



Funeral Liturgy Resources
for Lay Ministers

PRAYERS AFTER DEATH

SIGN OF THE CROSS

The minister and all those present sign themselves with the sign of the cross as the minister says:

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

R. Amen.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Using one of the following greetings, or in similar words, the minister greets those present.

A In this moment of sorrow the Lord is in our midst and consoles us with his word: Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted.

B Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolation! He comforts us in all our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who grieve with the same consolation we have received from him.

The minister then invites those present to pray in silence.

READING

The minister or one of those present proclaims the reading.

A *Matthew 18:19-20*

Jesus said: 'If two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, I shall be there with them.'

B *John 11:21-24*

Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know that he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will

never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

C *Luke 20:35-38*

Jesus said: 'Those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.'

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Using one of the following invitations, or in similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

A With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us:

B Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as Jesus 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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

*For the deceased person: The minister says the following prayer
or one from the Additional Texts:Prayers for the Dead(Pg 57-68)*

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,
hear our prayers for your servant N.,
whom you have summoned out of this world.
Forgive his/her sins and failings
and grant him/her a place of refreshment, light and peace.
Let him/her pass unharmed through the gates of death
to dwell with the blessed in light,
as you promised to Abraham and his children forever.
Accept N. into your safekeeping
and on the great day of judgement
raise him/her up with all the saints
to inherit your eternal kingdom.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen

*For the mourners: The minister says the following prayer
or one from the Additional Texts:Prayers for the Mourners (Pg 69-72)*

Father of mercies and God of all consolation,
you pursue us with untiring love
and dispel the shadow of death
with the bright dawn of life.

[Comfort your family in their loss and sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength, O Lord, and lift us from the depths of
grief into the peace and light of your presence.]

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
by dying has destroyed our death,
and by rising restored our life.
Enable us therefore to press on toward him,
so that, after our earthly course is run,

he may reunite us with those we love,
when every tear will be wiped away.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen

BLESSING

The minister says:

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them.

A gesture, for example, signing the forehead of the deceased with the sign of the cross, may accompany the following words.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

R. and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen

A lay minister invokes God's blessing and signs themselves with the sign of the cross, saying:

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us

and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BODY

SIGN OF THE CROSS

The minister and all those present sign themselves with the sign of the cross as the minister says:

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

R. Amen.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

One of the following or another brief Scripture verse is read.

A *Matthew 11:28-30*

My brothers and sisters, Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and lean from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

B *John 14:1-3*

My brothers and sisters, Jesus says: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am you may be too.'

Pause for silent prayer.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Using one of the following formularies, the minister may sprinkle the body with holy water.

A The Lord is our shepherd
and leads us to streams of living water.

B Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ,
who by his death and resurrection has redeemed us.

C The Lord God lives in his holy temple yet abides in our midst. Since in baptism N. became God's temple and the Spirit of God lived in him/her, with reverence we bless his/her mortal body.

PSALM

One of the following psalms is sung or said or another psalm.

A *Psalm 130*

R. I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. R.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. R.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak. R.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all of its iniquity. R.

B. *Psalm 115 and 116*

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple hearts;
I was helpless so he saved me. R.

I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted,'
and when I said in my alarm:
'No one can be trusted.' R.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I:
you have loosened my bonds.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Using one of the following invitations, or in similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

A With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us:

B Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as Jesus 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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*The minister says one of the following prayers
or one from the Additional Texts:Prayers for the Dead (Pg 57-68)
or one from the Additional Texts:Prayers for the Mourners (Pg 69-72)*

A God of faithfulness,
in your wisdom you have called your servant **N.**
out of this world;
release him/her from the bonds of sin,
and welcome him/her into your presence,
so that he/she may enjoy eternal light and peace
and be raised up in glory with all our saints.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen

B Into your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brother/sister **N**.
In this life you embraced him/her with your tender love;
deliver him/her now from every evil
and bid him/her eternal rest.
The old order has passed away:
Welcome him/her then into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain,
but the fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
R. Amen

BLESSING

The minister says:

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them.

