

End-of-Life Rites

of the ACNA

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MINISTRY *to the* DYING¹ (“Last Rites”)

The Officiant begins

Peace be to this house [or place], and to all who dwell in it.

LUKE 10:5^T

The Officiant continues with the following prayer

Almighty God, look on this your servant, lying in great weakness, and comfort *him* with the promise of life everlasting, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LITANY AT THE TIME OF DEATH

The following may be said. When possible, it is desirable that those present join in the responses.

O God the Father,

Have mercy on your servant.

O God the Son,

Have mercy on your servant.

O God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on your servant.

O Holy Trinity, one God,

Have mercy on your servant.

Lord Jesus Christ, deliver your servant from all evil, sin, and tribulation;

Good Lord, deliver *him*.

By your holy Incarnation, by your Cross and Passion, by your precious Death and Burial,

Good Lord, deliver *him*.

By your glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the Coming of the Holy Spirit,

Good Lord, deliver *him*.

We sinners beseech you to hear us, Lord Christ: That it may please you to deliver the soul of your servant from the power of evil, and from eternal death,

¹ BCP p. 237ff

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you mercifully to pardon all *his* sins,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give *him* joy and gladness in your kingdom, with your saints in light,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to raise *him* up at the last day,

We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

The following or some other suitable anthem may be sung or said

Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.

Son of God, we beseech you to hear us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy upon *him*.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Have mercy upon *him*.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

Grant *him* your peace.

O Christ, hear us

O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. *or*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People say together

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,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Officiant O Lord, show your mercy upon us;

People **As we put our trust in you.**

The Officiant prays

Let us pray.

O Sovereign Lord Christ, deliver your servant, *N.*, from all evil, and set *him* free from every bond; that *he* may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Officiant may invite those present to offer words of thanksgiving, reconciliation, or farewell. The Officiant may conclude with words of comfort.

COMMENDATION AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Here a Priest may anoint the dying person with oil.

The Priest says

Depart, O Christian soul, out of this world;
In the Name of God the Father Almighty who created you;
In the Name of Jesus Christ who redeemed you;
In the Name of the Holy Spirit who sanctifies you.
May your rest be this day in peace, and your dwelling place in the Paradise of God.

A COMMENDATORY PRAYER

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

The Officiant and People may say

NUNC DIMITTIS
The Song of Simeon

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, *
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, *
which you have prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, *
and to be the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

LUKE 2:29-32

CLOSING PRAYER

The Officiant prays

May *his* soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

THE BURIAL *of the* DEAD²

PROCESSION OF THE BODY

All stand while the following anthems are said or sung. A hymn, psalm, or some other suitable anthem may also be used.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Whoever believes in me,
though he die, yet shall he live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me
shall never die.

JOHN 11:25-26^T

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,
whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

JOB 19:25-27

For none of us lives to himself,
and none of us dies to himself.
For if we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord.

So then, whether we live or whether we die, ROMANS 14:7-9
we are the Lord's.

For we brought nothing into the world,
and it is certain we carry nothing out.
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;
blessed be the name of the LORD.

1 TIMOTHY 6:7^T; JOB 1:21

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
Even so, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

REVELATION 14:13^T

² BCP p. 249ff

The Officiant may greet the Congregation and briefly introduce the purpose of Christian Burial.

The Officiant then says

The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

AT THE BURIAL OF AN ADULT

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant *N.*, being raised with Christ, may know the strength of his presence and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

AT THE BURIAL OF A CHILD

O God, whose beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them: Give us grace to entrust *N.* to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Officiant may add the following prayer

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: deal graciously with those who mourn [especially _____]. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The People sit.

One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read.

THE LESSONS (Scripture Readings)

ISAIAH 25:6-9 (*He will swallow up death for ever*)

ISAIAH 61:1-3 (*To comfort all who mourn*)

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-26,31-33 (*The Lord is good to those who wait*)

WISDOM 3:1-5, 9 (*The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God*)

JOB 19:21-27A (*I know that my Redeemer lives*)

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are appropriate: 39, 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11^v.

