

Funeral at a Crematorium (shortened)

This shortened service may be used at a crematorium in the absence of a congregation. If mourners are present, the minister should adapt the service as pastoral needs dictate, using the additional material provided. In accordance with national guidance, only immediate family members can attend (if the crematorium allows) – that is, spouse or partner, parents and children, keeping their distance in the prescribed way. The service assumes that the name of the deceased is known. If it is not known, then ‘our brother/sister’ will suffice.

The Gathering

The minister receives the coffin. One or more sentences of Scripture may be used.

‘I am the resurrection and the life,’ says the Lord. ‘Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’

John 11.25,26

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46.1

I am convinced that neither death, nor life ... will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38,39

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12.24

If no mourners are present, the minister commences the service with the Commendation and Farewell. If mourners are present, the minister may introduce the service in these or other suitable words:

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,
who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.
Grace and peace be with you.

We have come here today
to remember before God *N*;
to give thanks for *his/her* life;
to commend *him/her* to God our merciful redeemer and judge;
to commit *his/her* body to be cremated,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

The Collect

The minister invites the people to pray and says this Collect

Heavenly Father,
you have not made us for darkness and death
but for life with you for ever.

As we remember *N*,
look with compassion on us in our loss.
Give to troubled hearts the light of hope
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Reading

This psalm or another short Bible reading may be said by the minister

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
 therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
 and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul
 and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.

Psalm 23

Commendation and Farewell

The minister stands by the coffin and says

Let us commend our *brother/sister N* to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

God our creator and redeemer;
by your power Christ conquered death
and entered into glory.
Confident of his victory
and claiming his promises,
we entrust *our brother/sister N* to your mercy
in the name of Jesus our Lord,
who died and is alive
and reigns with you, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Committal

The minister may recite this psalm:

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great goodness.
As a father is tender towards his children,
so is the Lord tender to those that fear him.
For he knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;
when the wind goes over it, it is gone
and its place will know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures
for ever and ever toward those that fear him
and his righteousness upon their children's children.

Verses from Psalm 103

If the Committal is to take place immediately, the minister says

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N* to God's mercy,
and we now commit *his/her* body to be cremated:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever.

All Amen.

Or, if the Committal is to follow at the burial of ashes on a separate occasion:

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N* to God's mercy,
and now, in preparation for burial,
we give *his/her* body to be cremated.
We look for the fullness of the resurrection
when Christ shall gather all his saints
to reign with him in glory for ever.

All Amen.

The Prayers

The minister may add this or other prayers as time permits:

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more,

neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all:
and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth,
and unto earth shall we return.

For so you ordained when you created me, saying:

‘Dust you are and to dust you shall return.’

All of us go down to the dust,
yet weeping at the grave, we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant(s) with the saints:
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 for ever.
Amen.**

or

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 Dismissal

The minister concludes with either or both these prayers, or an appropriate blessing:

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

May God in his infinite love and mercy
bring the whole Church,
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,
to a joyful resurrection
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.
Amen.