

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.