

PASTORAL OFFICES FOR PRIESTS

Introduction

The Church has a particular responsibility to care for those of its members who are sick, frail, in any kind of distress, or near death. This responsibility falls primarily to the priest inducted to the cure of souls in the particular congregation, but may be shared with other priests. Deacons have since earliest times shared in the care of the sick, the weak, and the marginalised. Family, friends, and neighbours have always formed a community around those in need, and the Church recognises and must support their role. Lay people have increasingly shared in the ministry traditionally exercised by deacons, and those who exercise particular responsibilities in our congregations are authorised by the bishop of the diocese to exercise their ministry in the name of the Church. This ministry is carried out alongside that of the priest who exercises the cure of souls, and of any assisting priest who may be available, and is not a substitute for the ministry of the ordained. (A separate booklet provides the form of Pastoral Offices which deacons and lay ministers are authorised to use, under the oversight of the priest inducted to the cure of souls, and in conjunction with any guidance issued by the bishop of the diocese.) This present booklet is specifically for the use of priests, and includes material reserved to bishops and presbyters.

Baptism is the sacrament of incorporation into the Church, the Body of Christ. As such it is normally administered in public worship, at the celebration of the Eucharist, and presided over by the bishop. In practice, Baptism is usually administered by a presbyter, but in the presence of the congregation gathered for the Eucharist. In cases of sickness, particularly where life is threatened, it may be necessary for Baptism to be administered privately, in the home or in a hospital. Where a priest is not available, this solemn duty may fall to a deacon or lay person, but the rector of the charge should always be consulted, or in their absence, the bishop of the diocese. When the rite provided here is used, and the person lives to attend the public worship of the congregation, they should always be formally welcomed on the first such occasion.

The Church has always offered prayers for the sick, which have traditionally been accompanied by the laying-on of hands. An ordained priest may also anoint a sick person with the oil of the sick, consecrated by the bishop for this purpose. The prayers offered by a deacon or lay person are no less valid, and may where appropriate be accompanied by the imposition of hands. Great sensitivity is needed in touching a sick or vulnerable person, even if the minister has been known to them for a long time. A hand should be laid gently upon the top the head or forehead, or the shoulder or hand, as appropriate in the circumstances. Affected body parts should not be touched, unless the person specifically requests this, and only if doing so would not cause pain or compromise medical care. When oil is used for anointing, this should be in the form of the cross on the forehead.

Care must be taken to ensure the security of the elements at all times. Consecrated elements may be carried in both kinds, if means are available for transportation of the wine without spillage. However, the use of wafer-breads which have been intincted (dipped) in consecrated wine, and allowed to dry before being enclosed in the pyx, may both be more convenient and more appropriate where alcohol may react to medication being administered to the communicant. In addition to administering Communion from the reserved sacrament, a priest may celebrate the Eucharist in the home of the sick person, and an appropriate rite is provided for this purpose.

Care for the dying is a solemn obligation of the Church, as the transition to death and resurrection is a quite fundamental fulfilment of our faith. It is right that the priest who exercises the cure of souls in the congregation attend the dying wherever possible, but deacons and lay people continue to have a role in support of the person, and of their family, at times of death. The rite provided here is reserved to priests, and includes rites for absolution of sin and anointing, as well as final Communion (*viaticum*).

Care for the dying, while in many ways intimate and personal, also extends to their loved ones, and continues after death. Resources for use with family, friends, and carers as they face their bereavement are accordingly provided.

Baptism outside Public Worship

This rite is intended for use with those who are critically ill as well as those who are evidently approaching death; it is also available for persons so chronically sick or infirm as to be unable to attend public worship for Baptism in the presence of the congregation. If used with Ministry with the Dying, it should be interpolated between the Readings and the Laying on of Hands and Anointing.

This rite is to be used for adults and children who have been preparing for Baptism, or have expressed a clear wish to be baptised. If they have ceased to be able to verbalise the responses, sponsors who know their wishes may speak on their behalf.

This rite may be used for infants and children unable to express their faith if their parents or guardians request it, and for adults similarly inhibited if their legal guardian consents to this. Sponsors should speak on their behalf.

If circumstances permit, it is appropriate that representative members of the congregation accompany the Priest or other officiant. It may be appropriate that these withdraw after the Baptism, or after the Eucharist, allowing privacy to the candidate and their family while the priest offers any further pastoral care, including the rite of Commendation.

The reading from *Romans* 6. 3–4, 8–11 (p. 67 below) should be used before the Gospel if the Eucharist is to be celebrated.

In an emergency baptism, no prayer over the water is required. In circumstances of less urgency, water from the font, if available, may be used. Alternatively, the priest may bless water for this rite, either beforehand or at the point indicated in the text. If blessed water is conveyed, a bottle with a narrow neck is the most appropriate vessel, as it would allow water to be poured in controlled quantities.

If for any reason the name of the sick person is not known, baptism may be administered without naming; or by conferring a further name, such as the saint of the day; but in recording the baptism the identity of the baptised person must be made clear.

Water should be poured or sprinkled on the candidate in a controlled manner, appropriate to the circumstances, avoiding any unnecessary discomfort to the candidate and inconvenience to those caring for them. The pouring or sprinkling of water may be by hand or (if, for example, the sick person is in an oxygen tent) from a spoon, and not necessarily on the head.

