

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.