
Funeral Liturgy - additional texts

THIS SECTION CONTAINS:

- Prayers for the dead
- Prayers for the mourners
- Placing of Christian Symbols
- General Intercessions and litanies
- Final Commendation and Farewell
- Rite of Committal
- Biblical index

The one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give your mortal bodies life through his Spirit living in you.

PRAYERS AND TEXTS IN PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES

397 The following prayers for the dead and prayers for the mourners are for use in the various rites of Parts I, II, and IV. The prayers are grouped as follows:

398 Prayers for the Dead

- General, nos. 1-13
- A baptised child, 25-26
- A young person, 27-28
- Parents, 29
- A parent, 30
- A married couple, 31-33
- A wife, 34
- A husband, 35
- A deceased non-Christian married to a Catholic, 36
- An elderly person, 37-38
- One who died after a long illness, 39-41
- One who died suddenly, 42
- One who died accidentally or violently, 43
- One who died by suicide, 44-45
- Several persons, 46-47

399 Prayers for the Mourners

- General, 1-7
- A baptised child, 8-12
- A child who died before baptism, 13-14
- A stillborn child, 15

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

398 The following prayers for the dead may be used in the various rites of Parts I and II and in Part IV. The prayers should be chosen taking the character of the text into account as well as the place in the rite where it will occur. All of the prayers in this section end with the shorter conclusion. When a prayer is used as the opening prayer at the funeral liturgy, the longer conclusion is used.

1 General

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 your saints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

2 General

Lord, in our grief we turn to you.
Are you not the God of love
always ready to hear our cries?

Listen to our prayers for your servant N.,
whom you have called out of this world:
lead him/her to your kingdom of light and peace
and count him/her among the saints in glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

3 General

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 for ever.
Accept N. into your safe-keeping
and on the great day of judgment
raise him/her up with all the saints
to inherit your eternal kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

4 General

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 enter 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.

5 General

Almighty God and Father,
it is our certain faith
that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the
dead,
the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.
Grant that through this mystery

your servant N., who has gone to his/her rest in Christ,
may share in the joy of his resurrection.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

6 General

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.

7 General

Almighty God and Father,
by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong;
by the sacrament of the resurrection
you have sealed us as your own.
Look kindly upon your servant N.,
now freed from the bonds of mortality,
and count him/her among your saints in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

8 General

God of loving kindness,
listen favourably to our prayers:
strengthen our belief that your Son has risen from the
dead
and our hope that your servant N. will also rise again.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

9 General

To you, O God, the dead do not die,
and in death our life is changed, not ended.
Hear our prayers
and command the soul of your servant N.
to dwell with Abraham, your friend,
and be raised at last on the great day of judgment.
In your mercy cleanse him/her of any sin
which he/she may have committed through human
frailty.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

10 General

Lord God, in whom all find refuge,
we appeal to your boundless mercy:
grant to the soul of your servant N.,
a kindly welcome,
cleansing of sin,
release from the chains of death,
and entry into everlasting life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

11 General

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.

12 General

O God,
to whom mercy and forgiveness belong,
hear our prayers on behalf of your servant N.,
whom you have called out of this world;
and because he/she put his/her hope and trust in you,
command that he/she be carried safely home to heaven
and come to enjoy your eternal reward.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

13 General

O God,
in whom sinners find mercy and the saints find joy,
we pray to you for our brother/sister N.,
whose body we honour with Christian burial,
that he/she may be delivered from the bonds of death.
Admit him/her to the joyful company of your saints
and raise him/her on the last day
to rejoice in your presence for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

25 A baptised child

Lord, in our grief we call upon your mercy:
open your ears to our prayers,
and one day unite us again with N.,
who, we firmly trust,
already enjoys eternal life in your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

26 A baptised child

To you, O Lord,
we humbly entrust this child,
so precious in your sight.
Take him/her into your arms
and welcome him/her 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.

27 A young person

Lord,
your wisdom governs the length of our days.
We mourn the loss of N.,
whose life has passed so quickly,
and we entrust him/her to your mercy.
Welcome him/her into your heavenly dwelling
and grant him/her the happiness of everlasting youth.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

28 A young person

Lord God,
source and destiny of our lives,
in your loving providence
you gave us N.
to grow in wisdom, age, and grace.
Now you have called him/her to yourself.

