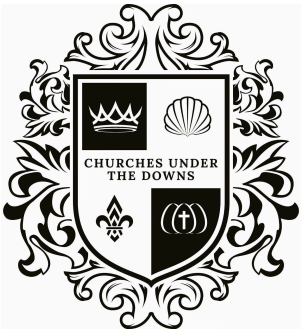



# The Order for the Blessing of a Grave

# Greeting

*The priest greets the people.*

PRIEST In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL **Amen.**

PRIEST The grace and peace of God our Father,
who raised Jesus from the dead,
be with you always.

ALL **And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the service.*

My dear friends, we gather today to pray for our *brother/sister* whose *body/ashes* lies here in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of their faults. We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of heaven.

# Psalm 23

*The priest and people say alternate verses of Psalm 23:*

1 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.**
3 He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they 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 shall be full.
6 **Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## The Blessing of the Grave and Gravestone

*The priest says the blessing over the grave*

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
✠ bless, we pray, this grave as the place where the body of *N* your servant may rest in peace,
through your Son, who is the resurrection and the life;
who died and is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.
**Amen.**

*The priest says the blessing over the gravestone*

O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,
✠ bless this gravestone with which we mark the resting place of *N*.
May they have everlasting life and rejoice in you with your saints for ever.
**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

PRIEST As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

ALL **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.**

# Dismissal

PRIEST Eternal rest grant unto *him/her*, O Lord.

ALL **And let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.**

PRIEST May *his/her* soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

ALL **Amen.**

*The priest pronounces the final blessing:*

PRIEST The love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ console us, and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with you, and remain with you always.

ALL **Amen.**

*The priest dismisses the people.*

PRIEST Go in the peace of Christ.

ALL **Thanks be to God.**