

Graveside Committal Service for _____
Date _____

Votum Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

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

God's Word

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died in him.”

Isaiah 26:3 “Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—in peace because they trust in you.”

2 Corinthians 5:1 “Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.”

John 11:25-26a Jesus said...“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

The Nicene Creed

The church, the body of Christ throughout the world, has historically professed our belief in Christ Jesus in the words of the Nicene Creed. Let us say together, “We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

“And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

“And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.”

Committal

On the basis of the texts we read from God’s Word, “Now to the mercy of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one, we commend the soul of our departed loved one, _____, and commit his/her body to the ground in the sure and certain hope of seeing him/her again in the resurrection to eternal life in the new heaven and new earth through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Prayer, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer

“Let us pray. Almighty God, who, by the death of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, hast destroyed death; by his rest in the tomb hast sanctified the graves of the saints; and by his glorious resurrection hast brought life and immortality to light; receive, we pray thee, our humble thanks for that victory over death and the grave, which he has obtained for us, and for all who sleep in him; and keep us in eternal fellowship with all those who wait for thee on earth and with all those who surround thee in heaven; in union with him who is the Resurrection and the Life; who lives and reigns with thee and the Holy Spirit ever one God, world without end.

“Almighty God, our heavenly Father, grant, we pray thee, that we who are still to continue our course amidst earthly dangers, temptations, and troubles may evermore be protected by thy mercy, and finally come to the haven of eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we are bold to say:

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, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

Hymn “[Because He Lives](#)” (Click on, amplify, and sing along with this recording or sing another familiar hymn strongly emphasizing our Biblically-grounded hope in the reality of the risen and reigning Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.)

Benediction

“Now the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you [mention family names, children, *et al.*] with everything good that we may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be and abide with you [indeed with this entire grieving community/family] always. AMEN.”

Written by Pastor Edward Seely
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Liturgical quotes from *The Liturgy of the Reformed Church in America* 1968
For more, see [Worship: A Course on Worship in the Christian Church](#).