As we grieve over the loss of one so young,
we seek to understand your purpose.

Draw him/her to yourself
and give him/her full stature in Christ.
May he/she stand with all the angels and saints,

who know your love and praise your saving will.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

29 Parents

Lord God, who commanded us to honour father and
mother,
look kindly upon your servants N. and N.,
have mercy upon them
and let us see them again in eternal light.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

30 A parent

God of our ancestors in faith,
by the covenant made on Mount Sinai
you taught your people to strengthen the bonds of family
through faith, honour, and love.

Look kindly upon N.,
a father/mother who sought to bind his/her children to
you.

Bring him/her one day to our heavenly home
where the saints dwell in blessedness and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

31 A married couple

Lord God, whose covenant is everlasting,
have mercy upon the sins of your servants N. and N.;
as their love for each other united them on earth,
so let your love join them together in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

32 A married couple

Eternal Father,
in the beginning you established the love of man and
woman

as a sign of creation.

Your own Son loves the Church as a spouse.

Grant mercy and peace to N. and N. who,
by their love for each other,
were signs of the creative love
which binds the Church to Christ.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

R. Amen.

33 A married couple

Lord God,
giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious,
you created in marriage a sign of your covenant.
Look with mercy upon N. and N.
You blessed them in their companionship,
and in their joys and sorrows you bound them together.
Lead them into eternal peace,
and bring them to the table where the saints
feast together in your heavenly home.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

34 A wife

Eternal God,
you made the union of man and woman
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.
Grant mercy and peace to N.,
who was united in love with her husband.
May the care and devotion of her life on earth

find a lasting reward in heaven.
Look kindly on her husband and family/children
as now they turn to your compassion and love.
Strengthen their faith and lighten their loss.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

35 A husband

Eternal God,
you made the union of man and woman
a sign of the bond between Christ and the Church.
Grant peace and mercy to N.,
who was united in love with his wife.
May the care and devotion of his life on earth
find a lasting reward in heaven.
Look kindly on his wife and family/children
as now they turn to your compassion and love.
Strengthen their faith and lighten their loss.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

36 A deceased non-Christian married to a Catholic

Almighty and faithful Creator,
all things are of your making,
all people are shaped in your image.
We now entrust the soul of N. to your goodness.
In your infinite wisdom and power,
work in him/her your merciful purpose,
known to you alone from the beginning of time.
Console the hearts of those who love him/her
in the hope that all who trust in you
will find peace and rest in your kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
R. Amen.

37 An elderly person

God of endless ages,
from one generation to the next
you have been our refuge and strength.
Before the mountains were born
or the earth came to be,
you are God.
Have mercy now on your servant N.
whose long life was spent in your service.
Give him/her a place in your kingdom,
where hope is firm for all who love
and rest is sure for all who serve.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

38 An elderly person

God of mercy,
look kindly on your servant N.
who has set down the burden of his/her years.
As he/she served you faithfully throughout his/her life,
may you give him/her the fullness of your peace and joy.
We give thanks for the long life of N.,
now caught up in your eternal love.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus who is our risen
Lord
now and for ever.
R. Amen.

39 One who died after a long illness

God of deliverance,
you called our brother/sister N.
to serve you in weakness and pain,

and gave him/her the grace of sharing the cross of your
Son.
Reward his/her patience and forbearance,
and grant him/her the fullness of Christ's victory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

40 One who died after a long illness

Most faithful God,
lively is the courage of those who hope in you.
Your servant N. suffered greatly
but placed his/her trust in your mercy.
Confident that the petition of those who mourn
pierces the clouds and finds an answer,
we beg you, give rest to N.
Do not remember his/her sins
but look upon his/her sufferings
and grant him/her refreshment, light, and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

41 One who died after a long illness

O God,
you are water for our thirst
and manna in our desert.
We praise you for the life of N.
and bless your mercy
that has brought his/her suffering to an end.
Now we beg that same endless mercy
to raise him/her to new life.
Nourished by the food and drink of heaven,
may he/she rest for ever
in the joy of Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

42 One who died suddenly

Lord,
as we mourn the sudden death of our brother/sister,
show us the immense power of your goodness
and strengthen our belief
that N. has entered into your presence.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

