

SOUTHWARK
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆



**A Liturgy for
those unable to
attend a Funeral**

Before you begin, you may wish to light a candle next to a photograph of your loved one and play a piece of their favourite music.

Some suggestions of music

Pie Jesu, Andrew Lloyd Webber

In paradisum, Gabriel Faure

The Lord bless you and keep you, John Rutter

If ye love me, Thomas Tallis

Amazing Grace

Abide with me

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

Hallelujah, Leonard Cohen

The Lark Ascending

Reading

Christina Rosetti, Remember

The Gathering

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

All

Amen.

The peace of God our heavenly Father,
of Jesus Christ the source of peace,
and of the Holy Spirit the comforter
come upon this house and all who live here.

We gather here to remember before God
our beloved N;
to give thanks for their life;
to commend them to God
our merciful redeemer and judge;
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 our loss;
give to troubled hearts the light of hope
and strengthen in us the gift of faith,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

Psalm

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.

Reading

John 14. 1–6

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

A poem or reading of your choice

Here you may wish to share memories of your loved one.

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 they received from you,
for all that was good in their life,
for the memories we treasure today ...

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

You promised eternal life to those who believe.
Remember for good this your servant *N*
as we also remember them.
Bring all who rest in Christ
into the fullness of your kingdom
where sins have been forgiven
and death is no more.

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Your mighty power brings joy out of grief
and life out of death.
Look in mercy on us who mourn.
Give us patient faith in times of darkness and isolation.
Strengthen us with the knowledge of your love.

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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.

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

All As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
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.

Commendation and Farewell

Let us commend *N* to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

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.

All

Amen.

Rest eternal, grant to them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine on them.

May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God
rest in peace and rise in glory.

All

Amen.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose disciples recognized him as he broke bread
at their table after the resurrection:
we thank you for your strength upholding us
in all that we have done today,
and now we ask for your presence
to be recognized in this home;
bring your peace and joy to each place
which stirs the memory;
give your strength and presence in those daily tasks
which used to be shared,
and in all the changes of life give us grace
to do your will day by day,
and to look for the glorious coming of Christ,
when you will gather us together to your table
in heaven to be with you for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

May God give us
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;
and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and for evermore.

All

Amen.

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Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.