

VIGIL FOR THE DECEASED WITH RECEPTION AT THE CHURCH FOR THE FUNERAL OF A PRIEST

The *Vigil for the Deceased* includes either the *Liturgy of the Hours* (Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer from the Office for the Dead, depending on the time of day) or a Liturgy of the Word as described in the *Order of Christian Funerals* (1989/1998).

The *Vigil for the Deceased* may be preceded by the prayers for the *Transfer of the Body to the Church* as found in the *Order of Christian Funerals* (nos. 121-127). These prayers may be prayed in the Rectory or in the Funeral Home prior to the *Vigil for the Deceased*.

- *The celebrant for the Vigil for the Deceased is designated by the Office for Clergy. He vests in a cope and stole (violet or white).*
- *If a deacon is assisting, he vests in a dalmatic and stole (the same liturgical color as the celebrant). He reads the Intercessions at the Liturgy of the Hours or the Gospel and Intercessions at the Liturgy of the Word.*
 - *All priests are welcome to participate in the Vigil for the Deceased, vested in choir dress.*
- *A lector proclaims the reading at the Liturgy of the Hours or the Liturgy of the Word. If no deacon is present than another lector reads the Intercessions at the Liturgy of the Hours or the Liturgy of the Word.*
- *A cantor leads the hymns, psalms and canticles as needed.*
- *Three altar servers carry the cross, the ritual book, Order of Christian Funerals, and the holy water, respectively.*
- *Two candles are lit on or near the altar.*
- *Seating should be reserved for participating priests and for the family.*

The *Vigil for the Deceased with Reception at the Church* with the Liturgy of the Word follows:

INTRODUCTORY RITES

- *The Introductory Rites begin at the door of the church (or entrance to the nave). The cross leads the procession to the door of the church. Other clergy may join this procession or already be in place. Fitting instrumental music may accompany this procession to the door of the church.*

GREETING

- *There is no Sign of the Cross. The celebrant uses one of the following greetings:*

May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace,
and may the Lord of life be always with you.

R. And with your spirit. *Or,*

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

R. And with your spirit. *Or,*

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

R. And with your spirit. *Or,*

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

R. And with your spirit.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

- *The celebrant 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 now share with him eternal glory.

- *The pall is not placed at this time. It is placed on the coffin prior to the Funeral Mass.*

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

- *The lit Easter candle may be placed beforehand near the position the coffin will occupy at the conclusion of the procession. The celebrant 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)*
- *The coffin is placed on a bier at the head of the center aisle with the head of the deceased priest toward the altar.*
- *The celebrant makes the customary reverence in the sanctuary, venerates the altar and then continues at the chair for (the Liturgy of the Hours or) the Liturgy of the Word, as described in the Order of Christian Funerals.*

INVITATION TO PRAYER

- *In the following words, the celebrant invites those present to pray.*

My brothers and sisters, we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us pray, asking God to gather **N.** to himself;

- *Pause for silent prayer.*

OPENING PRAYER

- *The celebrant says one of the following prayers or one of those provided in nos. 398-399.*

Lord in our grief we turn to you.
Are you not the God of love
who open your ears to all?

Listen to our prayers for your servant **N.**,
whom you have called out of this world:
lead him to your kingdom of light and peace
and count him among the saints in glory.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Or,

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 sins,
and grant him a place of happiness, light, and peace
In the kingdom of your glory for ever and ever.

R. Amen

LITURGY OF THE WORD

- *The celebration continues with the Liturgy of the Word.*
- *What is suggested below is only one option for the Liturgy of the Word.*
- *Other readings, psalms, and gospel readings are given in Part III of the ritual book.*
- *The Lectionary for Mass is used to proclaim the readings.*

FIRST READING

- *The Lector proclaims the first reading at the ambo.*

The first letter of John (3: 1-2)

We shall see God as he really is.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

- *The cantor sings the psalm at the ambo.*

Psalm 103

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Or,

R. The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

GOSPEL

- *The gospel reading is proclaimed at the ambo in the usual way.*
- *If a deacon reads the Gospel, he first receives the blessing from the celebrant as usual.*

The gospel of John (14: 1-6)

There are many rooms in my Father's house.

HOMILY

- *A brief homily on the readings is then given at the chair or the ambo.*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

LITANY

- *The celebrant introduces the following litany from the chair.*

Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith
in the power of his cross and resurrection:

- *Deacon or, if there is no deacon, the lector at the ambo:*

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 today:

Lord, have mercy **R.** Lord, have mercy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- *Using one of the following invitations, the celebrant invites all to pray the Lord's Prayer.*

Friends [Brothers and sisters], our true home is heaven. Therefore let us pray to our heavenly Father as Jesus taught us: *Or,*

With God there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us: *Or,*

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus taught us:

- *All:* Our Father. . .

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- *The celebrant says one of the following prayers or one of those provided in nos. 398-399.*

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 in everlasting life.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Or,

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

- *After the Concluding Prayer of (the Liturgy of the Hours or) the Liturgy of the Word, a member or friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased priest.*
- *After the Concluding Prayer or the words of remembrance, the lid is removed from the coffin. The celebrant goes to the coffin for the Blessing.*

CONCLUDING RITE

BLESSING

- *The celebrant says:*

Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.

- *The celebrant signs the forehead of the deceased priest with the sign of the cross, accompanied by the following words.*

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. R. Amen.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. R. Amen.

- *The celebrant says:*

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

R. Amen.

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

R. Amen.

- *There is no Dismissal. After the Blessing, all make the customary reverence and recess. A hymn or silence may accompany this recessional.*
- *Before the Funeral Mass begins, the coffin lid is replaced, the pall is placed on the coffin by family members or parish members or other priests, and the Book of the Gospels is placed on the coffin (see no. 400). The Book of the Gospels is not used for the Gospel for a Funeral Mass.*