

Funeral

Liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Published in Hymns in English – A selection of Hymns from the Danish Hymnbook

© 2009 Det Kgl. Vajsenhus' Forlag

Translation: Liselotte Horneman Kragh, Edward Broadbridge

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