

# **Funeral**

## **Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark**

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### **The Funeral Service**

Two orders of service will be given: a longer and a shorter version. Both may be used for cremations and burials. The orders are guidelines, but the committal is always conducted according to the authorized ritual. Hymns are sung. At ground burials the committal at the grave in the cemetery concludes the ceremony. Following local custom or when necessity dictates committal at the grave may take place prior to the service conducted in church. At cremations committal takes place in church or chapel.

Burials at sea are conducted according to the orders of service given below with the necessary adjustments.

The orders of service given here may also be used for the burial of children and stillborn babies.

### **I LONGER VERSION**

Guideline

#### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

HYMN

#### **GREETING**

Pastor:

Grace be with you  
and peace from God our Father,  
and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Or

Pastor:

The Lord be with you!  
And with your spirit! or: And also with you!

#### **INTRODUCTORY COLLECT**

Pastor:

Let us pray.

The pastor says one of these prayers:

Almighty, eternal God,  
Father of mercy and God of all consolation,  
hear us  
when we call out to You in our sorrow and loss,  
send us comfort and strength in our time of need  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Or

Almighty, eternal God, heavenly Father,  
we thank You  
that You so loved the world  
that You gave Your one and only Son,  
so that whoever believes in Him  
shall not perish but have eternal life.  
We beseech You  
to comfort and strengthen us in our grief  
and preserve our living faith in Your only-begotten Son  
that we may one day return to You  
in the company of all those You have redeemed  
and praise and glorify You in all eternity  
through Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Or

Merciful Father,  
We thank You for the gift of life  
with its joys and sorrows  
we thank You for knowing that  
for those who love You  
all things may be a blessing.  
Keep us steady in our grief,  
remind us  
that through the death and resurrection of Your Son  
You bore our suffering  
and gave us new birth into a living hope.  
Let us never forget  
that through baptism we were reborn as Your children  
to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life.  
In this faith  
we give You thanks  
for all the precious gifts  
You gave us through the life of (deceased's name)  
who has now passed away  
and we entrust his/her body and soul  
into Your keeping  
and pray that You will keep him/her safe  
until his/her joyful resurrection on the Last Day.  
Send us Your help as we mourn our loss,  
and strengthen us as we hope for Your coming kingdom  
when You gather up all things  
and we may praise and glorify You as Your children for all eternity.  
Amen.

Or

Our Creator and Father in heaven,  
You see our sorrows,  
this we know from Your beloved Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who came to share life and death with us  
that we may share eternal life with Him.  
Send us Your Holy Spirit.  
Pour out Your love,  
share our grief,  
give us new life  
that we may gain courage  
and believe Your Son's word  
and cast off all fear  
and live happily together here  
until You gather us in the eternal fullness of Your joy and light.  
You who with the Son and in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
live and reign,  
one true God, forever and ever. Amen.

All may respond with Amen after the concluding collect. When this is the case, the collects may end with the usual words of praise.

### **READING(S)**

The pastor continues with one (or two) of the readings given below from the Old Testament and/or the New Testament.

Old Testament readings:

Psalm 23: 1-4/ Psalm 39: 5-8/Psalm 42: 2-6/Psalm 68: 20-21

Psalm 90:1-12/Psalm 102: 2-3,12, 24-28/Psalm 103:1-6

Psalm 103: 13-17a/Psalm 130:1b-6/Psalm 139:1-12

Isaiah 53:8-11 / Isaiah 55:8-11

New Testament Readings:

Matthew 28:1-10/ Mark 16:1-8

Luke 7:11-16/ Luke 12:36-37/Luke 24: 1-6

John 3:16/John 5:24-25/John 11:25-26a/John 14:1-6

Romans 6:3-5/Romans 8:31b-32/Romans 8:38-39/Romans 14:7-9

1 Corinthians 15:20-22/ 1 Corinthians 15:54-57/ 2 Corinthians 5:1-8/ Philippians 2:5-11

Hebrews 3:7-8/Hebrews 9:27-28/Revelation 21:3-5a

Other readings may be more suitable for a particular occasion, for instance at the funeral of a child:  
Psalm 139:1-12 or Jeremiah 29:12-14a and Mark 10:13-16.

### **THE CREED**

After the reading the Creed may be said or it may be said in connection with the sermon.

We renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways.

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

We 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

### **HYMN**

May be omitted or replaced by a hymn between two readings.

### **SERMON**

If there is more than one biblical reading, the second reading may be read as an introduction to the sermon.

### **HYMN**

### **COMMITTAL (in church or chapel)**

When committal takes place within the church or chapel, it is done after the hymn following the sermon. If this is the case, the closing collect is omitted and the service is concluded with a hymn and an organ postlude.

Committal is always conducted according to the authorized ritual.

### **CLOSING COLLECT**

Pastor:

Let us pray.

The pastor says one of the following prayers:

Lord, God, Heavenly Father

We thank You with all our heart

that You let us live in these blessed times

when we may hear Your holy word,

know your divine and fatherly will

and behold Your Son, Jesus Christ.

We beseech You

in Your abundant mercy

to hold steady the blissful light of Your word in our midst

and to let our heart be guided and led by Your Holy Spirit

that we may never go astray

but rather leave everything else

and always adhere to Your word

and in it finally attain bliss

through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one true God forever and ever. Amen.

Or

Our God and Father in heaven,

we thank You for having received our Lord Jesus Christ into Your kingdom

when He had given his life

to save the world.  
We beseech You  
to also receive us  
who have been baptized  
into His death.  
Let us not go astray in fear and anger  
on this day of sorrow,  
let us live like the Lord,  
hopeful in his faith  
until You grant us eternal bliss  
through Your crucified and risen Son  
Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one true God forever and ever. Amen.

Or

Loving and righteous God,  
helper of the helpless  
saviour of the lost  
judge of the joyful  
we beseech You:  
Send us Your Holy Spirit  
to keep our hope alive  
that we may not despair in these times of adversity  
strengthen our faith  
that we may not stray from You,  
keep our love radiant  
that we may not stray from each other in our grief  
but live as well as we are able  
until You gather us unto You  
under a new heaven and on a new earth,  
made new through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

All may respond with Amen after the concluding collect.

### **THE BENEDICTION**

Pastor :

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

All sing:

Amen, amen, amen

### **HYMN**

### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

### **COMMITTAL (in the cemetery)**

Committal is always conducted according to the authorized ritual

The ceremony ends with a short hymn.

## **II Shorter version**

Guideline

### **HYMN**

### **GREETING**

Pastor:

Grace be with you  
and peace from God our Father,  
and our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **READING**

The pastor continues with one of the readings listed in the longer version. The readings may be omitted, if the Creed is said.

### **THE CREED**

After the reading the Creed may be said or it may replace the reading.

We renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways.

We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

We 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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and he life everlasting.

Amen.

### **The Committal**

The pastor begins with the acclamation (1 Peter 1:3):

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The pastor putting three handfuls of earth on the lid of the coffin says:

(Deceased's name) You have come from dust

To dust you shall return

From dust you shall rise again.

Let us pray:

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.

Or

(contemporary)  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be Your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

### **THE BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

If the Aaronic benediction has already been given in the course of the service the Apostolic blessing may be used instead:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.