**Funeral Rite**

Attached are a

* 1 funeral rite,
* 1 funeral memorial service
* 1 release Rite for the living
* A Requiem chant and
* A list of some of the Gods and Goddesses that might be invoked

Passing the Gates-Funeral Rite

Simplifying the circle casting and altar setup as much as possible. Especially, the presence of candles or other luminous sources should be minimized. I personally cast the circle solely through visualization, and on my altar had only incense, the god and goddess representations, and my Book of Shadows.

Also on the altar must be a white candle and something belonging to or of the departed, such as a photograph, a lock of hair, a piece of jewelry, etc.

Light incense and cast circle in preferred manner. If desired, this blessing chant or one similar can also be recited at this time.

Blessing Chant:

**I stand here in this sacred space,**

**The Circle of power conjured this night.**

**I seek a blessing on this place**

**To make it fit for sacred rite.**

**I entreat the powers of the One,**

**The stars above and earth beneath,**

**Lady of the Moon, Lord of the Sun,**

**Grant me the blessing that I seek.**

Meditate and recall departed one.

Invocation to the Goddess:

**Darkly-crescented Queen of the Wise,**

**Pierce the veil before mine eyes.**

**I hath lost one that I love,**

**I turn in pain to thee above.**

**You know the truths of Death and Life,**

**Pray be with me in my sacred rite.**

**By the stars above and earth below,**

**Comfort me with what you know!**

If using a candle to represent the Goddess, it may be lit at this time.

Invocation to the God:

**Lord of the Dark, King of the Wise,**

**Pierce the veil before mine eyes.**

**I wouldst hear what thee do tell,**

**For I hath heard the funereal knell.**

**One I love hath passed away,**

**Of Death you know the secret ways.**

**Pray lend me comfort on this night,**

**Be with me in my sacred rite!**

If using a candle to represent the God, it may be lit at this time.

Funeral Chant:

**One I love hath passed the Gate,**

**I question not the hand of Fate.**

**A blessing on her wouldst I ask,**

**Help to speed her journey fast.**

**Love her with thy very heart,**

**>From thee let her never part.**

**By the earth below and stars above,**

**Let her be in peace and love.**

Kiss the object belonging to the departed and hold up to the sky.

Light the white candle for the departed.

**This flame I light to guide her way,**

**So that far she shall not stray.**

**Light and hope may it her lend,**

**When 'tis done, 'tis journey's end.**

Meditate and remember the departed. If desired, the departed may be spoken of and recalled in appropriate manner at this time.

Thank the God and Goddess for their presence and release circle in appropriate manner.

The altar should remain undisturbed until the candle has burnt itself out.

If desired, the wax may be used in a talisman or some such in honor of the departed.

Note: if time is of the essence, a tea light or small birthday-type candle can be used as the white candle for the departed, as it will burn out more quickly than a votive or taper.

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Rite of Passage Memorial

(Light Incense)

(Cast Circle)

(Light Candles)

Black- **"O candle of power to this circle give the knowledge and truth in which all power lives."**

White- **"O candle of light send forth all we do to cause only changes deserving and true."**

Brown- **"O candle of the mother on whom we all live for all that we take in return we must give."**

(The Rite of Passage)

**" Tonight we gather to bid farewell to one who has begun the journey from life into death. Tonight we gather to call the Ancestors, those who have gone before us, to be with us in this rite. (If you want: We call to the Goddess and God to join us in this rite.) We call to the elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water, to be with us here tonight."**

(Light Lavender Candle)

**" We call to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. May you hear our words tonight.**

**Though we know you cannot take any physical gifts with you on this journey you make to the other world, we gather to offer you gifts of energy.**

**Gifts to guide and ease your journey,**

**Gifts to empower you to cross the bridge and Gifts to bless you when once again you leave the land of Spirit for rebirth to the Land of Life."**

(Each coven member and friend places his or her herb gift into the cauldron and speaks the gift to share with everyone.)