A gesture, for example, signing the forehead of the deceased with the sign of the cross, may accompany the following words.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.
R. and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
May he/she rest in peace.
R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R. Amen

A lay minister invokes God's blessing and signs themselves with the sign of the cross, saying:

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us
and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen

VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED

INTRODUCTORY RITES

SIGN OF THE CROSS

The minister and all those present sign themselves with the sign of the cross as the minister says:

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

R. Amen.

GREETING

Using one of the following greetings, or in similar words, the minister greets those present.

A May the God of hope give you fullness of peace, and may the Lord of life be always with you.

R. And with your spirit

B The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, be always with you.

R. And with your spirit

C The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be always with you.

R. And with your spirit

D May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

R. And with your spirit

OPENING SONG

INVITATION TO PRAYER

In the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to pray.

My brothers and sisters, we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death.

Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us pray, asking God to gather **N.** to himself:

Pause for silent prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

The minister says one of the following prayers

A Lord our God, the death of our brother/sister **N.**

recalls our human condition

and the brevity of our lives on earth.

But for those who believe in your love

death is not the end,

nor does it destroy the bonds that you forge in our lives.

We share the faith of your Son's disciples

and the hope of the children of God.

Bring the light of Christ's resurrection

to this time of testing and pain

as we pray for **N.** and for those who love him/her,

through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

B O God,

glory of believers and life of the just,

by the death and resurrection of your Son, we are redeemed:

have mercy on your servant **N.**,

and make him/her worthy to share the joys of paradise,

for he/she believed in the resurrection of the dead.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The celebrant continues with the Liturgy of the Word. Other readings, psalms and gospel readings may be chosen from Volume III of the Lectionary.

FIRST READING

A reader proclaims the first reading.

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 5:1,6-10

We know that when the tent we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

We are always full of confidence, then, when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord.

Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The following psalm is sung or said or another psalm.

Psalm 27

R. The Lord my light and my salvation.

(or R. I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.)

The Lord is my light and my help;

whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? R.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. R.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call:
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord that I seek;
hide not your face. R.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! R.

GOSPEL

The gospel reading is then proclaimed

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

12:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready.'

You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

A brief homily on the readings is then given

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

LITANY

The minister leads those present in the following litany.

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection.

Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Promise and image of what we shall be: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls, give peace to
N. for ever: Lord have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless N.'s family and friends who gather around him/her today: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Using one of the following invitations, or in similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

A Friends [Brothers and sisters], our true home is heaven.
Therefore let us pray to our heavenly Father as Jesus taught us:

B With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray
as Jesus taught us:

C Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as Jesus 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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*The minister says one of the following prayers
or one from the Additional Texts:Prayers for the Dead (Pg 57-68)
or one from the Additional Texts:Prayers for the Mourners (Pg 69-72)*

A Lord Jesus our Redeemer,
you willingly gave yourself up to death,
so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.

We humbly ask you to comfort your servants in their grief
and to receive N. into the arms of your mercy.

You alone are the Holy One,

you are mercy itself;

by dying you unlocked the gates of life

for those who believe in you.

Forgive N. his/her sins,

and grant him/her a place of happiness, light and peace

in the kingdom of your glory forever.

R. Amen

B Lord God,

you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.

Let us find in your Son

comfort in our sadness,

certainty in our doubt,

and courage to live through this hour.

Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

CONCLUDING RITE

BLESSING

The minister says:

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord; let them rest from their
labours for their good deeds go with them.

*A gesture, for example, signing the forehead of the deceased with the sign of the cross, may accompany
the following words.*

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

R. and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen

A lay minister invokes God's blessing and signs themselves with the sign of the cross, saying:

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

bless and console us

and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

The vigil may conclude with a song or a few moments of silent prayer or both.

