

Memorial Service

A memorial service is held at the request of a relative of the deceased, in a hospital ward, hospital chapel or at home. The prayer service is led by a minister, another church employee, someone who belongs to the staff, or someone close to the deceased.

Opening Hymn

E.g. Virsikirja [979](#) / Psalmbok [947](#) – May the road rise to meet you

Introductory Blessing

In the name of the Father and (+) of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Psalm 90:1–6, 12–17

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning – though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Relent, O Lord! How long will it be?

Have compassion on your servants. Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendour to their children.

May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.

Prayer

Holy living God,

we thank you that we may leave NN in your care.

Let your eternal light shine upon him/her.

Give us your peace in our hearts.

Have mercy on us for the sake of your beloved Son Jesus Christ.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

The Sign of the Cross and the Covering of the Face

May the Lord give you everlasting peace, may His eternal light shine upon you.

The prayer leader makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the deceased and says:

May His holy angels lead you to eternal life.

The prayer leader or a close relative of the deceased may cover the face of the deceased with a cloth.

The Lord's Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be merciful to you.
May the Lord turn his face towards you
and grant you peace.
In the name of the Father
and (+) of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Closing Hymn

E.g. Virsikirja [932](#): 1,5,6 / Psalmbook [905](#): 1,5,6 – Amazing Grace

or Virsikirja [555](#) / Psalmbook [522](#) – Abide with me

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. I need thy presence every passing hour.
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

3. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless,
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

4. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes.
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

(Nr 159, Fellowship Hymnal with Worship Material and Services. National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, 1955.)