



funeral liturgy

GREETING: Welcome the family and friends of the beloved departed.

FINAL VIEW: Only those who have not seen and wish to view (NOT TOUCH)

Born: _____

Died: _____

introduction and church service

In the face of death, the church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by His death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity. Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now come to an end here on earth.

The celebration of the Christian funeral brings hope and consolation to the living. Death brings closure and brings to our attention our own mortality and temporal existence on this earth. Scripture declares that it has been appointed for man to die once and then judgement.

Our earthly tabernacle, that is our bodies, is temporal and subject to change. Sickness, disease, suffering and the attacks of Satan make it vulnerable and expose its frailty and limitations. We however are more than our bodies. The Word of God proclaims that we have been made in the likeness of God who is a Spirit, that we have a soul and that the spirit and soul of man lives within his or her body. We, like God will live forever. The good news and confident hope of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ is that "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord". For the Christian, death is a graduation, a promotion. Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of the righteous.

Death brings pain to family and friends. Members of the community should console the mourners with words of faith and support with acts of kindness assisting them also in the task of daily living. We rejoice with those who rejoice but mourn with those who mourn and purpose to comfort and strengthen the living. For we have a living hope, a confident expectation to see our loved ones again. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life, He who believes in Me, though he dies, shall live."

order of service

1. Opening prayer
2. First song
3. Second song
4. Scripture reading
5. Ministry of the Word: Give opportunity for salvations or those in need of prayer
6. Song item: Solo or musical item welcome
7. Tribute
8. Eulogy: Family or friends to speak briefly about the deceased
9. Vote of thanks
10. Final blessing
11. Family leaves first: Congregation follows while music is playing in the background
12. Announce pall bearers: Out of the Church; to the grave
13. Invite family and friends: for tea and refreshments where applicable
14. Ask congregations: to switch on their headlights if they proceed to the grave site.