The Rosary may be recited.

TRANSFER OF THE BODY TO THE CHURCH

SIGN OF THE CROSS

The minister and all those present sign themselves with the sign of the cross as the minister says:

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

R. Amen

INVITATION

In the following or similar words, the minister addresses those present

Dear friends in Christ, in the name of Jesus and of his Church, we gather to pray for N., that God may bring him/her to everlasting peace and rest.

We share the pain of loss, but the promise of eternal life gives us hope. Let us comfort one another with these words.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

One of the following or another brief Scripture verse is read.

A *Romans 6:8-9 (RSV)*

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ, being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

B *Colossians 3:3-4*

You have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

LITANY

The minister leads those present in the following litany.

Dear friends, our Lord comes to raise the dead and comforts us with the solace of his love. Let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Creator of the earth to which **N.** now returns; in baptism you called him/her to eternal life to praise your Father for ever: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy

Son of God, you raise up the just and clothe them with the glory of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy

Crucified Lord, you protect the soul of **N.** by the power of your cross, and on the day of your coming you will show mercy to all the faithful departed: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy

Judge of the living and the dead, at your voice the tombs will open and all the just who sleep in your peace will rise and sing the glory of God: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy

All praise to you, Jesus our Saviour, death is in your hands and all the living depend on you alone: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

With faith and hope we pray to the Father in the words Jesus taught his disciples:

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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The minister says one of the following prayers.

A Lord,
N. is gone now from this earthly dwelling
and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence.
Grant that as we grieve for our brother/sister
we may hold his/her memory dear
and live in hope of the eternal kingdom
where you will bring us together again.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen

B God of all consolation,
open our hearts to your word,
so that, listening to it, we may comfort one another,
finding light in time of darkness
and faith in time of doubt.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen

The minister says the following:

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

R. and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen

INVITATION TO THE PROCESSION

In the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to join in the procession.

The Lord guards our coming in and our going out.

May God be with us now as we prepare to accompany our brother/sister on his/her journey (to the church).

FAMILY PRIVATE FAREWELL

The mourners depart and prepare to accompany the body to the church. The family may wish to remain for a private final farewell. A gesture of farewell (such as touching or sprinkling with holy water) may be made in accordance with local custom.

As the coffin is about to be sealed a prayer such as the following may be said:

May Christ now enfold you in his love and bring you to eternal life.

We will pray for you N., may you pray for us.

May God and Mary be with you.

The coffin is then sealed and removed.

REMOVAL OF COFFIN AND PROCESSION TO THE CHURCH

According to local custom or needs the minister may lead the mourners in prayer (such as the Rosary, the Litany of Saints or Psalms) while the family accompany the removal of the coffin from the home or mortuary chapel.

RITE OF COMMITTAL

INVITATION

When the funeral procession arrives at the place of committal, the minister says the following:

Our brother/sister **N.** has gone to his/her rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome him/her to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist him/her with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day with our brother/sister; together may we meet Christ Jesus when he who is our life appears in glory.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

One of the following verses or another brief Scripture verse is read. The minister first says:

We read in sacred Scripture:

A *Matthew 25:34*

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

B *John 6:39*

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

C *Philippians 3:20*

Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come from heaven to save us.

D *Revelation 1:5-6*

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

The minister says one of the following prayers:

A *If the place of committal is to be blessed:*

O God,
by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,
bless this grave,
send your holy angels to watch over it.
As we bury here the body of our brother/sister,
deliver his/her soul from every bond of sin,
that he/she may rejoice in you with your saints for ever.
R. Amen

B *If the place of committal is to be blessed:*

Lord Jesus Christ,
by your own three days in the tomb,
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you
and so made the grave a sign of hope
that promises resurrection
even as it claims our mortal bodies.
Grant that our brother/sister may sleep here in peace
until you awaken him/her to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.
Then he/she will see you face to face
and in your light will see light
and know the splendour of God,
for you live and reign for ever and ever. R. Amen.