Should the condition of the candidate have deteriorated to the point that it would be neither feasible nor compassionate to use this liturgy in full, a rite for Emergency Baptism is provided below.

Baptised sick persons who recover should come or be brought at an appropriate time to an act of public worship in church, at which recognition should be given to the baptism they have received, using the form provided below (pp. 9–11).

Emergency Baptism

The priest pours water on the person to be baptised and says

(N.) I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The priest may also say

May the God of all grace and mercy bless, preserve and keep you.
Amen.

The priest continues to rites for the dying (p. xx).

Wherever possible, those baptised should receive Communion, immediately following this rite, from the reserved Sacrament (p. xx) or in a celebration of the Eucharist.

1 Introduction

The priest says

Blessed be God,
All **the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**
 by whose great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
All **through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

2 God's Call

The priest addresses the candidate, or those who are presenting the candidate.

God is love. God gives us life.
In Christ God reaches out to us.
In baptism God calls us to respond.
Do you accept this call?

Candidate I hear and accept God's call. I ask for baptism.

Sponsors We hear and accept God's call to N. We ask for baptism.

3 Turning to Christ

The priest addresses the candidate.

The Christian life means turning from evil, and turning to Christ.
Standing now with Christ, do you renounce evil?
Answer *I renounce evil.*

Seeking now to follow him, do you turn to Christ?
Answer *I turn to Christ.*

Will you follow Christ?
Answer *I will follow Christ.*

Do you surrender your life to God, that God's loving purpose may be fulfilled in you?

Answer I do.

4 Profession of Faith

The priest addresses the candidate.

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

Answer I believe.

Do you believe in God the Son, who redeemed humanity?

Answer I believe.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to God's people?

Answer I believe.

This is the faith of the Church.

Answer This is my faith.

I believe in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

5 The Baptismal Prayer

If water which has previously been blessed is to be used, the priest may raise the vessel, using the following words:

In baptism we are united with Christ in his death.
May this water be a sign of your new life in Christ.

If water is to be blessed, the priest uses the following words:

Holy God, well-spring of life,
in your love and justice,
you use the gift of water to declare your saving power.
Send upon this water and upon your child *N*.
your holy, life-giving Spirit.
Bring *him/her* who is baptised in this water
with Christ through the waters of death,
to be one with him in his resurrection.
Sustain *him/her* by your Spirit
And unite *him/her* in your love,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

6 The Baptism

The priest pours the water upon the candidate, saying:

N., I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

7 The Baptismal Anointing and Laying-on of Hands

The priest anoints the candidate upon the forehead, making the sign of the Cross with the Oil of Chrism, and saying

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever.

All Amen.

The priest lays hands on the candidate's head, saying

May the Spirit of God be in you,
wisdom and understanding keep you,
the power of God encircle you,
and God's truth lead you into freedom.

All Amen.

Welcome into the Congregation of Persons baptised outside Public Worship

Baptism is normally administered in public worship, according to Holy Baptism 2006. Provision is made for Baptism outside public worship in cases of sickness or infirmity. While this rite is complete in every way, it is nonetheless important that the congregation acknowledge and welcome those so baptised, should they subsequently gain the health and strength needed to attend public worship. This rite should take place at the beginning of the Eucharist, Service of the Word, or Morning or Evening Prayer. The normal officiant is the bishop of the diocese, or the priest inducted to the cure of souls.

The rite should be administered at the font, before the altar, or at the chancel step, but not in the porch: the person is already baptised, and is therefore not being admitted to membership of the church. If possible, the person who administered the sacrament should make the presentation, or someone who witnessed the Baptism. Account should be taken of any physical infirmity which may inhibit the person's mobility or ability to stand. If the person is an infant or otherwise unable to speak, godparents or sponsors may speak on his/her behalf.

(a) *If the priest had administered the Baptism, s/he addresses the congregation in these words:*

N. has been baptised during a time of sickness. We now give thanks for his/her recovery, and welcome him/her into the fellowship of God's people.

or

(b) *The minister who had administered the Baptism, or a witness, addresses the priest:*

I present to you N., who has been baptised in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, during a time of sickness.

The priest addresses the person presented:

N., we welcome you, and we give thanks for your recovery from sickness. I invite you to affirm before God and this congregation the promises you made when you were baptised.

Do you believe in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe.

Do you believe in God the Son, who redeemed humanity?

I believe.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to God's people?

I believe.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

N., as a disciple of Christ, will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim the good news by word and deed, serving Christ in all people?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you work for justice and peace, honouring God in all Creation?

With the help of God, I will.

This is the mission of the Church.

All This is our mission: to live and work for the kingdom of God.

If Anointing with the Oil of Chrism had not been administered at the time of Baptism, the priest anoints the baptised upon the forehead, making the sign of the Cross with the Oil of Chrism, and saying

N., you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism, and marked as Christ's own for ever.

All Amen.

The priest lays hands on the head of the baptised, saying

May the Spirit of God be in you,
wisdom and understanding keep you,
the power of God encircle you,
and God's truth lead you into freedom.

All Amen.

A candle, if possible lit from the Paschal Candle, is given to the baptised, and the priest says

N., the light of Christ scatter the darkness from your heart and mind.

