The Burial of Ashes

**Preparation**

*The minister greets the people in these or other suitable words*

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

Though we are dust and ashes,

God has prepared for those who love him a heavenly dwelling place.

At *his/her* funeral we commended *N* into the hands of almighty God.

As we prepare to commit the remains of *N* to the earth,

we entrust ourselves and all who love God to his loving care.

*Appropriate sentences of Scripture may be used.*

The eternal God is our refuge,

and underneath are the everlasting arms.

*cf Deuteronomy 33. 27 AV*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,

kept in heaven for you.

*1 Peter 1.3,4*

Lord, you have been our refuge

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were formed,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust and say:

‘Turn back, O children of earth.’

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday,

which passes like a watch in the night.

*Psalm 90.1-4*

**Readings**

*One or more readings follows. The psalms may be used at the place of burial (see Note* [*here*](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/death-and-dying/funeral#p323)*).*

‘O that my words were written down!

O that they were inscribed in a book!

O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

and after my skin has been thus destroyed,

then in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me!’

*Job 19.23-27*

4    The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  ♦

in your hands alone is my fortune.

5    My share has fallen in a fair land;  ♦

indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

6    I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  ♦

and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

7    I have set the Lord always before me;  ♦

he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

8    Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  ♦

my flesh also shall rest secure.

9    For you will not abandon my soul to Death,  ♦

nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

10  You will show me the path of life;

in your presence is the fullness of joy  ♦

and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*Psalm 16.4-10*

1    O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  ♦

you know my sitting down and my rising up;

you discern my thoughts from afar.

2    You mark out my journeys and my resting place  ♦

and are acquainted with all my ways.

3    For there is not a word on my tongue,  ♦

but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4    You encompass me behind and before  ♦

and lay your hand upon me.

5    Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  ♦

so high that I cannot attain it.

6    Where can I go then from your spirit?  ♦

Or where can I flee from your presence?

7    If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  ♦

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8    If I take the wings of the morning  ♦

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9    Even there your hand shall lead me,  ♦

your right hand hold me fast.

10  If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will cover me  ♦

and the light around me turn to night,’

11  Even darkness is no darkness with you;

the night is as clear as the day;  ♦

darkness and light to you are both alike.

13  I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  ♦

marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

*Psalm 139.1-11,13*

Someone will ask, ‘How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?’ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, 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.

*1 Corinthians 15.35-38, 42-44a*

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*John 19.38-end*

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

*Revelation 21.22-end, 22.3b-5*

**The Committal**

*The minister says*

*either*

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N* to God’s mercy,

and we now commit *his/her* mortal remains to the ground:

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)*

God our Father,

in loving care your hand has created us,

and as the potter fashions the clay

you have formed us in your image.

Through the Holy Spirit

you have breathed into us the gift of life.

In the sharing of love you have enriched our knowledge of you and of one another.

We claim your love today,

as we return these ashes to the ground

in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

*The congregation may join with the minister in saying*

***All***   **Thanks be to God who gives us the victory**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayers**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***All***   **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

***All***   **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.**

Heavenly Father,

we thank you for all those whom we love but see no longer.

As we remember *N* in this place,

hold before us our beginning and our ending,

the dust from which we come

and the death to which we move,

with a firm hope in your eternal love and purposes for us,

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All***   **Amen.**

*Other prayers may be used, ending with*

God of hope,

grant that we, with all who have believed in you,

may be united in the full knowledge of your love

and the unclouded vision of your glory;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***All***   **Amen.**

**The Dismissal**

May the infinite and glorious Trinity,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

direct our life in good works,

and after our journey through this world

grant us eternal rest with all the saints.

***All***   **Amen.**