43 One who died accidentally or violently

Lord our God,
you are always faithful and quick to show mercy.
Our brother/sister N.
was suddenly [and violently] taken from us.
Come swiftly to his/her aid,
have mercy on him/her,
and comfort his/her family and friends
by the power and protection of the cross.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

44 One who died by suicide

God, lover of souls,
you hold dear what you have made
and spare all things, for they are yours.
Look gently on your servant N,
and by the blood of the cross
forgive his/her sins and failings.
Remember the faith of those who mourn
and satisfy their longing for that day
when all will be made new again
in Christ, our risen Lord,

who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

45 One who died by suicide

Almighty God and Father of all,
you strengthen us by the mystery of the cross
and with the sacrament of your Son's resurrection.
Have mercy on our brother/sister N.
Forgive all his/her sins and grant him/her peace.
May we who mourn this sudden death be comforted and
consoled by your power and protection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

46 Several persons

O Lord,
you gave new life to N. and N.
in the waters of baptism;
show mercy to them now,
and bring them to the happiness of life in your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

47 Several persons

All-powerful God,
whose mercy is never withheld
from those who call upon you in hope,
look kindly on your servants N. and N.,
who departed this life confessing your name,
and number them among your saints for evermore.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE MOURNERS

399 *The following prayers for the mourners may be used in the various rites of Parts I and II. The prayers should be chosen taking the character of the text into account as well as the place in the rite where it will occur.*

1 General

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.

2 General

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 for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

3 General

God, all-compassionate,
ruler of the living and the dead,
you know beforehand
those whose faithful lives reveal them as your own.
We pray for those who belong to this present world
and for those who have passed to the world to come:
grant them pardon for all their sins.
We ask you graciously to hear our prayer
through the intercession of all the saints
and for your mercy's sake.
For you are God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

4 General

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.

5 General

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.

6 General

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.

7 General

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
surround the family of N. with your love,
that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your goodness,
and strength to meet the days to come.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

8 A baptised child

Lord of all gentleness,
surround us with your care
and comfort us in our sorrow,
for we grieve at the loss of this [little] child.

As you washed N. in the waters of baptism
and welcomed him/her into the life of heaven,
so call us one day
to be united with him/her
and share for ever the joy of your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

9 A baptised child

Eternal Father,
through the intercession of Mary,
who bore your Son and stood by the cross as he died,
grant to these parents in their grief
the assistance of her presence,
the comfort of her faith,
and the reward of her prayers.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

10 A baptised child

Lord God,
source and destiny of our lives,
in your loving providence
you gave us N.
to grow in wisdom, age, and grace.
Now you have called him/her to yourself.

As we grieve over the loss of one so young,
we seek to understand your purpose.

Draw him/her to yourself
and give him/her full stature in Christ.
May he/she stand with all the angels and saints,
who know your love and praise your saving will.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

R. Amen.

11 A baptised child

Merciful Lord,
whose wisdom is beyond human understanding,
you adopted N. as your own in baptism
and have taken him/her to yourself
even as he/she stood on the threshold of life.
Listen to our prayers and extend to us your grace,
that one day we may share eternal life with N.,
for we firmly believe that he/she now rests with you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

12 A baptised child

Lord God,
from whom human sadness is never hidden,
you know the burden of grief
that we feel at the loss of this child.

As we mourn his/her passing from this life,
comfort us with the knowledge
that N. lives now in your loving embrace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

13 A child who died before baptism

O Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding,
listen to the prayers of your faithful people:

that those weighed down by grief
at the loss of this [little] child
may find reassurance in your infinite goodness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

14 A child who died before baptism

God of all consolation,
searcher of mind and heart,
the faith of these parents [N. and N.] is known to you.

Comfort them with the knowledge
that the child for whom they grieve
is entrusted now to your loving care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

15 A stillborn child

Lord God,
ever caring and gentle,
we commit to your love this little one,
quickened to life for so short a time.
Enfold him/her in eternal life.

We pray for his/her parents
who are saddened by the loss of their child.

Give them courage
and help them in their pain and grief.
May they all meet one day
in the joy and peace of your kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

400 The following texts may be used during the 'Reception at the Church' when placing Christian symbols on the coffin. Numbers 1 and 2 are for deceased persons who were baptised; number 3 is for a child who died before baptism.

1. **BOOK OF THE GOSPELS OR BIBLE** – While the Book of the Gospels or Bible is placed the coffin, the minister says in these or similar words:

In life N. cherished the Gospel of Christ.
May Christ now greet him/her with these words of eternal life:
Come, blessed of my Father!

2. **CROSS** – While a cross is placed on the coffin, the minister says in these or similar words:

In baptism N. received the sign of the cross.
May he/she now share
in Christ's victory over sin and death.

3. **CROSS** – During the presentation of a cross in the case of a child who died before baptism, the minister says in these or similar words:

The cross we have brought here today was carried by the
Lord Jesus in the hour of his suffering.
We place it now on [near] this coffin as a sign of our hope
for N.

As the cross is placed on (or near) the coffin, the minister says:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you loved us unto death.
Let this cross be a sign of your love for N.
and for the people you have gathered here today.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS AND LITANIES

401 The following intercessions and litanies may be used during a liturgy of the word or at Mass and should be adapted according to the circumstances.

1

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

For N. who in baptism was given the pledge of eternal life, that he/she now be admitted to the company of the saints.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our brother/sister who ate the body of Christ, the bread of life, that he/she may be raised up on the last day.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

[For the mourners: For the family and friends of our brother/sister N., that they may be consoled in their grief by the Lord who wept at the death of his friend Lazarus.

Lord, in your mercy:]

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

God, our shelter and our strength,
you listen in love to the cry of your people:
hear the prayers we offer for our departed brothers and sisters.

Cleanse them of their sins
and grant them the fullness of redemption.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

2

My dear friends, let us join with one another in praying to God, not only for our departed brother/sister, but also for the Church, for peace in the world, and for ourselves.

That the bishops and priests of the Church, and all who preach the Gospel, may be given the strength to express in action the word they proclaim.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That those in public office may promote justice and peace.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who bear the cross of pain in mind or body may never feel forsaken by God.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may deliver the soul of his servant N. from punishment and from the powers of darkness.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God in his mercy may blot out all his/her offences.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may establish him/her in light and peace.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may call him/her to happiness in the company of all the saints.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may welcome into his glory those of our family and friends who have departed this life.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That God may give a place in the kingdom of heaven to all the faithful departed.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

O God,
Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful,
grant to the souls of your departed servants
release from all their sins.

Hear our prayers for those we love
and give them the pardon they have always desired.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

3

Brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and sits at the right hand of the Father where he intercedes for his Church. Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we join our prayers to his:

In baptism N. received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Our brother/sister N. was nourished at the table of the Saviour. Welcome him/her into the halls of the heavenly banquet.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Many people die by violence, war, and famine each day. Show your mercy to those who suffer so unjustly these sins against your love, and gather them to the eternal kingdom of peace.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Those who trusted in the Lord now sleep in the Lord. Give refreshment, rest, and peace to all whose faith is known to you alone.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

[*For the mourners:* The family and friends of N. seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief.

Lord, in your mercy:]

R. Hear our prayer.

We are assembled here in faith and confidence to pray for our brother/sister N. Strengthen our hope so that we may live in the expectation of your Son's coming.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.

Lord God,
giver of peace and healer of souls,
hear the prayers of the Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
and the voices of your people,
whose lives were purchased by the blood of the Lamb.
Forgive the sins of all who sleep in Christ
and grant them a place in the kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

4

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, gentle Shepherd who bring 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.

5

For our brother/sister, N., let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ, who said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me shall live even in death and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.'

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.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, have mercy.

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother/sister eternal life.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, have mercy.

You promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring N. to the joys of heaven.

We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, have mercy.

Our brother/sister was washed in baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him/her fellowship with all your saints.

We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, have mercy.

He/she was nourished with your body and blood; grant him/her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

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.

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.

6

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.

FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

INVITATION TO PRAYER

402 The following are alternatives to the invitation to prayer.

1

With faith in Jesus Christ, we must reverently bury the body of our brother/sister.

Let us pray with confidence to God, in whose sight all creation lives, that he will raise up in holiness and power the mortal body of our brother/sister and command his/her soul to be numbered among the blessed.

May God grant him/her a merciful judgment, deliverance from death, and pardon of sin. May Christ the Good Shepherd carry him/her home to be at peace with the Father. May he/she rejoice for ever in the presence of the eternal King and in the company of all the saints.