**All Christ go before you to guide your steps.
Christ be within you to kindle your vision.
Christ shine from you to give joy to the world.**

N., God has received you by baptism into the Church. In the name of all God's Church,

**All We welcome you.
We will care for you.
We will share our faith with you.**

Reconciliation of a Penitent

(Sacrament of Penance, or Confession)

All priests who are eligible by reason of holding a pastoral charge in the Scottish Episcopal Church, or by permission granted by the Diocesan Bishop, shall make themselves available for the ministration of the Sacrament of Penance as may be convenient, and no priest may refuse to hear a confession unless able to direct the penitent to some other competent priest.

A priest may not divulge anything that has been revealed in Confession, nor refer subsequently to such matter without leave of the penitent. The seal is absolute and is not abrogated on the death of the penitent (Canon 29. 2).

1 Introduction

The priest greets the penitent.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Penitent: Amen.

The priest and penitent together say one of the following prayers.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me.

(from Psalm 51)

The priest says

May God, who has enlightened every heart, help you to know your sins and trust in his mercy.

Penitent: Amen.

2 The Word of God

The priest may read a text of Scripture which proclaims God's mercy, call to repentance, and forgiveness.

e.g. 1 John 1. 6–9

[If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.] If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Other readings are provided in the Appendix below, pp. 17–19.

3 The Confession of Sins

The priest says,

The Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins.

The penitent confesses using one of the following forms.

God our Father, I confess to you and to my fellow members in the Body of Christ that I have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what I have failed to do; especially ... *Here the penitent confesses in their own words, and concludes by saying,*

I am truly sorry. Forgive me my sins, and deliver me from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone; especially ... *Here the penitent confesses in their own words, and concludes by saying,* For these and all other sins which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry. I pray God to have mercy on me. I firmly intend amendment of life, and I humbly beg forgiveness of God and his Church, and of you, counsel, direction, and absolution.

The priest may give comfort, counsel and direction.

4 The Absolution

The priest may then say one of the following prayers for forgiveness.

God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Penitent: Amen.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Penitent: Amen.**

The priest then uses one of the following forms to declare absolution.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you all your offences; and by his authority committed to me, I absolve you from all your sins: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Penitent: Amen.

God, the Father of mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church God gives you pardon and peace; I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Penitent: Amen.

5 Comfortable Words

One or more of the ‘Comfortable Words’ may be used.

Hear the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11. 28

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3. 16

Hear what Saint Paul says:

This saying is true, and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1. 15

Hear what Saint John says:

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation for our sins.

1 John 2. 1, 2

6 Conclusion

Both the priest and penitent together say the Lord's Prayer. The priest and penitent together may say the 'General Thanksgiving'.

The Lord's Prayer

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. Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

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 General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we give you humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Priest then says

The Lord has put away all your sins.

Penitent: Thanks be to God.

The Priest concludes

Go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.

Appendix: Alternative readings for use at section 2

1. *Isaiah* 53. 4–6

It was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all.

2. *Ezekiel* 11. 19–20

I will give them a new heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the stony heart from their bodies, and replace it with a natural heart, so that they will live according to my statutes, and observe and carry out my ordinances; they shall be my people and I will be their God.

3. *Matthew* 6. 14–15

If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.

4. *Mark* 1. 14–15

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

5. *Luke* 6. 31–38

Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit (is) that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the

wicked. Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. “Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

6. Luke 15. 1–7

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them he addressed this parable. “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbours and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”

7. Romans 5. 8–9

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

8. Ephesians 5. 1–2

So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

9. Colossians 1. 12–14

Give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

10. Colossians 3. 8–10, 12–17

But now you must put them all away: anger, fury, malice, slander, and obscene language out of your mouths. Stop lying to one another, since you have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed, for knowledge, in the image of its creator. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Holy Communion

*from the Reserved Sacrament
outside Public Worship*

Laying-on of Hands and Anointing of the Sick

Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament outside Public Worship

These forms are intended for the administration of Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound.

Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness may be omitted when the service has been preceded by the rite for the Reconciliation of a Penitent.

Seasonal or Sunday provision may be used in place of that provided here. At Christmas, Easter and Pentecost some at least of the seasonal provision for the Festival should be used.

Holy Communion should normally be received in both kinds separately, but where necessary may be received in one kind, whether of bread or, where the communicant cannot receive solid food, wine. Alternatively, the use of wafer-breads which have been intincted (dipped) in consecrated wine, and allowed to dry before being enclosed in the pyx, may both be more convenient and more appropriate where alcohol may react to medication being administered to the communicant.

The baptised who cannot physically receive the sacrament are to be assured that they are partakers by faith of the body and blood of Christ and of the benefits he conveys to us by them with the use of the prayer provided.

These forms may be used in residential homes where pastorally appropriate.

Laying-on of Hands and Anointing of the Sick

Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders [*presbyterous*] of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. (*James 5. 14–15*).

The Church has always offered prayers for the sick, which have traditionally been accompanied by the laying-on of hands. An ordained priest may also anoint a sick person with the oil of the sick, consecrated by the bishop for this purpose. Great sensitivity is needed in touching a sick or vulnerable person, even if the minister has been known to them for a long time. A hand should be laid gently upon the top the head or forehead, or the shoulder or hand, as appropriate in the circumstances. Affected body parts should not be touched, unless the person specifically requests this, and only if doing so would not cause pain or compromise medical care.

