

Order of Christian Funerals

Funeral Mass



*No eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the heart of man conceived,
what God has prepared
for those who Love him.*

- 1 Corinthians 2:9

BEFORE THE LITURGY

While waiting for the funeral to begin, this is an opportunity to pray for our loved one who has died, and to pray for all of those who mourn. One could pray the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or the prayers provided below.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD AND FOR MOURNERS

*In your hands, O Lord,
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.*

*In this life you embraced them
with your tender love;
deliver them now from every evil
and bid them eternal rest.*

*The old order has passed away:
welcome them into paradise,
where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,
but fullness of peace and joy
with your Son and the Holy Spirit
forever and ever. Amen.*

*God, our creator and redeemer,
by your power Christ conquered death
and returned to you in glory.*

*May all your people, especially our loved one,
who we remember today,
who has gone before us in faith,
share His victory
and enjoy the vision of your glory for ever,
where Christ lives and reigns with you
in the unity of Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

*Lord, God of all creation
we bless and thank you for your tender care.
Receive this life you created in love
and comfort your faithful people
in their time of loss
with the assurance of your unfailing mercy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Compassionate God,
soothe the hearts of those who mourn,
and grant that through the prayers of Mary,
who grieved by the Cross of her Son,
you may enlighten their faith,
give hope to their hearts,
and peace to their lives.*

*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 their
loved one, may find reassurance
in your infinite goodness.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Lord,
grant mercy to all the members of this family
and comfort them with the hope
that one day all the faithful
will live with you,
with your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever. Amen.*



THE FUNERAL MASS

We come together in this church today "... to give praise and thanks to God for Christ's victory over sin and death, to commend our loved one to God's tender mercy and compassion, and to seek strength in the proclamation of the paschal mystery [the gift of salvation through Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection]. Through the Holy Spirit the community is joined together in faith as one Body in Christ to reaffirm in sign and symbol, word and gesture that each believer through baptism shares in Christ's death and resurrection and looks to the day when all the elect will be raised up and united in the kingdom of light and peace."

INTRODUCTORY RITES

All stand, and face the entrance to the church.

“The minister sprinkles the coffin with holy water in remembrance of the deceased person’s initiation and first acceptance into the community of faith. A white funeral pall, a reminder of the garment given at baptism, and therefore signifying life in Christ, is placed on the coffin.”

GREETING

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All respond: And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

PLACING OF THE PALL

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Ps. 64:2-5

Cantor, then all:

Grant them e - ter - nal rest, O Lord; e - ter - nal rest, and may per-pet-ual light shine u - pon them for - ev - er.

*John M. Ignatowski
based on the Gregorian Introit, Requiem aeternam*

COLLECT

Presider: ...Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All Respond: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All are seated.

“The readings proclaim the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey hope of being gathered together again in God’s kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God’s design for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own.”

FIRST READING

Reader: ...The Word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

One of the following responses is used:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.	Psalm 23
To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.	Psalm 25
The Lord is my light and my salvation.	Psalm 27
My soul is thirsting for the living God; when shall I see him face to face?	Psalm 42
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.	Psalm 63
The Lord is kind and merciful.	Psalm 103
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.	Psalm 116
Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.	Psalm 122
Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord	Psalm 130
O Lord, hear my prayer.	Psalm 143

SECOND READING

Reader: ...The Word of the Lord.

All respond: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

All stand when the Alleluia begins.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All respond: And with your spirit.

Presider: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____.

All respond: Glory to you, O Lord.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

All respond: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

All are seated.

Based upon the scripture readings, the presider gives a homily to proclaim God's compassionate love, the mystery of Jesus' victorious death and resurrection in the life of our loved one, and how these mysteries are present in our own life, also. "Through the homily members of the family and community should receive consolation and strength to face the death of one of their members with a hope nourished by the saving word of God."

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

All stand for the general intercessions.

All respond to each intercession: Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

All are seated.

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

“At the funeral Mass, the community, having been spiritually renewed at the table of God’s word, turns for spiritual nourishment to the table of the Eucharist. The community with the priest offers to the Father the sacrifice of the New Covenant...In partaking of the body of Christ, all are given a foretaste of eternal life in Christ and are united with Christ, with each other, and with all the faithful, living and dead.”

