

Memorial Service Outline (Spiritual)

A Guided Order for Honoring a Life with Meaning and Presence

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, reflection, or words of remembrance

Opening Sentences

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

Music Reflection

- Meaningful song or instrumental piece
- Optional photo slideshow

Reflection / Opening Meditation

- A brief reflection, meditation, or words of centering
- Invites presence, peace, and shared connection
- *Example:* Spirit of love, shine your light upon us in this hour. As we remember and give thanks, may our hearts be open to comfort, our minds to wisdom, and our spirits to peace. Grant that these words give us a glimpse of the light and love that is eternal.

Readings

- A meaningful reading (poem, prose, or sacred text)

Life Tribute / Eulogy

- A tribute honoring the life, character, 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

Words of Gratitude

- Expressions of gratitude for a life well lived (*see examples for words of gratitude*)

Commendation / Words of Release

- Words of entrusting your loved one into peace, rest, and continuing presence

Traditional Spiritual Tone:

- Into the embrace of love, we release our loved one. May they be at peace, surrounded by light, and held in the eternal presence that gives life to all things. Amen
- We now commend (Name) to his/her final rest, in that place beyond where tears are no more, pain is gone, and love and light live on. May the memory of his/her life and love live on in each of us, now and always. Amen

Plain Language:

- We release our loved one into peace. May they rest gently, held in love, and remain with us in the memories and lives they have touched.

Closing Words and Blessing

- 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 words of peace, comfort, and blessing

Closing Music

- Music plays as guests greet and support the family