The anointing of the sick is administered to bestow a special grace on the Christian experiencing the difficulties of grave illness or old age. Each time a Christian falls seriously ill, they may receive the anointing of the sick, and also when, after they have received it, the illness worsens. It is appropriate to receive anointing before a serious operation.

Only priests (presbyters and bishops) perform the anointing of the sick, since it is both a blessing and also imparts the forgiveness of sins. The essential elements of the anointing of the sick are composed of the anointing of the forehead of the sick person, in the form of a cross, the anointing being accompanied by the liturgical prayer asking for the special grace of this sacramental act. It is most appropriate that the priest dip a thumb in the oil stock, and make the sign of the cross therewith, rather than pouring the oil.

Shorter form

Sections marked † may be omitted.

1 Greeting

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

or

Peace be to this place and to all who dwell here. **Amen.**

2 Penitence and Forgiveness

If Laying-on of Hands and Anointing are to be administered, Penitence and Forgiveness takes place at section 5.

If any communicant wishes to make a confession of particular sins, the order for Reconciliation of a Penitent, sections 1 to 4, should be used in private after the Greeting.

If communicants other than the penitent(s) are present, the service then continues with the following general form of Penitence and Forgiveness for all present. Otherwise move to Section 3.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

**Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

The priest says

God, who is both power and love,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If it seems desirable, the priest may sprinkle those present with blessed water, using these or other appropriate words.

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ, who by his death and resurrection has redeemed us.

3 Gospel Reading or Sentence

A reading or appropriate sentence from the Gospels is used, or

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11. 28

4 Intercessions †

Any intercessions should include prayer for those who celebrate the Eucharist at the church where the elements were consecrated, in these or similar words:

For those who celebrate the Eucharist at ... (*here naming the church where the elements were consecrated*), with whom we now share in communion through this consecrated bread and wine.

5 Penitence and Forgiveness with Laying on of Hands and Anointing†

If the sick person wishes to make a confession of particular sins, the rite for Reconciliation of a Penitent, sections 1 to 4, should be used in private after the Greeting.

If communicants other than the sick person are present, the service then continues with the following general form of Penitence and Forgiveness for all present. Otherwise move to section 5 B.

A Prayers of Penitence and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.**

We are truly sorry.

**Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

The priest says

God, who is both power and love,
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

B Laying-on of Hands and Anointing

At the Laying-on of Hands:

N., I lay my hands upon you
in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
asking him to uphold you and fill you with his grace,
that you may know the healing power of his love. **Amen.**

At the Anointing:

N., I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil,
so may our heavenly Father grant you
the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit;
of his great mercy, may God forgive you your sins,
release you from suffering,
and restore you to wholeness and strength;
may he deliver you from all evil,
preserve you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

6 Lord's Prayer

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. Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

7 Communion Song †

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

8 The Communion

At the giving of the bread:
The Body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**

At the giving of the cup:
The Blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

At the giving of both kinds together (when the bread is intincted in the wine), and at times when Communion is being administered in one kind only:

The Body and Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

If a communicant is unable to eat and drink, the minister may pray, using these or similar words.

God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour, who feeds us and gives us eternal life. Though *N.* cannot consume these gifts of bread and wine, we thank you that *s/he has* received the sacrament of Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Saviour, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

9 Prayer

This or another appropriate prayer may be said.

Loving God, your steadfast purpose is the completion of all things in your Son: may we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

10 The Blessing

The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Celebration of the Eucharist outside Public Worship

If it is desirable for the Eucharist to be celebrated with those who are unable to come to church, Scottish Liturgy 1982 (with Propers and Revised Common Lectionary) may be used, with the Eucharistic Prayer at a Celebration in the Presence of the Sick

Appendix: Gospel passages

1. *Matthew 9:2–8 (Penitence)*

Some people were carrying a paralysed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming.’ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Stand up and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he then said to the paralytic—‘Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.’ And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

2. *Matthew 11:25, 27–30 (Comfort)*

At that time Jesus said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

3. *Mark 6:7,12–13 (Anointing)*

Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

4. Luke 8:43–48 (Healing)

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her haemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, ‘Who touched me?’ When all denied it, Peter said, ‘Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you.’ But Jesus said, ‘Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me.’ When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.’

5. John 6:35–40 ('I am the bread of life')

Jesus said to the crowd, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

A Theological Introduction to Ministry with the Dying

Christian Ministry to the Dying is a natural continuation of ministry to all care for God's people. Since the increasingly medicalised concept of dying from the nineteenth century, death has been regarded as a defeat, the final loss in the battle for life which is sustained with some degree of quality of life until the bitter end. Little remains of what the deeply interrelated tasks of holy living and holy dying, and we have largely chosen to forget that dying might be considered an art to be learned throughout life. Nor, on a careful reading of scripture, is death to be perceived as a defeat; indeed a Christian death might even be considered the culmination of earthly life, and transition to a greater life in God's eternal presence.

