

# 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.*