ROMANS 8:14-19,34-39 (*The glory that is to be revealed*)

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,53-58 (*The imperishable body*)

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16—5:9 (*Things that are unseen are eternal*)

1 JOHN 3:1-2 (*We shall be like him*)

REVELATION 7:9-17 (*God will wipe away every tear*)

REVELATION 21:2-7 (*Behold, I am making all things new*)

A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow.

The following Psalms are appropriate: 23, 27, 106:1-5^v, 116.

JOHN 5:24-27 (*Whoever believes has eternal life*)

JOHN 6:37-40 (*All that the Father gives me will come to me*)

JOHN 10:11-16 (*I am the good shepherd*)

JOHN 11:21-27 (*I am the resurrection and the life*)

JOHN 14:1-6 (*In my Father's house are many rooms*)

If Communion is to follow, a passage from the Gospels always concludes the Lessons.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Officiant invites the people to stand and says

Let us confess the Faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

Officiant and People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

If Communion is not to follow, the Lord's Prayer is said here, and the liturgy continues with the Prayers of the People, or with other suitable prayers.

When there is Communion, the following form of the Prayers of the People is used.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Deacon or other person appointed says the following or other appropriate prayers.

Let us pray, saying, "Hear our prayer."

Almighty God, you knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord: Grant, we pray, to your whole Church in heaven and on earth, your light and peace.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:
People **Hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you in faithful obedience.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Help us, we pray, 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.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Grant us grace to entrust *N.* to your never-failing love; receive *him* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him* according to the favor which you show to all your people.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, *he* may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom.

Reader Lord, in your mercy:

People **Hear our prayer.**

Silence may be kept.

The Officiant concludes with the following or some other prayer

Almighty God, grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, the fullness of life in your eternal and ever-lasting glory, and, with all your saints, to receive the crown of life promised to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

When there is no Communion, the liturgy continues with the Commendation, or with the Committal.

AT THE EUCHARIST

The liturgy continues with the Peace and the Offertory. An offertory hymn or anthem may be sung.

The Proper Preface of Burial is used (page 156).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The following Post Communion Prayer is used

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

If the body is not present, the liturgy continues with the blessing and dismissal; otherwise, the following Commendation is used.

THE COMMENDATION

The Officiant and other ministers take their places at the body.

Officiant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
All **Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Officiant You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you decree, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

The Officiant, facing the body, says

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

The Priest, or the Bishop if present, may then bless the people, and a Deacon or other Minister may dismiss them, saying

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

As the body is borne from the church, a hymn, or one or more of these anthems, may be sung or said

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb. The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen,

giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death. The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world. Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name, saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you. Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs receive you, and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem.

or one of the following Canticles

BENEDICTUS
The Song of Zechariah

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

LUKE 1:68-79

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**

world without end. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS
The Song of Simeon

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, *
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation, *
which you have prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, *
and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

PASCHA NOSTRUM
Christ our Passover

Alleluia. Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *
therefore let us keep the feast,
Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.
Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *
but the life he lives, he lives to God.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.
Christ has been raised from the dead, *
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
For since by a man came death, *
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, *
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7-8; ROMANS 6:9-11; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-22

THE (GRAVESIDE) COMMITTAL³

The following anthems may be said

Man born of woman has but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He springs up, and is cut down like a flower; he flees like a shadow, and never continues the same.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for help, but you, O Lord, who for our sins are justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, deliver us not into the pains of eternal death.

You know, O Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Savior, most worthy Judge eternal; do not let us, in our final hour, through the pains of death, fall away from you.

or this

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. JOHN 6:37

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells within us. ROMANS 8:11^T

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices. My flesh also shall rest in hope. PSALM 16:10

You shall show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy, and at your right hand there is pleasure for evermore. PSALM 16:12

The grave may be blessed. The Priest may use the following prayer here, or before the liturgy of Committal, or at some other convenient time.