Thus ministry to the dying takes place throughout all pastoral care, and is exercised in the life of prayer, confession and devotion. In confession and absolution we die to the pride of the old self, in love we die to fear, and in generosity we die to possessiveness. In the Christian life such deaths begin in baptism, when we die and rise again with Christ – so that our physical death is mirrored in our baptism and is thus the very opposite of defeat

Care for the dying and preparation for death will normally have two points of focus, and they are deeply interrelated. There is the care for the dying person and the preparation of that person for the journey from one world into the next. There is also the care for those who watch and experience a sense of loss, often felt with a deadly and agonizing kind of desperate hope against hope that the death may be averted. Mourning frequently does not begin after the actual death, but starts long before, for example, in the case of dementia where normal human recognition and contact has long been lost. The "loss" of the loved one might long precede actual death.

In *The Rule and Practice of Holy Dying*, a work of profound pastoral insight and spiritual wisdom, Bishop Jeremy Taylor writes at length of the need for "an exercise against despair in the day of our death." Very often the fear surrounding an impending death relates not so much to the terror of the unknown as to the workings of a conscience seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with God. Ministry to the dying should therefore be exercised in profound and loving honesty – which can be very hard. It is better to be frank when death is close (and the dying person

frequently knows when this is better than anyone) and to allow space and make invitation for confession, using the structures of liturgical provision for absolution. Structuring – at what can be a very confused, messy, and emotionally charged time – is important and reassuring, and listening is often the most important component, even more than anything actually said.

In dying, each case is different and there can be no set pattern in the end, which is not to say that there should be no structure to the process. At the hour of death the concern is with healing of pain – physical, emotional, social, and spiritual – rather than cure (the pursuit of which may be a fruitless and even destructive distraction), and healing is possible even in death, consonant with the Christian hope of transformation at the moment of the journey from this world into the next.

The role of silence, as in all worship, may be crucial. Simply to be present, patiently, may be the most important role of the minister, and to give time after the event of a death for the family and friends to absorb the new situation. Mourning often begins long before a bereavement and may continue long afterwards, but to allow it a proper course is a crucial element in healing.

To conclude with the closing words of Bishop Taylor in his work on *Holy Dying*, that no judgments be made:

Let us lay our hands upon our mouth, and adore the mysteries of the Divine wisdom and providence, and pray to God to give the dying man rest and pardon, and to ourselves grace to live well, and the blessing of a holy and happy death.

Some suggested reading

Christian Funerals. Scottish Episcopal Institute Journal 6.3 (2022)

Douglas Davies, *The Theology of Death* (London: T & T Clark, 2008)

Id., *Mors Britannica* (Oxford: OUP, 2015)

Id., *Death, Ritual and Belief* (London: Bloomsbury, 2017)

Doctrine Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church, *The Art of Dying Well*, Grosvenor Essay.No. 9 (Edinburgh 2013)

Philippe Ariès, *The Hour of Death. The Classic History of Western Attitudes toward Death over the Last One Thousand Years* (New York 1981)

Geoffrey Rowell, *The Liturgy of Christian Burial* (London 1977)

The rite may be shortened or extended as seems appropriate, and the prayers adapted as needed. The different sections may happen at different times, according to pastoral need.

If the person nearing death is not yet baptised, Baptism should be administered after the Greeting.

1 Greeting

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

or

Peace be to this place and to all who dwell here. **Amen.**

2 Collect

Let us pray.

Gracious God, lover of souls, we give you thanks for the life of *N.*, for what you have accomplished in this world through *her/him*, and the ways in which *she/he* has enriched our lives; we hold *N.* before you now, lying in great weakness, that *she/he* may be comforted by your promise of everlasting life, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

or

God of mercy, [we give you thanks for the life of *N.*, for what you have accomplished in this world through *her/him*, and the ways in which *she/he* has enriched our lives;] look kindly on *N.* as death comes near; release *him/her*, and set *him/her* free by your grace to enter into the company of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

or for a child

(a) Heavenly Father, whose face the angels of the little ones always behold in heaven: look upon your child *N.*, lying in great weakness, and welcome *him/her* into the safekeeping of

(b) Lord Jesus Christ, who took little children into your arms and blessed them: look upon your child *N.*, enfold *him/her* in your loving arms, and bestow upon *him/her* the blessings of your gracious favour; for you live and

your eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Suitable for use when the child has been recently baptised

We give you heartfelt thanks, most merciful Father, that you have been pleased to give your child *N.* new birth with your Holy Spirit, to receive *him/her* for your own by adoption, and to incorporate *him/her* into your holy Church: grant that, as *s/he* is made partaker of the death of your Son, *s/he* may also be partaker of his resurrection; so that finally, *s/he* may be an inheritor of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3 Psalm

One of the following psalms may be appropriate. See Appendix I, pp. 58–62, for full texts.

Psalm 23

Psalm 61. 1–5

Psalm 121

Psalm 130

Psalm 139. 1–17

One or more of the following verses of scripture may also be used here.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? *Rom 8. 35*

Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. *Rom 14.8*

Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. *Rom 14. 9*

We will be with the Lord for ever. *1 Thess 4. 17*

We will see God as he is. *1 Jn 3. 2*

Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. *Mt 25. 34*

The Lord Jesus says, ‘Today you will be with me in Paradise.’ *Lk 23. 43*

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day. *Jn 6. 40*

In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. *Jn 14. 2*

I go and prepare a place for you. And I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. *Jn 14. 3*

'I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory,' says the Lord Jesus. *Jn 17. 24*

4 Prayers

A litany may be used, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

God the Father:

have mercy upon us.