C *If the place of committal has already been blessed:*

All praise to you, Lord of all creation.

Praise to you, holy and living God.

We praise and bless you for your mercy,
we praise and bless you for your kindness.

Blessed is the Lord, our God.

R. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

You sanctify the homes of the living
and make holy the places of the dead.

You alone open the gates of righteousness
and lead us to the dwelling of the saints.

Blessed is the Lord, our God.

R. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

We praise you, our refuge and strength.

We bless you, our God and Redeemer.

Your praise is always in our hearts and on our lips.

We remember the mighty deeds of the covenant.

Blessed is the Lord, our God.

R. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

D *When the final disposition of the body is to take place at a later time:*

Almighty and ever-lasting God,

in you we place our trust and hope,

in you the dead, whose bodies were temples of the spirit,
find everlasting peace.

As we take leave of our brother/sister,
give our hearts peace in the firm hope

that one day **N.** will live

in the mansion you have prepared for him/her in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

COMMITTAL

The minister may, in accordance with local custom, sprinkle the grave and the coffin with holy water and incense them. Alternative words of committal 'for ashes' and 'for burial at sea' are provided in Additional Texts: Rite of Committal (Pg 88-89). The minister says the words of committal:

A Because God has chosen to call our brother/sister **N.**
from this life to himself,
we commit his/her body to the earth
[*or the deep or the elements or its resting place*],
for we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

(Where it is custom, some earth is scattered on the coffin.)

But the Lord Jesus Christ
will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory,
for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead.
So let us commend our brother/sister to the Lord,
that the Lord may embrace him/her in peace
and raise up his/her body on the last day.

B In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend to Almighty God our brother/sister **N.**
and we commit his/her body to the ground,
[*or the deep or the elements or its resting place*],
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

(Where it is custom, some earth is scattered on the coffin.)

The Lord bless him/her and keep him/her,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him/her
and be gracious to him/her,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him/her
and give him/her peace.

INTERCESSIONS

As circumstances dictate, intercessions may be chosen from the following or one from Additional Texts: Rite of Committal (Pg 89-92) or new ones may be composed. The minister begins:

Dear friends, in reverence let us pray to God, the source of all mercies.

You raised the dead to life; give our brother/sister eternal life.
We pray to the Lord: R. Lord, have mercy.

Lord; you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for N. and dry the tears of those who weep.
We pray to the Lord: R. Lord, have mercy.

Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of N.; let our faith be our consolation and eternal life our hope.
We pray to the Lord: R. Lord, have mercy.

We pray for all who are buried in this cemetery:
may their suffering be lessened,
may their joy be increased,
may the light of glory shine on them
and may they rest in peace.
We pray to the Lord: R. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us 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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The minister says one of the following prayers or one of those provided in Additional Texts: Rite of Committal (Pg 92).

A God of holiness and power,
accept our prayers on behalf of your servant **N.:**
do not count his/her deeds against him/her,
for in his/her heart he/she desired to do your will.
As his/her faith united him/her to your people on earth,
so may your mercy join him/her to the angels in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

B Loving God, from whom all life proceeds
and by whose hand the dead are raised again,
though we are sinners, you wish always to hear us.
Accept the prayers we offer in sadness for your servant **N.**:
deliver his/her soul from death,
number him/her among your saints
and clothe him/her with the robe of salvation
to enjoy for ever the delights of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

All pray silently. The minister with hands outstretched, prays over the people:

Merciful Lord,
you know the anguish of the sorrowful,
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.
Hear your people who cry out to you in their need,
and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness;
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen

Where it is customary a decade of the Rosary may follow (e.g. The 1st Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection)

The minister may add:

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God,
who stood by the cross as her Son was dying,
help all those who mourn for **N.**
and accompany all of us in our time of need.