O God, whose blessed Son was laid in a tomb in the garden: Bless, we pray, this grave, set apart for the repose of your servant *N.*, that *he* whose body is buried here may rest from *his* labors in peace and quietness, until the resurrection on the last day, when the New Jerusalem comes down, the dead

³ BCP p. 260ff

are raised, and the righteous are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then, while earth is cast upon the coffin, the Officiant says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our *brother N.*, and we commit *his* body to the ground [*or the deep or its resting place*]; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him* and keep *him*, the Lord make his face to shine upon *him* and be gracious unto *him*, the Lord lift up his countenance upon *him* and give *him* peace. **Amen.**

Or this

Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear *brother* [*or this beloved child*], here departed, we therefore commit *his* body to the ground [*or the deep or its resting place*]; 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 shall change our perishable body, that it may be like his own glorious body, according to the mighty working of his Spirit, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself. **Amen.**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The following prayer or other Additional Prayers (pages 263-265) may be added.

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course and kept the faith; and committing our *brother N.* to your gracious keeping, we pray that, together with *him* and with all those who are departed in the true faith of your holy Name, we may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Then may be said

Officiant Rest eternal grant to *him*, O Lord; and may *his* soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People **And may light perpetual shine upon them.**

A Priest may bless the people saying

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Officiant may dismiss the people with these words

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

O God, the King of saints, we praise and glorify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that,

encouraged by their examples, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life: Raise us, we humbly pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that when we depart this life we may rest in him, and at the resurrection on the last day we may be found acceptable in your sight, and receive that blessing which your well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all who love and fear you: "Come, you blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world." Grant this, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer. **Amen.**

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with all who love you. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious, and holy hope; in favor with you, our God;

and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For a veteran of the armed forces.

O Ruler of the universe, Lord God, by the strength of your own arm you have won for us final victory over the power of sin and death: We give you thanks for your servant *N.* who served as a (*soldier, seaman, airman, mariner, etc.*) in the armed forces of our nation, giving of *his* life for the defense of liberty and the preservation of freedom. Grant to *him* a place of eternal rest and peace in your eternal dwelling place, that with all the heavenly host, the noble army of martyrs, and all the powers of heaven *he* may praise your great and glorious Name unto the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Some Popular Funeral Hymns

Most lyrics and tunes can be found at www.hymnary.org

1982 Hymnal

A Mighty Fortress is Our God 688
Amazing Grace 671
The Strife is O'er 208
The King of Love My Shepherd Is 645
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 376
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling 657
All My Hope On God is Founded 665
Just As I Am 693
Be Thou My Vision 488
Onward Christian Soldier 562
When Morning Gilds the Skies 427
Eternal Father Strong to Save 608
For All the Saints 287
O God Our Hope in Ages Past 680

Not in Hymnal

In the Garden
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
How Great Thou Art
All Creatures of our God and king (with funeral verses⁴)

⁴ And thou most kind and gentle death Waiting to hush our latest breath O praise Him Alleluia Thou leadest home the child of God
And Christ our Lord the way hath trod (Chorus)

Death once the ancient enemy Hear now our Easter melody O praise Him alleluia You are the pathway home to God Our door to
life through Christ our Lord (Chorus)

SCRIPTURE CHOICES

FIRST READING OPTIONS

NIV unless otherwise noted

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.

⁹ In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 61:1-3

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

²² Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."

²⁵ The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord...

³¹ For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. ³² Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. ³³ For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5,9 from the Apocrypha (ESV)

¹ But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. ² In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be an evil thing, ³ and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. ⁴ For though in the sight of men they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. ⁵ Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself... ⁹ Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his chosen.

Reader Here ends the reading.

People (no response)

Job 19:21-27a

²¹ “Have pity on me, my friends, have pity, for the hand of God has struck me. ²² Why do you pursue me as God does? Will you never get enough of my flesh?

²³ “Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, ²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!

²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.

PSALM OPTIONS

ACNA Psalter unless otherwise noted

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: *

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: *

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 27

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,
came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
they stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though a host were encamped against me,
yet my heart would not be afraid, *
and though war rose up against me, yet would I put my trust in him.
- 4 One thing have I desired of the LORD; one thing I seek: *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
- 5 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD, *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 6 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his tabernacle; *
indeed, in the secret place of his dwelling he shall hide me,
and set me high upon a rock of stone.
- 7 And now he shall lift up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 8 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with great gladness; *
I will sing and speak praises unto the LORD.
- 9 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I cry unto you; *
have mercy upon me and hear me.
- 10 You speak to my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, O LORD, will I seek.
- 11 O hide not your face from me, *
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.
- 12 You have been my helper; *
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 13 When my father and my mother forsake me, *
the LORD takes me in.
- 14 Teach me your way, O LORD, *
and lead me in the right way, because of my enemies.
- 15 Deliver me not over to the will of my adversaries, *
for there are false witnesses who have risen up against me,

and those who speak wrong.