God the Son:

have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit:

have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity:

have mercy upon us.

By your holy incarnation, by your cross and passion,

by your precious death and burial:

have mercy upon us.

By your glorious resurrection and ascension,

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit:

have mercy upon us.

Graciously hear us, Lord Jesus Christ,

that it may please you to deliver your servant *N.* from all evil

and from eternal death:

hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you mercifully to pardon all *N.* 's sins:

hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to give *N.* peace, rest and gladness,

raising *him/her* to new life in your kingdom:

hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to bring us, with *N.* and all your saints,

to a joyful resurrection:

hear us, good Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
grant us peace.

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. Do not bring us to the time of trial but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, O God, to trust your love, to seek your purpose, and to praise your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Other Prayers may be used.

For the dying

(a) Blessed Jesus, in your last agony you commanded your spirit to your Father. We seek your mercy for *N.*, and all who are dying. May death become for them, as it was for you, a birth to ever-lasting life. Receive those whom we commend to you with the blessed assurance that whether we wake or sleep, we remain with you, one God, for ever. **Amen.**

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

For one who is unconscious

Merciful God, in your love and wisdom you know the needs and fears of your people before we can name them. Grant that *N.* and we who watch with *her/him* may be enabled to surrender all *her/his* cares to you, as you care for *her/him*. Give *her/him* peace of mind and unshakable trust in you; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

For protection

Christ, light of light, brightness indescribable, the Wisdom, power and glory of God, the Word made flesh: you overcame the forces of Satan, redeemed the world, then ascended again to the Father. Grant *N.*, we pray, in this tarnished world, the shining of your splendour. Send your Archangel Michael to defend *her/him*, to guard *her/his* going out and coming in, and to bring *her/him* safely to your presence, where you reign in the one holy and undivided Trinity, to ages of ages. **Amen.**

For those who fear losing hope

God of Love, inspire by your Holy Spirit those who are afraid of losing hope, especially *N.* for whom we now pray: give *her/him* a fresh vision of your love, that *s/he* may find again what *s/he* fears *s/he* has lost; and grant *her/him* your powerful deliverance; through the One who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

For release

Blessed Jesus, Living Water, Solid Rock: uphold your child *N.*; loose the fetters of sickness, break *her/his* yoke of pain, and from this land of affliction, lead *her/him* home. **Amen.**

When treatment is to be discontinued

(a) Holy God, whose peace passes all understanding: we pray that in your good time you will free *N.* from all earthly cares, pardon *his/her* sins, release *him/her* from pain, and grant that *s/he* may come to dwell with all your saints in everlasting glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(b) O God our Creator and Sustainer, receive our prayers for *N.* We thank you for the love and companionship we have shared with *him/her*. Give us grace now to accept the limits of human healing as we commend

him/her to your merciful care. Strengthen us, we pray, in this time of trial and help us to continue to serve and care for one another; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

In a time of difficult decision

- (a) Lord of all wisdom and source of all life, we come before you as we struggle with decisions about life and death that rightly belong to you alone. We confess that we act with uncertainty now. Give us your help, and guide us, merciful God, in your loving concern for *N.* who lies in grave illness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**
- (b) God our Wisdom: bless the decisions we have made in hope, in sorrow, and in love; that as we place our whole trust in you, our choices and our actions may be encompassed by your perfecting will; through Jesus Christ who died and rose for us. **Amen.**

Prayers by a Dying Person

Opportunity for the dying person to make their confession should be given here. The forms provided in the order for Reconciliation of a Penitent, above, should be used as appropriate.

For Serenity

- (a) Merciful Jesus, you are my guide, the joy of my heart, the author of my hope, and the object of my love. I come seeking refreshment and peace. Show me your mercy, relieve my fears and anxieties, and grant me a quiet mind and an expectant heart, that by the assurance of your presence I may learn to abide in you, who is my Lord and my God. **Amen.**

- (b) Jesus, let your mighty calmness lift me above my fears and frustrations. By your deep patience, give me tranquillity and stillness of soul in you. Make me in this, and in all, more and more like you. **Amen.**

A Prayer of Comfort in God

God, you are my help and comfort; you shelter and surround me in love so tender that I may know your presence with me, now and always. **Amen.**

In desolation

O God, why have you abandoned me? Though you have hidden your face from me, still from this dread and empty place, I cry to you, who have promised me that underneath are your everlasting arms. Amen.

After diagnosis of terminal illness

O God, only you number my days. Help me to look bravely at the end of my life in this world, while trusting in my life in the next. Journey with me toward my unexplored horizon where Jesus my Saviour has gone before. **Amen.**

In pain

As Jesus cried out on the cross, I cry out to you in pain, O God my Creator. Do not forsake me. Grant me relief from this suffering and preserve me in peace; through Jesus Christ my Saviour, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The priest may help the person to make an act of faith or commitment, such as

Holy God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I trust you, I believe in you, I love you.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Lord, I believe: help my unbelief.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

5 Reading(s)

One or more of the following passages of scripture may be read. See Appendix II, pp. xx-xx, for full texts.

From the Old Testament

Isaiah 49:14-16a (I will not forget you)

Isaiah 65:17-20 (I am about to create new heavens and a new earth)

Psalms 23; 103

From the New Testament

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11 (death no longer has dominion)

Romans 8:35, 38-39 (Who will separate us from the love of Christ?)