**"I offer the gift of (herb name) May it (Purpose). Blessed be!"**

**(All offer their gifts individually.) Hps: "We offer these gifts to you (name). May they bless you now and always. By Water may your emotions be carried and cleansed. By Fire may your soul light shine brightly in the other world. By Air may your spirit rise and soar. By Earth may you find comfort and peace within Her arms. May the Ancestors light your path. (May the Goddess embrace your soul. May the God guide your rebirth.) And may the Wheel turn again to bring you there.**

**Merry Part, Blessed Be, and Merry Meet Again."**

(A small amount of the mixed herbs are placed in a small mojo for the family and the rest are burned to release the spell.)

(As they are burned the group may wish to chant the following traditional chant):

**Hoof and Horn, Hoof and Horn, All**

**That Dies Shall Be Reborn,**

**Corn and Grain, Corn and Grain, All**

**That Falls Shall Rise Again.**

(Bless Cakes)

**"May these cakes be blessed with Love,**

**Joy and the Hope of future life Blessed be."**

(Close Circle)

**" This circle is open but never broken."**

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Rite of Release

The altar setting is simple:

One central candle (white or whatever color feels right),

As well as three others - black, red, and white, to be lit during the ritual

A flower (fully opened - preferably a rose - of whatever color seems appropriate to you), which becomes the symbol of your lost one

It is best to perform this "Rite of Release" when the Moon is at Her darkest, before She is renewed

Begin by lighting the central candle, and, if you wish, performing a ritual of purification, then proceed with these words:

**"It is the way of Life that all living beings, whether early or late, come**

**Unto Death, that in Time, they may come round again to circle into Life."**

Pick up and hold, cradle if you wish, the flower (rose or whatever you chose), for symbolically, this is your lost loved one.

**"And so unto death have you gone, my mother, heart of my heart, I will**

**Always remember the deep love that we shared, and will always share... like**

**This flower, a thing of joy and beauty in all its glory, so you were for me**

**A wondrous and magickal parent sharing the years of pleasure that we did.**

**Thank you for your precious gift."**

**"Of the Triple Goddess, She Who opens and Shuts All Doors, Lady of All Joys**

**And Sorrows, I ask you:"**

(Light the black candle)

"That the Crone lovingly fly you to Summerland wrapped in the softest black feathers."

(Light the red candle)

**"That the Mother always comfort you in Her loving embrace."**

(Light the white candle)

**"That the Maiden always smile brightly upon you."**

**"Know that there will always be an empty place under my heart that cannot be filled, where your memory shall dwell forever. I bid you a pleasant journey, and a peaceful sojourn. Rest well, be renewed, and return again when you are ready."**

**"Fare thee well, until we meet again."**

Extinguish only the central candle. Take the flower and go outside to some special site you have chosen, where you have prepared a hole, and bury the flower there, saying these words as you do:

**"As this hole is filled, so let my wound be healed. For even as this flower returns to Mother Earth, to return again some day as Life, so will you, my mother. And as leaf and stem and petal are drawn back into the Womb, so let my grief be drawn in, to return again one day as joy."**

The black, red, and white candles shall be left lit on the altar to burn themselves out.

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Requiem

**And ye shall say these words.**

**I will love and harm none.**

**I will live, love, die and live again.**

**I will meet, remember, and know,**

**And embrace once more.**

**Deep peace of the quiet earth to you**

**Deep peace of the shining stars to you**

**Deep peace of the gentle night to you**

**Moon and stars pour their healing light on you**

**Deep peace to you, deep peace to you**

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Here are some Gods & Goddesses to invoke when seeking protection for those crossing into the Summerlands

ANUBIS (jackal headed god) - Protector & guide for the dead.

CHERTI - is the ferryman who ensures that the dead arrive at "the Summerlands" safely

CHONT-AMENTI (also a dog headed god) guards the dead.

HAR-NEDJ-ITEF (a manifestation of Horus) is a protector for the dead.

OSIRIS - is known to welcome the dead to their new abode.

NEPTHYS - Is a "friend of the dead"