**For those Unable to be Present at the Funeral**

***The Gathering***

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ,

who died and was raised to the glory of God the Father.

We join with those in (place)

in remembering before God our brother/sister N;

to give thanks for his/her life;

to commend him/her to God our merciful redeemer and judge;

to commit his/her body to be buried/cremated,

and to comfort one another in our grief.

God of all consolation,

your Son Jesus Christ was moved to tears

at the grave of Lazarus his friend.

Look with compassion on your children in their loss;

give to troubled hearts the light of hope

and strengthen in us the gift of faith,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,

you judge us with infinite mercy and justice

and love everything you have made.

In your mercy

turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life,

and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven;

through our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Reading/s***

**(e.g.) Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

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.

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.

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

***Sharing of Memories***

***Prayers***

God of mercy, Lord of life,

you have made us in your image

to reflect your truth and light:

we give you thanks for N ,

for the grace and mercy he/she received from you,

for all that was good in his/her life,

for the memories we treasure today.

*Silence*

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief

and life out of death.

Look in mercy on [… and] all who mourn.

Give them patient faith in times of darkness.

Strengthen them with the knowledge of your love.

*Silence*

You are tender towards your children

and your mercy is over all your works.

Heal the memories of hurt and failure.

Give us the wisdom and grace to use aright

the time that is left to us here on earth,

to turn to Christ and follow in his steps

in the way that leads to everlasting life.

***Commendation and Farewell***

Let us now commend *N* into God’s keeping

God our creator and redeemer,

by your power Christ conquered death and entered into glory.

Confident of his victory and claiming his promises,

we entrust N to your mercy in the name of Jesus our Lord,

who died and is alive and reigns with you,

now and for ever**. Amen.**

***The Committal***

We have entrusted our brother/sister N to God's mercy,

and we now commit his/her body to the ground/to be cremated:

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 will transform our frail bodies

that they may be conformed to his glorious body,

who died, was buried, and rose again for us.

To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.**

***Blessing***

Support us, O Lord,

all the day long of this troublous life,

until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,

the busy world is hushed,

the fever of life is over

and our work is done.

Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,

a holy rest, and peace at the last;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be with you/us and remain with you/us always. **Amen**