

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,
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 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.