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (I will tell you a mystery!)

From the Gospels

John 14:1-3 (In my father's house)

6 Laying on of Hands and Anointing

Laying on of hands and anointing may be given, using these or similar words.

At the Laying on of Hands:

N., I lay my hands upon you
in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
asking him to uphold you and fill you with his grace,
that you may know the healing power of his love. **Amen.**

At the Anointing:

N., I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As you are outwardly anointed with this holy oil,
so may our heavenly Father grant you
the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit;
of his great mercy, may God forgive you your sins,
release you from suffering,
and restore you to wholeness and strength;
may he deliver you from all evil,
preserve you in all goodness,
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If Holy Communion does not follow, the Lord's Prayer should be said after the anointing.

7 Holy Communion

Communion from the reserved Sacrament may be given.

See the shorter form of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament outside Public Worship above.

The order should begin at the Lord's Prayer.

8 Post-communion

One of the post-communion prayers may be said, or the following

Gracious Father, we give you thanks and praise for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

9 Commendation at the Time of Death

The priest may introduce the commendation in these or similar words

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

(a) *N.*, our companion in faith and *brother/sister* in Christ, we entrust you to God. Go forth from this world: in the love of God who created you; in the mercy of Jesus Christ who died for you; in the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you, at one with all the faithful, living and departed. May you rest in peace and rise in the glory of your eternal home, where grief and misery are banished, and light and joy abide. **Amen.**

(b) *N.*, go forth upon your journey from this world, in the name of God the Father almighty who created you; in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered death for you; in the name of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you; in communion with the blessed saints, and aided by angels and archangels, and all the armies of the heavenly host. May your portion this day be in peace, and your dwelling the heavenly Jerusalem. **Amen.**

Then

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God, hear our prayers as we entrust to you *N.*, as you summon *him/her* out of this world. Forgive *his/her* sins and failings and grant *him/her* a haven of light, and peace. Let *him/her* pass unharmed through the gates of death to dwell with the blessed in light, as you promised to Abraham and his children for ever. Accept *N.* into your safe keeping and on the great day of judgement raise *him/her* up with all the saints to inherit your eternal kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Common Worship)

After death has occurred, one of the following prayers may be said.

(a) Merciful Saviour, we commend to you our *brother/sister N.*: acknowledge, we pray, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming; receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

(American BCP)

(b) Heavenly Father, into whose hands Jesus Christ commanded his spirit at the last hour: into those same hands we now commend your servant *N.*, that death may be for *him/her* the gate to life and to eternal fellowship with you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Common Worship)

Grant *her/him* eternal rest, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon *her/him*.
May *N.* rest in peace.
And rise in glory. Amen.

and/or Nunc Dimitis (Luke 2. 29–32) may be used.

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

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation: which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations: and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be for ever. Amen.

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

2 For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;

3 Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.

4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

10 Additional Prayers

For those who mourn

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus wept at the death of Lazarus: look with compassion on all who are bound by sorrow and pain through the death of *N.* Comfort them, grant them the conviction that all things work together for good to those who love you, and help them to find sure trust and confidence in your resurrection power; through Jesus Christ our deliverer. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving for the life of the departed

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that we are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of your child *N.*, for the love *he/she* received from you and showed among us. Above all, we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ. And we ask that in due time we may share with our *brother/sister* that clearer vision, when we shall see your face in the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Common Worship)

For healing and protection

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

11 Blessing

One of the following blessings may be used.

May the eternal God bless and keep us, guard our bodies, save our souls and bring us safe to the heavenly country, our eternal home, where Father, Son and holy Spirit ever reign, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

God grant you to share in the inheritance of his saints in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Appendix I: Psalms for use at Section 3

Psalm 23

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 The Lord is my shepherd;* I
shall not be in want. | 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. | He shall feed me in a green pasture
* and lead me forth beside the
waters of comfort. |
| 3 He revives my soul* and
guides me along right
pathways for his name's sake. | He shall convert my soul * and
bring me forth in the paths of
righteousness, for his Name's sake. |
| 4 Though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;* for you
are with me; your rod and
your staff, they comfort me. | 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 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 is running over. | Thou shalt prepare a table before
me against them that trouble me *
thou hast anointed my head with
oil, and my cup shall be full. |
| 6 Surely your goodness and
mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life,* and I will
dwell in the house of the Lord
for ever. | But thy loving-kindness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my
life* and I will dwell in the house of
the Lord for ever. |
| <p>Glory to the Father, and to the
Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*
As it was in the beginning is
now* and shall be for ever.
Amen.</p> | Glory be to the Father, and to the
Son * and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be * world without
end. Amen. |

Psalm 61. 1–5

- 1 Hear my cry, O God,* and listen to my prayer.
- 2 I call upon you from the ends of the earth with heaviness in my heart;* set me upon the rock that is higher than I.
- 3 For you have been my refuge,* a strong tower against the enemy.
- 4 I will dwell in your house for ever;* I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.
- 5 For you, O God, have heard my vows;* you have granted me the heritage of those who fear your name.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;* as it was in the beginning is now* and shall be for ever.
Amen.

