

THE BURIAL RITE at the CEMETERY

Preparation

The minister greets the people in these or other suitable words

Grace, mercy and peace +
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

Though we are dust and ashes,
God has prepared for those who love him
a heavenly dwelling place.

At *his/her* funeral we commended *N*
into the hands of almighty God.

As we prepare to commit
the body of *N* to the earth,
we entrust ourselves and all who love God
to his loving care.

Appropriate sentences of Scripture may be used.

Readings

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. *John 19.38-end*

THE COMMITTAL

The priest first blesses the grave:

P: Let us pray:

O God,
through whose mercy
the souls of the departed are at rest,
bless + this grave, we beg you,
and send your holy angels to guard it.
Grant freedom to the soul of him
whose ashes are buried here,
so that he may find joy in your company
with the saints and the angels,
forever and ever. *Amen.*

The grave is sprinkled with holy water.

P. We have but a short time to live.
Like a flower we blossom and then wither;
like a shadow we flee and never stay.
In the midst of life we are in death;
to whom can we turn for help,
but to you, Lord,
who are justly angered by our sins?
Yet, Lord God most holy, Lord most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Saviour,
deliver us from the bitter pain of eternal death.

Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts;
hear our prayer, O God most mighty;
spare us, most worthy judge eternal;
at our last hour let us not fall from you,
O holy and merciful Saviour.

The Burial

We have entrusted our *brother/sister N*
to God's mercy,
and we now commit *his/her* body to the ground:
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust:
in sure and certain hope
of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will transform our frail bodies
that they may be conformed to his glorious body,
who died, was buried, and rose again for us.
To him be glory for ever.
Amen.

Other prayers may be used:

May Mary, the most merciful Virgin Mother of God,
kindest comforter of those who mourn,
commend to her Son the soul of his servant
who has departed this life,
that through her intercession,
he/she may reach *his/her* home in heaven,
and live forever in God's presence.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

THE DISMISSAL

May the love of God
and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
console you and gently wipe away every tear
from your eyes.
Amen.

And may the infinite and glorious Trinity,
Father, ✚ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
direct your life in good works,
and after your journey through this world
grant you eternal rest with N and all the saints.
Amen.