2

Our brother/sister N. has fallen asleep in Christ. Confident in our hope of eternal life, let us commend him/her to the loving mercy of our Father and let our prayers go with him/her. He/she was adopted as God's son/daughter in baptism and was nourished at the table of the Lord; may he/she now inherit the promise of eternal life and take his/her place at the table of God's children in heaven.

Let us pray also on our own behalf, that we who now mourn and are saddened may one day go forth with our brother/sister to meet the Lord of life when he appears in glory.

3

Because God has chosen to call our brother/sister N. from this life to himself,
we commit his/her body to the earth,
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 first-born 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.

4

Before we go our separate ways,
let us take leave of our brother/sister.

May our farewell express our affection for him/her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

5

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for N. and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see N. again and enjoy his/her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

SONG OF FAREWELL

403 The following may be used as alternatives for the song of farewell. These responsories may also be used during the entrance procession in the celebration of the funeral liturgy.

1

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!
Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!

R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

R. Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

2

Lord our God, receive your servant,
for whom you shed your blood.

R. Remember, Lord, that we are dust: like grass, like a flower of the field.

Merciful Lord, I tremble before you,
ashamed of the things I have done.

R. Remember, Lord, that we are dust: like grass, like a flower of the field.

3

You knew me, Lord, before I was born.
You shaped me into your image and likeness.

R. I breathe forth my spirit to you, my Creator.

Merciful Lord, I tremble before you:
I am ashamed of the things I have done;
do not condemn me when you come in judgment.

R. I breathe forth my spirit to you, my Creator.

4

I know that my Redeemer lives:
on the last day I shall rise again.

R. And in my flesh I shall see God.

or

R. On the last day I shall rise again.

I shall see him myself, face to face;
and my own eyes shall behold my Saviour. R.

Within my heart this hope I cherish:
that in my flesh I shall see God. R.

5

I know that my Redeemer lives,
And on that final day of days,
His voice shall bid me rise again:
Unending joy, unceasing praise!
This hope I cherish in my heart:
To stand on earth, my flesh restored,
And, not a stranger but a friend,
Behold my Saviour and my Lord.

6

Lazarus you raised, O Lord, from the decay of the tomb.

R. Grant your servant rest, a haven of pardon and peace.

Eternal rest, O Lord,
and your perpetual light. R.

7

You shattered the gates of bronze
and preached to the spirits in prison.

R. Deliver me, Lord, from the streets of darkness.

A light and a revelation
to those confined in darkness. R.

'Redeemer, you have come,'
they cried, the prisoners of silence. R.

Eternal rest, O Lord,
and your perpetual light. R.

8 **[SUNG] May the Choirs of Angels**

May the Choirs of Angels
Come to greet you.
May they lead you to paradise.

May our Lord enfold you, in his mercy,
May he give you eternal life.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

404 The following prayers may be used as alternative forms of the prayer of commendation.

1 **A baptised person**

Into your hands, Father of mercies,
we commend our brother/sister N.
in the sure and certain hope
that, together with all who have died in Christ,
he/she will rise with him on the last day.

[We give you thanks for the blessings
which you bestowed upon N. in this life:
they are signs to us of your goodness
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.]

Merciful Lord,
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servant
and help us who remain
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you and with our brother/sister for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

2 **A baptised child**

Lord Jesus,
like a shepherd who gathers the lambs
to protect them from all harm,
you led N. to the waters of baptism
and shielded him/her in innocence.

Now carry this little one
on the path to your kingdom of light
where he/she will find happiness
and every tear will be wiped away.

To you be glory, now and for ever.

R. Amen.

3 **A baptised child**

Into your gentle keeping, O Lord,
we commend this child [N.].
Though our hearts are troubled,
we hope in your loving kindness.

By the sign of the cross
he/she was claimed for Christ,
and in the waters of baptism
he/she died with Christ to live in him for ever.

May the angels, our guardians,
lead N. now to paradise
where your saints will welcome him/her
and every tear will be wiped away.
There we shall join in songs of praise for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

408 One of the following may be used as an alternative to the concluding prayer.

1 **Listen, O God, to the prayers of your Church**

on behalf of the faithful departed,
and grant to your servant N.,
whose funeral we have celebrated today,
the inheritance promised to all your saints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

2 **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.

3 **Lord God,**

whose days are without end
and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful
that life is short and the hour of death unknown.
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth
in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you
in union with the whole Church,
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.
And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live for ever and ever.

R. Amen.