Hear my crying, O God * give ear unto my prayer.
From the ends of the earth will I call upon thee * when my heart is in heaviness.
O set me up upon the rock that is higher than I * for thou hast been my hope, and a strong tower for me against the enemy.
I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever * and my trust shall be under the covering of thy wings.
For thou, O Lord, hast heard my desires * and hast given an heritage unto those that fear thy Name.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son * and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be * world without end. Amen.

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;* from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,* the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved* and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills * from whence cometh my help.
My help cometh even from the Lord * who hath made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved * and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel* shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you;* the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,* nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;* it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,* from this time forth for evermore.
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;* as it was in the beginning is now* and shall be for ever.
Amen.
- Behold, he that keepeth Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- The Lord himself is thy keeper * the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
- So that the sun shall not burn thee by day * neither the moon by night.
- The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil * yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.
- The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in * from this time forth for evermore.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son * and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be * world without end. Amen.

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;* let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If thou, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,* O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you;* therefore you shall be feared.
- Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord * Lord, hear my voice. O let thine ears consider well * the voice of my complaint.
- If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss * O Lord, who may abide it?
- For there is mercy with thee * therefore shalt thou be feared.

4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;* in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning,* more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the Lord,* for with the Lord there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption,* and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him * in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord * before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy * and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel * from all his sins.

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

Psalm 139. 1–17

1 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 trace my journeys and my resting-places* and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,* but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

O Lord, thou hast searched me out, and known me * thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising; thou understandest my thoughts long before.

Thou art about my path, and about my bed * and spiest out all my ways.

For lo, there is not a word in my tongue * but thou, O Lord, knowest it altogether.

- 4 You press upon me behind and before* and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;* it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit?* 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 will lead me* and 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 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;* darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;* you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvellously made;* your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- Thou hast fashioned me behind and before * and laid thine hand upon me.
- Such knowledge is too wonderful and excellent for me * I cannot attain unto it.
- Whither shall I go then from thy Spirit * or whither shall I go then from thy presence?
- If I climb up into heaven, thou art there * if I go down to hell, thou art there also.
- If I take the wings of the morning * and remain in the uttermost parts of the sea;
- Even there also shall thy hand lead me * and thy right hand shall hold me.
- If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me * then shall my night be turned to day.
- Yea, the darkness is no darkness with thee, but the night is as clear as the day * the darkness and light to thee are both alike.
- For my reins are thine * thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
- I will give thanks unto thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made * marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well.

- 14 My body was not hidden from you,* while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;* they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!* how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;* to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

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

My bones are not hid from thee
* though I be made secretly, and
fashioned beneath in the earth.

Thine eyes did see my substance,
yet being imperfect * and in thy
book were all my members
written;
Which day by day were
fashioned * when as yet there
was none of them.

How dear are thy counsels unto
me, O God * O how great is the
sum of them!

If I tell them, they are more in
number than the sand * when I
wake up I am present with thee.

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

Appendix II: Readings for use at Section 5

From the Old Testament

Isaiah 49. 14–16a (I will not forget you)

But Zion said, ‘The Lord has forsaken me,
my Lord has forgotten me.’
Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these may forget,
yet I will not forget you.
See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

Isaiah 65. 17–20 (I am about to create new heavens and a new earth)

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

Psalm 103

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,*
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins*
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave*
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things,*
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's .
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness*
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses*
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,*
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,*
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,*
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,*
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,*
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;*
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass;*
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone,*
and its place shall know it no more.

- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever
on those who fear him,*
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant*
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven,*
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,*
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,*
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;*
bless the Lord, O my soul.

From the New Testament

Romans 6. 3–4, 8–11 (Death no longer has dominion)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8. 35, 38–39 (Who will separate us from the love of Christ?)

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15. 51–58 (I will tell you a mystery!)

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’

‘Where, O death, is your victory?’

‘Where, O death, is your sting?’

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

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

From the Gospels

John 14. 1–3 (In my father’s house)

Jesus said, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.’

Prayers with the Relatives

at the time of bereavement

Sentence

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, we are the Lord's.
For to this end Christ died and lived again,
that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. (Romans 14.8f)

Psalm (from Psalm 103)

As a father cares for his children,*
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;*
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are like the grass;*
we flourishes like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,*
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord
endures for ever on those who fear him,*
and his righteousness on children's children.

Reading

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8.3 8f)

Prayer

Lord of life and death
you are with us in the daylight and the dark.
As this our brother/sister goes from us,
may your love be with him/her in the shadows
and lead him/her to your presence
where the life that began with you
is sustained for ever
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Most loving Father
the death of your Son has opened for us
a new and living way.
Give us hope to overcome our fear;
help us to surrender *N.* into your keeping
and let our sorrow find comfort in your care,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer at the death of a child

God our Creator,
you called into being this fragile life,
which to us had seemed so full of promise:
Give to *N.*, whom we commit to your care,
fulness of life in your presence,
and to us, who grieve over hopes unfulfilled,
courage to bear our loss;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer at the closing of the coffin

Father,
your servant's eyes have closed
in the final sleep of death,
eyes that laughed, eyes that shed tears.
Let them wake to the full vision of your glory,
and our brother/sister see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer on leaving the house

Father,
your servant has begun his/her journey
to the place which you have made ready for him/her.
Hallow all the memories we have of him/her
in this house which no longer is his/her home,
and be yourself close to us in our grief;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen