

FUNERAL LITURGY OUTSIDE MASS

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me shall never die.

- 177 In the funeral liturgy outside Mass the community gathers to hear the message of Easter hope proclaimed in the liturgy of the word and to commend the deceased to God.
- 178 This rite may be used for various reasons:
1. when the funeral Mass is not permitted, namely, on solemnities of obligation, on Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum, and on the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and the Easter Season; (cf GIRM 336)
 2. when in some places or circumstances it is not possible to celebrate the funeral Mass before the committal, for example, if a priest is not available;
 3. when for pastoral reasons the pastor and the family judge that the funeral liturgy outside Mass is a more suitable form of celebration.
- 179 The funeral liturgy outside Mass is ordinarily celebrated in the parish church, but may also be celebrated in the home of the deceased, a funeral home, parlour, chapel of rest, or cemetery chapel.
- 180 The readings are those of the Lectionary for Mass, 'Masses for the Dead.' The intercessions should be adapted to the circumstances. Models are given in place and in Part V, no. 401. The celebration may also include holy communion.
- 181 In the choice of music for the funeral liturgy, preference should be given to the singing of the entrance song, the responsorial psalm, the gospel acclamation, and especially the song of farewell at the final commendation.
- 182 The minister who is a priest or deacon wears an alb with stole (a cope may be used, if desired); a lay-person who presides wears the liturgical vestments approved for the region.

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

[PLACING OF THE PALL]

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

[PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS]

INVITATION TO PRAYER

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS

HOMILY

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FINAL COMMENDATION

INVITATION TO PRAYER

SILENCE

[SIGNS OF FAREWELL]

SONG OF FAREWELL

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

183 If the rite of reception of the body takes place at the beginning of the funeral liturgy, the introductory rites are those given here. If the rite of reception of the body has already taken place, the liturgy begins with an entrance song and the greeting (no. 184), followed by the invitation to prayer (no. 189).

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING

184 The presiding minister, with assisting ministers, goes to the door of the church and using one of the following greetings, or in similar words, greets those present.

A

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And also with you.

B

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
R. And also with you.

C

The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be always with you.
R. And also with you.

D

May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.
R. And also with you.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

185 The presiding minister then sprinkles the coffin with holy water, saying:
In the waters of baptism
N. died with Christ and rose with him to new life.
May he/she now share with him eternal glory.

[PLACING OF THE PALL]

186 If it is the custom in the local community, the pall is then placed on the coffin by family members, friends, or the minister.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

187 The Easter candle may be placed beforehand near the position the coffin will occupy at the conclusion of the procession. The presiding minister and assisting ministers precede the coffin and the mourners into the church. During the procession a psalm, song, or responsory is sung (see no. 403).

[PLACING OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS]

188 A symbol of the Christian life, such as a Book of the Gospels, a Bible, or a cross, may be carried in procession, then placed on the coffin, either in silence or as a text from no. 400 is said.

On reaching the altar, the presiding minister, with the assisting ministers, makes the customary reverence and goes to the chair.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

189 When all have reached their places, the presiding minister, using the following or similar words, invites the assembly to pray.
My brothers and sisters,
we have come together to renew our trust in Christ
who, by dying on the cross, has freed us from eternal death
and, by rising, has opened for us the gates of heaven.
Let us pray for our brother/sister,
that he/she may share in Christ's victory,
and let us pray for ourselves,
that the Lord may grant us
the gift of his loving consolation.

OPENING PRAYER

190 After a brief period of silent prayer, the presiding minister sings or says one of the following prayers or one of those provided in no. 398.

A

Outside the Easter season

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 our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

B

Outside the Easter season

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 our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever,

R. Amen.

C

Outside the Easter season

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 our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

D

During the Easter season

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 our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

ALTERNATIVE PRAYERS

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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS

191 After the introductory rites, the liturgy of the word is celebrated. Depending upon pastoral circumstances, either one or two readings may be read before the gospel reading.

HOMILY

192 A brief homily should be given after the gospel reading.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

193 One of the following intercessions or those given in no. 401, may be used or adapted to the circumstances, or new intercessions may be composed.

A

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 may now be admitted to the company of the saints.

We pray to the Lord:

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 our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have 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 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 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.

The presiding minister then concludes:

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.

B

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.

The presiding minister then concludes:

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.

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.

The presiding minister then concludes:

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.

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.

The presiding minister then concludes:

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.

3

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.

4

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.

The presiding minister then concludes:

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.

5

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 presiding minister then concludes:

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

194 Using one of the following invitations, or in similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

A

Now let us pray as Christ the Lord has taught us:

B

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father:

All say:

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.

[195 The celebration may include holy communion (Part V, nos. 409-410).]

[196 If the final commendation is to be celebrated at the place of committal, the procession to the place of committal (no. 203) begins following the Lord's Prayer or the prayer after communion.]

FINAL COMMENDATION

197 Following the Lord's Prayer (or the prayer after communion), the presiding minister goes to a place near the coffin. The assisting ministers carry the censer and holy water, if these are to be used.

A member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased before the final commendation begins.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

198 Using one of the following invitations, or one of those provided in no. 402, or in similar words, the presiding minister faces the people and begins the final commendation.

A

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.

B

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.

SILENCE

199 All pray in silence.

[SIGNS OF FAREWELL]

200 The coffin may now be sprinkled with holy water and incensed, or this may take place during or after the song of farewell.

SONG OF FAREWELL

201 The song of farewell is then sung. The following or other responsories chosen from no. 403, may be used or some other song may be sung.
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.

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

202 The presiding minister then says one of the following prayers.

A

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.

B

To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of N. your servant;
in the sight of this world he/she is now dead;
in your sight may he/she live for ever.

Forgive whatever sins he/she committed through human weakness
and in your goodness grant him/her everlasting peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

203 An assisting minister, or in the absence of an assisting minister, the presiding minister says:

In peace let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.

If a symbol of the Christian life has been placed on the coffin, it should be removed at this time.

The procession then begins: the presiding minister and assisting ministers precede the coffin; the family and mourners follow.

One or more of the following texts or other suitable songs may be sung during the procession to the entrance of the church. The singing may continue during the journey to the place of committal.

A

The following antiphon may be sung with verses from Psalm 24 or separately.

May the angels lead you into paradise;
may the martyrs come to welcome you
and take you to the holy city,
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

B

The following antiphon may be sung with verses from Psalm 115, or separately.

May choirs of angels welcome you
and lead you to the bosom of Abraham;
and where Lazarus is poor no longer
may you find eternal rest.

C

Whoever believes in me,
even though that person die, shall live.

R. I am the resurrection and the life.

Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.

R. I am the resurrection and the life.

D

The following psalms may also be used. Psalm 117, Psalm 41, Psalm 92, Psalm 24, Psalm 118.

CONCLUSION - PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

223 The assisting minister says:

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.

The minister then 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.

A

A minister who is a priest or deacon says:

May the peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

B

A lay minister invokes God's blessing and signs himself or herself 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 minister then concludes:

Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.

A song may conclude the rite. Where it is the custom, some sign or gesture of leave-taking may be made.