

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR PERSON'S NAME

Date

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORD OF GRACE

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, yet they shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Because I live, you shall live also.

GREETING

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of _____. We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss. May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“How Great Thou Art”

#77

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank you for the life of _____. We are grateful for all the ways (s)he has touched the lives of those around her. Her death brings sorrow and grief to us who love her. Hear our cries, as you experience our sorrow knowing our loss. Hold us tenderly in your compassionate arms, granting us your peace and comfort. Speak to us your Word of Hope, helping us to see beyond our grief-for you love us, and you have promised never to leave us, especially at our times of deepest need. We pray this in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

OR

Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come, and to whom our spirits return: You have been our dwelling place in all generations. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Grant us your blessing in this hour, and enable us so to put our trust in you that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth, and help us to see the light of eternity. So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OR

Eternal God, we praise you for the great company of all those who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labor. We praise you for those dear to us whom we name in our hearts before you. Especially we praise you for _____, whom you have graciously received into your presence. To all of these, grant your peace. Let perpetual light shine upon them; and help us so to believe where we have not seen, that your presence may lead us through our years, and bring us at last with them into the joy of your home not made with hands but eternal in the heavens; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OR

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank you for the life of _____ . We are grateful for all the ways (s)he has touched the lives of those around /herhim. Her/His death brings sorrow and grief to us who love her/him. Grant us your blessing in this hour, and enable us so to put our trust in you that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth, and help us to see the light of eternity. So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
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.
Thou preparest a table before me.
in the presence of mine enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS John 14:1-6, Romans 8:35,37-39, Colossians 3:12-17

SPECIAL MUSIC

MEDITATION

Rev. Nancy Cushman

SHARING OF MEMORIES

DVD of Photos

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"Amazing Grace"

#378

COMMENDATION

Eternal God, you have shared with us the life of _____. Before she was ours, she is yours. For all that _____ has given us to make us what we are, for that of her which lives and grows in each of us, and for her life that in your love will never end, we give you thanks.

As now we offer _____ back into your arms, comfort us in our loneliness, strengthen us in our weakness, and give us courage to face the future unafraid.
Draw those of us who remain in this life closer to one another, make us faithful to serve one another, and give us to know that peace and joy which is eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OR

God of us all, your love never ends. When all else fails, you still are God.
We pray to you for one another in our need, and for all, anywhere, who mourn with us this day.
To those who doubt, give light; to those who are weak, strength; to all who have sinned, mercy; to all who sorrow, your peace. Keep true in us the love with which we hold one another. In all our ways we trust you. And to you, with your church on earth and in heaven, we offer honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

O God, all that you have given us is yours. As first you gave _____ to us, so now we give her back to you.

PICK ONE

Receive her into the arms of your mercy. Raise her with all of your people. Receive us also, and raise us into a new life. Help us so to love and serve you in this world that we may enter into your joy in the world to come.

OR

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant _____. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive _____ into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints of light. Amen.

OR

Holy God, by your creative power, you gave us the gift of life, and in your redeeming love you have given us new life in Christ. We commend _____ to your merciful keeping in the faith of Christ our Lord who died and rose again to save us, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory forever. Amen.

OR

Almighty God, into your hands we commend your *daughter*, _____ in sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of love, we thank you
for all with which you have blessed us
even to this day:
for the gift of joy in days of health and strength
and for the gifts of your abiding presence and promise
in days of pain and grief.
We praise you for home and friends,
and for our baptism and place in your Church
with all who have faithfully lived and died.
Above all else we thank you for Jesus,
who knew our griefs,
who died our death and rose for our sake,
and who lives and prays for us.

And as he taught us, so now we pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 forever. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Hymn of Promise"

#707

ANNOUNCE-Reception following the service.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord. May the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit remain with you always. Amen.

POSTLUDE