16 I would utterly have fainted, *

had I not believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

17 O wait for the LORD; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart. *

O put your trust in the LORD.

Psalm 106:1-5

1 O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is gracious, *
and his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can express the mighty acts of the LORD, *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Blessed are those who act with justice, *
and who always do righteousness.

4 Remember me, O LORD,
according to the favor that you show to your people; *
O visit me with your salvation,

5 That I may see the felicity of your chosen, *
and rejoice in the gladness of your people,
and give thanks with your inheritance.

Psalm 116

1 I love the LORD, *
because he heard the voice of my prayer,

2 Because he inclined his ear to me; *
therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

3 The snares of death encompassed me,
and the pains of the Grave laid hold of me; *
I suffered trouble and sorrow.

4 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
“O LORD, I beseech you, deliver my soul.”

5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
indeed, our God is full of compassion.

6 The Lord preserves the simple; *
I was in misery, and he helped me.

7 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the LORD has rewarded you.

8 You have delivered my soul from death, *

- my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 9 I will walk before the LORD *
in the land of the living.
- 10 I believed, and therefore will I speak: "I am greatly troubled." *
I said in my haste, "All men are liars."
- 11 What shall I give unto the LORD *
for all the benefits that he has done unto me?
- 12 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 13 I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all his people; *
dear in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant, and the child of your handmaid;
you have broken my bonds asunder.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and will call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will pay my vows unto the LORD in the sight of all his people, *
in the courts of the LORD's house, even in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS: 39, 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11v

SECOND READING OPTIONS

NIV unless otherwise noted

ROMANS 8:14-19,34-39

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed...

³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,53-58

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. ²⁴ Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death...

³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” ³⁶ How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body...

⁴² So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body...

⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-5:9

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

^{5:1} For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. ² Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

⁶ Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ For we live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.

1 JOHN 3:1-2

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

REVELATION 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before

the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹ All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying:

“Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ Therefore,
“they are before the throne of God and serve him day
and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will
shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ ‘Never again will they
hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat
down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb
at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will
lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe
away every tear from their eyes.’”

REVELATION 21:2-7

¹ I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the

water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

GOSPEL READING OPTIONS

NIV unless otherwise noted

JOHN 5:24-27

(Jesus said,) ²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord. *People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

JOHN 6:37-40

(Jesus said,) ³⁷ “All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

JOHN 10:11-16

¹¹ (Jesus said,) “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

JOHN 11:21-27

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

JOHN 14:1-6

¹ (Jesus said,) “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

AN ALTERNATE BURIAL LITURGY

This office may be used for those for whom the Burial Office is not appropriate. In particular, this office may be used for the unbaptized or persons who have died outside of the communion of Christ's Church.

The service begins in silence. Psalm 80 or Psalm 6 is sung or said in the Church or at the Grave.

One of the following lessons is read:

2 Peter 3:8-14

1 John 1:10-21

THE COMMITTAL

The following anthems are said

Man born of woman has but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He springs up, and is cut down like a flower; he flees like a shadow, and never continues the same.

In the midst of life we are in death; of whom may we seek for help, but you, O Lord, who for our sins are justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Savior, deliver us not into the pains of eternal death.

You know, O Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not your ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Savior, most worthy Judge eternal; do not let us, in our final hour, through the pains of death, fall away from you.

The coffin is then laid in the ground, saying nothing.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Officiant and People

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of righteous men made perfect, after they are freed from their earthly prisons: We humbly commend the soul of our *brother N.* into your hands, as into the hands of a faithful Creator and most merciful Savior, that it may be precious in your sight. Wash it, we pray, in the blood of that immaculate Lamb who was slain to take away the sins of the world, that whatever corruption it may have contracted in the midst of this miserable and evil world might be purged and done away, and presented pure and spotless before you: through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 CORINTHIANS 13:14T*