



FUNERAL RITES - OUTLINE OF THE RITE

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FUNERAL MASS

158. If the rite of reception of the body takes place at the beginning of the funeral Mass, the introductory rites are those given here and the usual introductory rites for Mass, including the penitential rite, are omitted. If the rite of reception of the body has already taken place, the Mass begins in the usual way.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting

159. The priest, 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 with your spirit.

B

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

R. And with your spirit.

C

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

R. And with your spirit.

D

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

R. And with your spirit.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

160. The priest 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 the Pall)

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

Entrance Procession

162. The Easter candle may be placed beforehand near the position the coffin will occupy at the conclusion of the procession. The priest 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)

163. 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 priest, with the assisting ministers, makes the customary reverence, kisses the altar, and (if incense is used) incenses it. Then he goes to the chair.

164. When all have reached their places, the priest invites the assembly to pray.

Let us pray.

After a brief period of silent prayer, the priest 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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings

165. 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

166. A brief homily is given after the gospel reading.

General Intercessions

167. 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.

The priest begins:

A

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.

(For a religious: Our brother/sister N. spent his/her life following Jesus, poor, chaste, and obedient. Count him/her among all holy men and women who sing in your courts.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.)

(For a bishop or priest: Our brother N. shared in the priesthood of Jesus Christ, leading God's people in prayer and worship. Bring him into your presence where he will take his place in the heavenly liturgy.

Lord, in your mercy:

R. Hear our prayer.)

(For a deacon: Our brother N. served God's people as a deacon of the Church. Prepare a place for him in the kingdom whose coming he proclaimed.

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 priest 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.

B

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.

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 a deacon: For our brother **N.**, who proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ and served the needs of the poor, that he may be welcomed into the sanctuary of heaven.

Lord in your mercy:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.)

(For a bishop or priest: For our brother **N.**, who served the Church as a priest, that he may be given a place in the liturgy of heaven.

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 priest 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

168. The liturgy of the eucharist is celebrated in the usual manner.

(169. If the final commendation is to be celebrated at the place of committal, the procession to the place of committal (no. 176) begins following the prayer after communion.)

FINAL COMMENDATION

170. Following the prayer after communion, the priest 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

171. Using one of the following invitations, or one of those provided in no. 402, or in similar words, the priest 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

172. All pray in silence.

(Signs of Farewell)

173. 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

174. 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.

Prayer of Commendation

175. The priest 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

176. The deacon or, in the absence of a deacon, the priest 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 priest 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.

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

A

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.

The following antiphon may be sung with verses from Psalm 114 and 115, or separately.

B

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.