The minister may conclude with:

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

RITE OF COMMITTAL AT A CREMATORIUM

INVITATION

When the funeral procession arrives at the crematorium chapel, the minister says the following or a similar invitation:

Our brother/sister N. has gone to his/her rest in the peace of Christ. May the Lord now welcome him/her to the table of God's children in heaven. With faith and hope in eternal life, let us assist him/her with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves. May we who mourn be reunited one day with our brother/sister; together may we meet Christ Jesus when he who is our life appears in glory.

SCRIPTURE VERSE

One of the following verses or another brief Scripture verse is read. The minister first says:

We read in sacred Scripture:

A *Matthew 25:34*

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

B *John 6:39*

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given to me, and that I should raise it up on the last day.

C *Philippians 3:20*

Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ whose return we long for will come from heaven to save us.

D *Revelation 1:5-6*

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; glory and kingship be his for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER BEFORE COMMITTAL

The minister says one of the following prayers

A All praise to you, Lord of all creation.
Praise to you, holy and living God.
We praise and bless you for your mercy,
we praise and bless you for your kindness.
Blessed is the Lord, our God.
R. Blessed is the Lord, our God

You sanctify the homes of the living
and make holy the places of the dead.
You alone open the gates of righteousness
and lead us to the dwellings of the saints.
Blessed is the Lord, our God.
R. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

We praise you, our refuge and strength.
We bless you, our God and Redeemer.
Your praise is always in our hearts and on our lips.
We remember the mighty deeds of the covenant.
Blessed is the Lord, our God.
R. Blessed is the Lord, our God.

B *When the final disposition of the body is to take place at a later time:*
Almighty and ever-living God,
in you we place our trust and hope,
in you the dead, whose bodies were temples of the Spirit,
find everlasting peace.
As we take leave of our brother/sister,
give our hearts peace in the firm hope
that one day N. will live
in the mansion you have prepared for him/her in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

COMMITTAL

The coffin may be sprinkled with holy water and incensed. The committal takes place at this time. The minister says the words of committal:

- A Because God has chosen to call our brother/sister **N.**
from this life to himself,
we commit his/her body to be cremated,
for we are dust and unto dust we shall return.
But the Lord Jesus Christ
will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory,
for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead.
So let us commend our brother/sister to the Lord,
that the Lord may embrace him/her in peace
and raise up his/her body on the last day.
- B In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
we commend to Almighty God our brother/sister **N.**
and we commit his/her body to be cremated,
[or the deep or the elements or its resting place],
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
The Lord bless him/her and keep him/her,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him/her
and be gracious to him/her,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him/her
and give him/her peace.

INTERCESSIONS

As circumstances dictate, intercessions may be chosen from the following.

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection:

Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Promise and image of what we shall be: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Son of God who came to destroy sin and death: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain.

Bless N.'s family and friends who gather around him/her today: Lord, have mercy. R. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us 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. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

The minister says one of the following prayers

- A God of holiness and power,
accept our prayers on behalf of your servant N.:
do not count his/her deeds against him/her,
for in his/her heart he/she desired to do your will.
As his/her faith united him/her to your people on earth,
so may your mercy join him/her to the angels in heaven.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.
- B Loving God, from whom all life proceeds
and by whose hand the dead are raised again,
though we are sinners, you wish always to hear us.
Accept the prayers we offer in sadness for your servant N.:
deliver his/her soul from death,
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PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

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Merciful Lord,
you know the anguish of the sorrowful,
you are attentive to the prayers of the humble.
Hear your people who cry out to you in their need,
and strengthen their hope in your lasting goodness;
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen

Where it is customary a Marian antiphon or a decade of the Rosary may follow (e.g. The 1st Glorious Mystery: The Resurrection)

The minister may add:

May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God,
who stood by the cross as her Son was dying,
help all those who mourn for N.
and accompany all of us in our time of need.

The minister may conclude with:

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.
R. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
May he/she rest in peace.
R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.