

# ELW Funeral with Communion

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*The ministers may meet the coffin and the bereaved at the entrance to the church. The assembly stands and faces them.*

*The presiding minister may address the assembly using one or both of these paragraphs, or in similar words.*

Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the source of all mercy  
and the God of all consolation,  
who comforts us in all our sorrows  
so that we can comfort others in their sorrows  
with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*A thanksgiving for baptism may follow. As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall may be placed on the coffin by family members, pallbearers, or other assisting ministers. The minister or a representative of the congregation may say:*

### ***OPTION A: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus***

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we were baptized into his death.  
We were buried therefore with him  
by baptism into death,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead  
by the glory of the Father,  
we too might live a new life.  
For if we have been united with him in a death like his,  
we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

*The presiding minister may lead this acclamation.*

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth,  
who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

### **We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who  
rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

### **We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure  
confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

### **We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*A procession may form and enter, the ministers leading. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

## **GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister prays the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

## **OPTION A: O God of grace and glory**

O God of grace and glory,  
we remember before you today our *sister/brother* name.  
We thank you for giving *her/him* to us to know and to love  
as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.  
In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.  
Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up  
in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call,  
we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **READINGS**

*The assembly is seated. Two or three scripture readings are proclaimed. When the service includes communion, the last is a reading from the gospels. Responses may include a psalm in response to a reading from the Old Testament, a sung acclamation preceding the reading of the gospel, or other appropriate hymns, songs, and psalms.*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## **CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed may be spoken.*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,**

**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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

---

\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers of intercession, prepared or adapted for the occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ.

Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn,  
and a sure and certain hope in your loving care,  
that, casting all their sorrow on you,  
they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith,  
that, where this world groans in grief and pain,  
your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Help us, 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.

God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

### **MEAL**

God gives us a foretaste of the feast to come.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE**

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**aise.**

#### **PREFACE**

*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
who rose from the dead, and in whom our hope of resurrection dawns.  
The sting of death has been removed by the glorious promise of his risen life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

O God most mighty,  
O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.  
When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.  
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.  
You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.  
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **[Amen.]**  
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **[Amen.]**  
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **[Amen.]**  
O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
O God, you are wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.  
O God most majestic, O God most motherly,  
O God our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life

with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

*The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.*

### **COMMUNION**

#### **COMMUNION SONG**

*Assembly song and other music may accompany the communion.*

#### **SONG AFTER COMMUNION**

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands. The presiding minister may say a table blessing; the assembly responds*

**Amen.**

*The assembly may sing the following or another suitable song.*

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared**

**in the sight of ev'ry people:**

**a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.*

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us out in peace.

#### **COMMENDATION**

*The ministers take their places at the coffin. The presiding minister leads the commendation.*

Let us commend name to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

*The presiding minister may place her/his hand on the coffin during this prayer.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant name.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,

a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.  
Receive *her/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.**

*Here or during the procession out, a farewell may be sung: "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace," an acclamation (#222–223), or another hymn or song.*

*If the committal occurs at another time, a blessing may precede these words of sending.*

Let us go forth in peace,

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A procession may form and leave the church, the ministers leading.*

### **COMMITTAL**

*The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During or at the conclusion of the procession, words of comfort may include any of the following:*

Job 19:25 *I know that my Redeemer lives*

Psalms 23 *The Lord is my shepherd*

Psalms 42:1-7 *As a deer longs for flowing streams*

Psalms 121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills*

Colossians 3:1-4 *Your life is hidden with Christ in God*

Romans 14:8 *If we live, we live to the Lord*

Revelation 21:1-4 *I saw a new heaven and a new earth*

John 11:25-26a *I am the resurrection and the life*

*Especially at the committal of a child:*

Isaiah 40:11 *God will gather the lambs*

Hosea 11:1, 3-4 *When Israel was a child*

Revelation 7:17 *The Lamb will be their shepherd*

Matthew 19:14 *Let the little children come*

*The presiding minister greets the assembly.*

Grace and peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.

Let us pray.

Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our *sister/brother* name, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise *her/him* up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*One of the following, or other appropriate texts, may be read.*

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 *Where, O death, is your victory*

Philippians 3:20-21 *Our citizenship is in heaven*

John 12:23-26 *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth*

*Especially at the committal of a child:*

Revelation 7:15-17 *God will wipe away every tear*

Revelation 21:3b-4, 7 *I will be their God and they will be my children*  
*The coffin may be lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place.*

*Earth may be cast on the coffin as the presiding minister says:*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *sister/brother* name, and we commit *her/his* body to

*the ground / the deep / the elements / its resting place;*  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless *her/him* and keep *her/him*.

The Lord's face shine on *her/him* with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon *her/him* with favor and ☩ give *her/him* peace.

**Amen.**

*The following response may be sung, or may be spoken by the minister.*

Rest eternal grant *her/him*, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon *her/him*.

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

**Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer may be prayed.*

*The assembly is blessed and sent forth.*

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**Amen.**

Let us go in peace.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved