Alternative Services: Series One

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A Form of Solemnization of Matrimony

At the day and time appointed for solemnization of matrimony, the persons to be married shall come into the body of the church with their friends and neighbours: and there standing together, the man on the right hand and the woman on the left, the priest shall say

¶ The Introduction

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation, to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony; which is an honourable estate, instituted of God himself, signifying unto us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence, and first miracle that he wrought, in Cana of Galilee, and is commended in Holy Writ to be honourable among all men; and therefore is not by any to be enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly; but reverently, discreetly, soberly, and in the fear of God, duly considering the causes for which matrimony was ordained.

First, it was ordained for the increase of mankind according to the will of God, and that children might be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of his holy name.

Secondly, it was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections, implanted by God, should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are called of God to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living.

Thirdly, it was ordained for the mutual society, help, and comfort, that the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity.

Into which holy estate these two persons present come now to be joined.

Therefore if any man can shew any just cause, why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter for ever hold his peace.

When two or more marriages are solemnized at the same time, all that follows, as far as the psalm, shall be said in each case severally.

Speaking unto the persons that shall be married the priest shall say

I require and charge you both, as ye will answer at the dreadful day of judgement when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment, why ye may not be lawfully joined together in matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's word doth allow are not joined together by God; neither is their matrimony lawful.

At which day of marriage, if any man do allege and declare any impediment, why they may not be coupled together in matrimony, by God's law, or the laws of this realm; then the solemnization must be deferred, until such time as the truth be tried.

The Marriage

If no impediment be alleged, then shall the priest say unto the man

N, wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The man shall answer

I will.

Then shall the priest say unto the woman

(either)

N, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou obey him, and serve him, love, honour, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

(or)

N, wilt thou have this man to thy wedded husband, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love him, comfort him, honour and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The woman shall answer

I will.

Then shall the priest say

Who giveth this woman to be married to this man?

Then shall they give their troth to each other in this manner.

The priest, receiving the woman at her father's or friend's hands, shall cause the man with his right hand to take the woman by her right hand, and to say after him as follows

I, N, take thee, N, to my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse: for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

Then shall they loose their hands; and the woman, with her right hand taking the man by his right hand, shall likewise say after the priest, one or other of these vows

I, N, take thee, N, to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse: for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love, cherish, and to obey, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

(or)

I, N, take thee, N, to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse: for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

Then they shall again loose their hands; and the man shall give unto the woman a ring, laying the same upon the book.

Before delivering the ring the priest may say

Bless, O Lord, this ring, and grant that he who gives it and she who shall wear it may remain faithful to each other, and abide in thy peace and favour, and live together in love until their lives' end. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And the priest, taking the ring, shall deliver it to the man, to put it upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand. And the man, holding the ring there, and taught by the priest, shall say

With this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee honour; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Then shall the man leave the ring upon the fourth finger of the woman's left hand, and they shall both kneel down; but the people shall remain standing. Then shall the priest say

O eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy name; that, living faithfully together, they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, whereof this ring given and received is a token and pledge; and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Then shall the priest join their right hands together, and say

Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder.

Then shall the priest speak unto the people

Forasmuch as N and N have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have given and pledged their troth either to other, and have declared the same by giving and receiving of a ring, and by joining of hands; I pronounce that they be man and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

And the priest shall add this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you; and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting.

All Amen.

¶ The Blessing of the Marriage

Then the priest, followed by the man and the woman, shall go to the Lord's table, while there is said or sung a psalm. The following are suitable:

Psalm 128 Reationnes

- I Blessed are all they that fear the Lord : and walk in his ways.
- 2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands:
 O well is thee, and happy shalt thou be.
- 3 Thy wife shall be as the fruitful vine : upon the walls of thine house;
- 4 Thy children like the olive-branches : round about thy table.
- 5 Lo, thus shall the man be blessed: that feareth the Lord.
- 6 The Lord from out of Sion shall so bless thee: that thou shalt see |erusalem in prosperity all thy life long.
- Yea, that thou shalt see thy children's children: and peace upon Israel.

Psalm 67 Deus misereatur

- I God be merciful unto us, and bless us : and shew us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us:
- That thy way may be known upon earth: thy saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the people praise thee, O God: yea, let all the people praise thee.
- 4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad: for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the people praise thee, O God: yea, let all the people praise thee.
- 6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase: and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.
- 7 God shall bless us:
 and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

Psalm 37.3-7a Spera in Domino

- 3 Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good: dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- 4 Delight thou in the Lord: and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.
- 5 Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him: and he shall bring it to pass.
- 6 He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light: and thy just dealing as the noon-day.
- 7 Hold thee still in the Lord : and abide patiently upon him.

The psalm ended, the people kneeling, and the man and the woman kneeling before the Lord's table, the priest standing at the table, and turning his face towards them, shall say

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

AII Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven, AII hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done. in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, save thy servant and thy handmaid;

AII who put their trust in thee.

O Lord, send them help from thy holy place;

and evermore defend them. AII

Be unto them a tower of strength;

from the face of their enemy. AII

O Lord, hear our prayer,

and let our cry come unto thee. All

Priest O God of our fathers, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in thy holy word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfil the same; that so, obeying thy will, and alway being in safety under thy protection, they may abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

This prayer next following shall be omitted, where the woman is past child-bearing

O merciful Lord and heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased; bestow, we beseech thee, upon these two persons the heritage and gift of children; and grant that they may see their children christianly and virtuously brought up, to thy praise and honour; through lesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

This prayer shall follow

O God, who hast taught us that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by matrimony hadst made one, and hast consecrated the state of matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon these thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to thy word (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it, loving and cherishing it even as his own flesh), and also that this woman may be loving and amiable, and faithful to her husband, and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Then shall the priest say this blessing

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, pour upon you the riches of his grace, sanctify and bless you, that ye may please him both in body and soul, and live together in holy love unto your lives' end.

All Amen.

If there be a Communion, the foregoing prayer and blessing shall be said over the man and woman immediately before the final blessing of the congregation at the Communion.

If there be no Communion, here shall follow the sermon; or there shall be read some portion of Scripture. And then the priest shall dismiss those that are gathered, saying

Let us pray.

O Almighty Lord, and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern, both our hearts and bodies, in the ways of thy laws, and in the works of thy commandments; that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

¶ The Communion

If there be a Communion, the following Collect, Epistle, and Gospel, or the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel of the day, may be used immediately after the prayer for child-bearing; or after the Collect preceding it, if that be not said.

The Collect

O God our Father, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us that love is the fulfilling of the law: Grant to these thy servants that, loving one another, they may continue in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God world without end.

All Amen.

The Epistle

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3.14-19

The Gospel

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you.

John 15.9-12

An Order for the Burial of the Dead

¶ The Introduction

The ministers and clerks, meeting the body at the entrance of the churchyard, and going before it either into the church or towards the grave, shall say or sing one or more of the following sentences; together with one or more of the Penitential Psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143; see pages 452–460) if need so require.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John 11.25, 26

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand up at the last upon the earth: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job 19.25-27

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21

Remember not the sins and offences of my youth: but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

Psalm 25.6

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Deuteronomy 33.27

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38,39

Whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Romans 14.8, 9

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5.4

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions.

John 14.1

¶ The Service in Church

After they are come into the church, shall be read one or more of these psalms following.

At the end of all the psalms appointed for the Burial of the Dead the Gloria Patri may be left unsaid, and instead thereof may be sung or said

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Before and after any psalm or group of psalms may be said or sung the anthem following

O Saviour of the world, who by thy cross and precious blood hast redeemed us: save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord.

Psalm 39 Dixi, custodiam

- I I said, I will take heed to my ways: that I offend not in my tongue.
- 2 I will keep my mouth as it were with a bridle: while the ungodly is in my sight.
- 3 I held my tongue, and spake nothing: I kept silence, yea, even from good words; but it was pain and grief to me.
- 4 My heart was hot within me, and while I was thus musing the fire kindled: and at the last I spake with my tongue;
- 5 Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days: that I may be certified how long I have to live.
- 6 Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long: and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee; and verily every man living is altogether vanity.
- 7 For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain: he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

- 8 And now, Lord, what is my hope : truly my hope is even in thee.
- 9 Deliver me from all mine offences: and make me not a rebuke unto the foolish.
- 10 I became dumb, and opened not my mouth: for it was thy doing.
- II Take thy plague away from me:
 I am even consumed by means of thy heavy hand.
- 12 When thou with rebukes dost chasten man for sin, thou makest his beauty to consume away, like as it were a moth fretting a garment: every man therefore is but vanity.
- 13 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears consider my calling: hold not thy peace at my tears.
- I4 For I am a stranger with thee: and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.
- 15 O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength: before I go hence, and be no more seen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Psalm 90 Domine, refugium

- I Lord, thou hast been our refuge: from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made: thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.
- 3 Thou turnest man to destruction: again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.
- 4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday: seeing that is past as a watch in the night.

- 5 As soon as thou scatterest them, they are even as a sleep: and fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green, and groweth up:
 but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.
- 7 For we consume away in thy displeasure : and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.
- 8 Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee: and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.
- 9 For when thou art angry all our days are gone: we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.
- The days of our age are threescore years and ten; and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years: yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow; so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.
- II But who regardeth the power of thy wrath: for even thereafter as a man feareth, so is thy displeasure.
- 12 So teach us to number our days: that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
- 13 Turn thee again, O Lord, at the last: and be gracious unto thy servants.
- O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that soon: so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.
- 15 Comfort us again now after the time that thou hast plagued us and for the years wherein we have suffered adversity.
- 16 Shew thy servants thy work: and their children thy glory.
- 17 And the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us : prosper thou the work of our hands upon us,
 O prosper thou our handy-work.

Psalm 23 Dominus regit me

- I The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 130 De profundis

- Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.
- 2 O let thine ears consider well: the voice of my complaint.
- 3 If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss:
 O Lord, who may abide it?
- 4 For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.
- 5 I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him: in his word is my trust.
- 6 My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.
- 8 And he shall redeem Israel: from all his sins.

I Corinthians 15.20-26, 35-38, 42-44a, 53-end

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's, at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule, and all authority, and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die. And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body, as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

So also is the resurrection of the dead: It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality; then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 4.16-5.10

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved. we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God. who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (for we walk by faith, not by sight:) we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour. that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Revelation 7.9-17

After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes. and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders, and the four living creatures, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, saying, Amen; Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 21 1-7

I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

¶ The Prayers

Then shall the minister say

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The following versicles and responses may then be said by the minister and people

Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord;

All for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Grant unto him eternal rest:

All and let perpetual light shine upon him.

We believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord;

All in the land of the living.

O Lord, hear our prayer;

All and let our cry come unto thee.

Then shall be said one or more of the following prayers

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity: We give thee hearty thanks, for that it hath pleased thee to deliver this our brother out of the miseries of this sinful world; beseeching thee. that it may please thee, of thy gracious goodness, shortly to accomplish the number of thine elect, and to hasten thy kingdom: that we, with all those that are departed in the true faith of thy holy name, may have our perfect consummation and bliss, both in body and soul, in thy eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AII **A**men

The Collect

O merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and the life; in whom whosoever believeth shall live. though he die; and whosoever liveth, and believeth in him, shall not die eternally; who also hath taught us, by his holy Apostle Saint Paul, not to be sorry, as men without hope, for them that sleep in him: We meekly beseech thee, O Father, to raise us from the death of sin unto the life of righteousness; that, when we shall depart this life, we may rest in him, as our hope is this our brother doth; and that, at the general resurrection in the last day, we may be found acceptable in thy sight; and receive that blessing, which thy well-beloved Son shall then pronounce to all that love and fear thee, saying, Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. Grant this, we beseech thee, O merciful Father, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Redeemer.

AII Amen.

O Father of all, we pray to thee for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them thy peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in thy loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AII Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and giver of all comfort: Deal graciously, we pray thee, with those who mourn, that casting every care on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

O heavenly Father, who in thy Son Jesus Christ, hast given us a true faith, and a sure hope: Help us, we pray thee, to live as those who believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting, and strengthen this faith and hope in us all the days of our life: through the love of thy Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

And then shall be said

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

All Amen.

The Burial

The Burial may precede the Service in Church and the Prayers.

When they come to the grave, while the body is made ready to be laid into the earth, the minister shall say, or the minister and clerks shall sing these anthems

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?

Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears to our prayer; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty, O holy and merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee

(or)

Psalm 103 13-17

- 13 Like as a father pitieth his own children: even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him.
- 14 For he knoweth whereof we are made: he remembereth that we are but dust.
- 15 The days of man are but as grass: for he flourisheth as a flower of the field.
- 16 For as soon as the wind goeth over it, it is gone: and the place thereof shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him: and his righteousness upon children's children.

Then, while the earth shall be cast upon the body by some standing by, the minister shall say

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother here departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change the body of our low estate that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

(or)

We commend unto thy hands of mercy, most merciful Father, the soul of this our *brother* departed, and we commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. And we beseech thine infinite goodness to give us grace to live in thy fear and love and to die in thy favour, that when the judgement shall come which thou hast committed to thy well-beloved Son, both this our *brother* and we may be found acceptable in thy sight. Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, Mediator, and Advocate.

All Amen.

Then shall be said or sung

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me,

Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit: for they rest from their labours.

Here may be added by the minister

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Notes

- I The whole of this Order, with the exception of the Burial, may be said in the church.
- 2 At the Service in Church three of the above lessons may be read, each preceded by one of the psalms above-mentioned: but a hymn may be sung in place of a psalm before the third lesson.
- 3 The Service in Church together with the Prayers may be used as a Memorial Service for the Departed apart from the funeral.
- When a child is buried at the same time with an adult person one or more of the prayers provided in the Order for the Burial of a Child may be said before 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ', etc.
- When this Order is used at the cremation of the body, in place of the words, 'commit *his* body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust', shall be said the words, 'commit *his* body to be consumed by fire': and in this case it shall suffice to say one or more of the Prayers at the burial of the ashes.
- When this Order is used at the burial of the ashes after cremation, in place of the words, 'commit his body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust', shall be said the words, 'commit his ashes to the ground, earth to earth, dust to dust', or, 'commit his ashes to their resting place'.

Collect, Epistle and Gospel at Holy Communion

When there is a celebration of the Holy Communion on the day of the Burial, the priest shall use the Collect appointed in this Order, or the Collect of Easter Even, or that of the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed; and for the Epistle

I Thessalonians 4 13-18

I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

(or)

2 Corinthians 4.16-5.4

Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

John 6.37-41

Jesus said, All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

(or)

John 5.24-29

Jesus said, Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgement.

An Order for the Burial of a Child

¶ The Introduction

The minister and clerks meeting the body at the entrance of the churchyard, and going before it either into the church or towards the grave, shall say or sing

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

John 11.25, 26

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand up at the last upon the earth. Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another.

Job 19.25, 27

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

1 Timothy 6.7; Job 1.21

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom.

Isaiah 40.11

¶ The Service in Church

After they are come into the church shall be read this psalm

Psalm 23 Dominus regit me

- I The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
- 3 He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I will fear no evil:
 for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
- 5 Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
- 6 But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Mark 10.13-16

They brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Then shall the minister say

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

All Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The following versicles and responses may then be said

Grant unto him eternal rest:

All and let perpetual light shine upon him.

We believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord;

All in the land of the living.

O Lord, hear our prayer;

All and let our cry come unto thee.

Then shall be said one or both of the following prayers

O Lord Jesu Christ, who didst take little children into thine arms and bless them: Open thou our eyes, we beseech thee, to perceive that it is of thy goodness that thou hast taken this thy child into the everlasting arms of thine infinite love; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

All Amen.

O God, whose ways are hidden and thy works most wonderful, who makest nothing in vain and lovest all that thou hast made: Comfort thou thy servants, whose hearts are sore smitten and oppressed; and grant that they may so love and serve thee in this life, that together with this thy child, they may obtain the fulness of thy promises in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

And then shall be said

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.

All Amen.

¶ The Burial

The Burial may precede the Service in Church.

When they come to the grave, while the body is made ready to be laid into the earth, the minister shall say, or the minister and the clerks shall sing

Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay.

Then, while the earth shall be cast upon the body by some standing by, the minister shall say

Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of this child here departed, we therefore commit his body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust: in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change the body of our low estate, that it may be like unto his glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

(or)

We commend unto thy hands of mercy, most merciful Father, the soul of this thy child; and we commit his body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. And we beseech thine infinite goodness to give us grace to live in thy fear and love, and to die in thy favour, that when the judgement shall come which thou hast committed to thy well-beloved Son, both this child and we may be found acceptable in thy sight. Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, Mediator, and Advocate.

All Amen.

Then shall be said or sung

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Here shall be added by the minister

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Penitential Psalms

Psalm 6 Domine, ne in furore

- O Lord, rebuke me not in thine indignation: neither chasten me in thy displeasure.
- 2 Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am weak: O Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed.
- 3 My soul also is sore troubled: but, Lord, how long wilt thou punish me?
- 4 Turn thee, O Lord, and deliver my soul:
 O save me for thy mercy's sake.
- 5 For in death no man remembereth thee: and who will give thee thanks in the pit?
- 6 I am weary of my groaning; every night wash I my bed: and water my couch with my tears.
- 7 My beauty is gone for very trouble : and worn away because of all mine enemies.
- 8 Away from me, all ye that work vanity: for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping.
- 9 The Lord hath heard my petition: the Lord will receive my prayer.
- 10 All mine enemies shall be confounded, and sore vexed: they shall be turned back, and put to shame suddenly.

- I Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven: and whose sin is covered.
- 2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin: and in whose spirit there is no guile.
- For while I held my tongue : my bones consumed away through my daily complaining.
- 4 For thy hand is heavy upon me day and night: and my moisture is like the drought in summer.
- 5 I will acknowledge my sin unto thee: and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.
- 6 I said, I will confess my sins unto the Lord: and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.
- 7 For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee, in a time when thou mayest be found: but in the great water-floods they shall not come nigh him.
- 8 Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble: thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.
- 9 I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go: and I will guide thee with mine eye.
- 10 Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding: whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, lest they fall upon thee.
- II Great plagues remain for the ungodly: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.
- Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord: and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

Psalm 38 Domine, ne in furore

- I Put me not to rebuke, O Lord, in thine anger: neither chasten me in thy heavy displeasure.
- 2 For thine arrows stick fast in me : and thy hand presseth me sore.
- 3 There is no health in my flesh, because of thy displeasure: neither is there any rest in my bones, by reason of my sin.
- 4 For my wickednesses are gone over my head: and are like a sore burden, too heavy for me to bear.
- 5 My wounds stink, and are corrupt: through my foolishness.
- 6 I am brought into so great trouble and misery: that I go mourning all the day long.
- 7 For my loins are filled with a sore disease: and there is no whole part in my body.
- 8 I am feeble, and sore smitten:
 I have roared for the very disquietness of my heart.
- 9 Lord, thou knowest all my desire: and my groaning is not hid from thee.
- My heart panteth, my strength hath failed me : and the sight of mine eyes is gone from me.
- II My lovers and my neighbours did stand looking upon my trouble: and my kinsmen stood afar off.
- 12 They also that sought after my life laid snares for me: and they that went about to do me evil talked of wickedness, and imagined deceit all the day long.
- 13 As for me, I was like a deaf man, and heard not: and as one that is dumb, who doth not open his mouth.
- 14 I became even as a man that heareth not : and in whose mouth are no reproofs.
- 15 For in thee, O Lord, have I put my trust: thou shalt answer for me, O Lord my God.

- 16 I have required that they, even mine enemies, should not triumph over me: for when my foot slipped, they rejoiced greatly against me.
- 17 And I, truly, am set in the plague : and my heaviness is ever in my sight.
- 18 For I will confess my wickedness: and be sorry for my sin.
- 19 But mine enemies live, and are mighty: and they that hate me wrongfully are many in number.
- 20 They also that reward evil for good are against me: because I follow the thing that good is.
- 21 Forsake me not, O Lord my God: be not thou far from me.
- Haste thee to help me:O Lord God of my salvation.

Psalm 51 Miserere mei. Deus

- I Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
- Wash me throughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults : and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.
- 5 Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
- 6 But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
- 7 Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness: that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

- 9 Turn thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.
- Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
- Cast me not away from thy presence : and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
- O give me the comfort of thy help again : and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
- 13 Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
- 14 Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health: and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
- 15 Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew thy praise.
- 16 For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee: but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.
- 17 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
- 18 O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
- 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt-offerings and oblations: then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

Psalm 102 Domine, exaudi

- I Hear my prayer, O Lord: and let my crying come unto thee.
- 2 Hide not thy face from me in the time of my trouble: incline thine ear unto me when I call;
 O hear me, and that right soon.
- For my days are consumed away like smoke: and my bones are burnt up as it were a firebrand.
- 4 My heart is smitten down, and withered like grass: so that I forget to eat my bread.
- For the voice of my groaning: my bones will scarce cleave to my flesh.
- 6 I am become like a pelican in the wilderness: and like an owl that is in the desert.
- 7 I have watched, and am even as it were a sparrow: that sitteth alone upon the house-top.
- 8 Mine enemies revile me all the day long: and they that are mad upon me are sworn together against me.
- 9 For I have eaten ashes as it were bread: and mingled my drink with weeping;
- 10 And that because of thine indignation and wrath: for thou hast taken me up, and cast me down.
- II My days are gone like a shadow: and I am withered like grass.
- 12 But thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever: and thy remembrance throughout all generations.
- 13 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Sion: for it is time that thou have mercy upon her, yea, the time is come.
- 14 And why? Thy servants think upon her stones : and it pitieth them to see her in the dust.
- 15 The heathen shall fear thy Name, O Lord: and all the kings of the earth thy majesty;

- 16 When the Lord shall build up Sion : and when his glory shall appear;
- 17 When he turneth him unto the prayer of the poor destitute: and despiseth not their desire.
- 18 This shall be written for those that come after: and the people which shall be born shall praise the Lord.
- 19 For he hath looked down from his sanctuary: out of the heaven did the Lord behold the earth;
- 20 That he might hear the mournings of such as are in captivity: and deliver the children appointed unto death;
- 21 That they may declare the Name of the Lord in Sion: and his worship at Jerusalem;
- When the people are gathered together: and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.
- 23 He brought down my strength in my journey: and shortened my days.
- 24 But I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of mine age: as for thy years, they endure throughout all generations.
- 25 Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.
- 26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure : they all shall wax old as doth a garment;
- 27 And as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.
- The children of thy servants shall continue: and their seed shall stand fast in thy sight.

- Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.
- O let thine ears consider well: 2 the voice of my complaint.
- If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss: 3 O Lord, who may abide it?
- 4 For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be feared.
- 5 I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him: in his word is my trust.
- 6 My soul fleeth unto the Lord: before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.
- 7 O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is plenteous redemption.
- And he shall redeem Israel: 8 from all his sins.

- Hear my prayer, O Lord, and consider my desire: hearken unto me for thy truth and righteousness' sake.
- 2 And enter not into judgement with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.
- For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground: he hath laid me in the darkness, as the men that have been long dead.
- 4 Therefore is my spirit vexed within me : and my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 Yet do I remember the time past; I muse upon all thy works : yea, I exercise myself in the works of thy hands.
- 6 I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul gaspeth unto thee as a thirsty land.
- 7 Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my spirit waxeth faint: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.
- 8 O let me hear thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning, for in thee is my trust:

 shew thou me the way that I should walk in.
 - shew thou me the way that I should walk in, $for \ I \ lift \ up \ my \ soul \ unto \ thee.$
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies : for I flee unto thee to hide me.
- Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth thee, for thou art my God: let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.
- II Quicken me, O Lord, for thy Name's sake: and for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.
- 12 And of thy goodness slay mine enemies: and destroy all them that vex my soul; for I am thy servant.