

The Psalm may be sung or said, concluded by “Glory to the Father...” (except during the last two weeks of Lent).

The Lord is my shepherd,

I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

 Psalm 23

OR

I am continually with you;

you hold my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,

and afterwards you will receive me with honor.

Whom have I in heaven but you?

And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever

 Psalm 73:23 – 26

Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit

as it was in the beginning and is now and always,

from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

4. Scripture reading

One or more of the listed passages is read.

Other appropriate passages may also be read, especially ones that follow the time of the church year.

Reading may be followed by a moment of silent meditation.

 1 Corinthians 15:42 – 49

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

 2 Corinthians 5:1 – 5

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

 Matthew 27:57 – 60

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

5. Response

Those present may, for example, sing a hymn or a suitable spiritual song.

6. Speech

7. Prayers

Prayer

The prayer may also be freely formulated.

P/R Let us pray.

 Dear heavenly Father, we entrust NN in your hands. We thank you for the years we shared and all that he/she meant to us. We have laid his/her body/ashes to rest to wait for the dawn of resurrection and new creation.

 Our Savior died and was buried, and so he sanctified our grave to be a place of rest. You, O God, woke him up from the dead, defeated death and opened up heaven to those who believe.

 God, in your word we are assured that you know the longing of our hearts. You have promised to hear our every sigh. Trusting in your promise we ask that you hear now our silent prayer.

(silence)

 Jesus Christ, our Savior. We lift our eyes upon you. Have mercy on us and give us a living hope. Do not forsake us; take us to resurrection and eternal life.

C Amen.

Lord’s prayer

The Lord’s prayer is said in unison.

C 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.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever.

Amen.

8. Benediction

The benediction may be said or sung.

P/R May the almighty and gracious God,

 the Father (B), Son and Holy Spirit, give us his blessing.

 C Amen.

OR

P/R The Lord bless you and keep you;

 the Lord make his face shine upon you,

 and be gracious to you:

 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,

 and give you peace.

 In the name of the Father,

 and of the (B) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

 C Amen.

9. Hymn