All stand as the priest says:

Presider: Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours My be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

***All respond:* May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Presider: ...Through Christ our Lord.

***All respond:* Amen**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

***All respond:* And with your spirit.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

***All respond:* We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

***All respond:* It is right and just.**

Presider: It is truly right and just...we acclaim:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

All respond (sung or spoken):

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

All kneel.



MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Presider: The mystery of faith.

All respond (sung or spoken):
**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

or

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

or

**Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

AMEN

Presider: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

All respond (sung or spoken): Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

All stand.

Presider: At the savior's command and formed by divine teach we dare to say

***All respond:* 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 in into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Presider: Deliver us, Lord we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.

***All respond:* For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.**

THE SIGN OF PEACE

Presider: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

***All Respond:* And with your spirit.**

Presider: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another a sign of peace to those around them.

LAMB OF GOD

All respond (sung or spoken):

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Presider: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All respond: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

All kneel.



GUIDELINES FOR RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should be actively living their Catholic faith, should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin or is not practicing their Catholic faith is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. Because Catholics believe that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus, and believe that receiving Holy Communion means that we are in full communion with everything that the Catholic Church teaches, the reception of Holy Communion is limited to those who share our Catholic faith.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to make a spiritual communion, that is, to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand.

Presider: Let us pray...

All respond: Amen

FINAL COMMENDATION

“The final commendation is a final farewell by the members of the community, an act of respect for one of their members, who they entrust to the tender and merciful embrace of God. This act of last farewell also acknowledges the reality of separation and affirms that the community and the deceased, baptized into the one Body, share the same destiny, resurrection on the last day. On that day the one Shepherd will call each by name and gather the faithful together in the new and eternal Jerusalem.”

INVITATION TO PRAYER

“The rite begins with the presider’s opening words and a few moments of silent prayer...The pause for silence allows the bereaved and all present to relate their own feelings of loss and grief to the mystery of Christian hope in God’s abundant mercy and his promise of eternal life.”

SILENCE

SONG OF FAREWELL

1. Come to his/her aid, O saints of God;
2. May Christ, who called you, take you home,
3. Give him/her e - ter - nal rest, O Lord.
4. I know that my Re - deem - er lives;

Come, meet him/her, an - gels of the Lord.
And an - gels lead you to A - bra - ham.
May light un - end - ing shine on him/her.
The last day I shall rise a - gain.

Re - ceive his/her soul, O ho - ly ones; Pre -

sent him/her now to God, Most High.

Text: Based on *Subvenite* and Job 19:25–27; English text by Dennis C. Smolarski, SJ, © 1981; Spanish text by Ronald F. Krisman, b.1946,
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Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, LM; Louis Bourgeois, c.1510–1561, alt.



PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

Presider: ...We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All respond: Amen

PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

*Cantor, then all:
Primero el cantor, luego todos:*

Al pa - ra - í - so te lle - ven los May the an - gels lead you in - to

par - a - dise; an - ge - les, a tu lle - ga - da te re - ci - ban wel - come los

you and take you to the ho - ly cit - y, the már - ti - res y te in - tro - duz - can en la ciu - dad san - ta, la ciu -

new and e - ter - nal Je - ru - sa - lem. dad san - ta de Je - ru - sa - lén. Al pa - ra -

Text: *In paradisum* and *Chorus angelorum*; *Rite of Funerals*, © 1970, ICEL; *Ritual de Exequias*, © 1989, Comisión Episcopal Española de Liturgia
Music: *Music for Rite of Funerals and Rite of Baptism for Children*, Howard Hughes, SM, © 1977, ICEL



In Paradisum



In pa - ra - di - sum de - du - cant te An - ge - li:
 May choirs of An - gels es - cort you in - to par - a - dise:

in tu - o ad - ven - tu sus - ci - pi - ant te Mar - ty - res,
 may the ho - ly Mar - tyrs re - ceive you on your ar - riv - al,

et per - du - cant - te in ci - vi - ta - tem san - ctam Je - ru - sa - lem.
 and de - liv - er you un - to the ho - ly ci - ty Je - ru - sa - lem.

Cho - rus An - ge - lo - rum te sus - ci - pi - at,
 May the choirs of An - gels re - ceive and wel - come you,

et cum La - za - ro quon - dam pau - pe - re
 and with La - za - rus who once was poor

ae - ter - nam ha - be - as re - qui - em.
 may you share now in ev - er - last - ing rest.

Text: *In paradisum and Chorus Angelorum*, tr. N. Knutson.
 Tune: *Mode VII*, Gregorian chant. Public Domain.



