

Memorial Service Outline (Religious)

A Guided Order for Honoring a Life with Faith and Meaning

Prelude Music

- Soft instrumental or meaningful music as guests arrive
- Consider selections that reflect your loved one
- Creates a reflective atmosphere

Welcome & Gathering Words

- Opening words of welcome.
- May include a poem, scripture, or words of remembrance

Opening Sentences

- We gather today to give thanks for the life of your loved one
- Include birth details, relationships, and meaningful roles
- *Example:* We gather today to give thanks to God for the life of (Name), born in (City) on (Date), to (Parents). He/She was a son/daughter/brother/sister/wife/husband/grandparent/great-grandparent/friend

Music Reflection

- Hymn or meaningful song
- Optional photo slideshow

Prayer for Illumination

- Prayer for guidance and understanding

Scripture Readings

- Primary reading (favorite or meaningful passage)
- Optional second reading (*see Bible resources for examples*)

Eulogy

- A tribute honoring the life and legacy

Music (Optional)

- Play video tribute (optional)

Sharing of Memories and Stories (Optional)

- You may invite family and friends to share brief stories about the person

Prayers of Thanksgiving (and the Lord's Prayer optional)

- Expressions of gratitude for a life well lived

Commendation

- Words of entrusting your loved one into God's care

Traditional:

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend them. Receive them into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

Plain Language:

Into your care, O God, we entrust our loved one. Receive them in your love and grant them peace. May they rest from their labors and dwell in your presence forever. Amen.

Closing Words and Benediction

- Thank those gathered
- Encourage carrying forward what they have learned from your loved one
- You may name a few qualities or adjectives that defined their life
- Offer a closing blessing

Closing Music

- Music plays as guests greet and support the family