

PLANNING A CATHOLIC FUNERAL

A Guide to Help You Plan the Funeral Mass



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FOREWORD

Experiencing the death of a loved one is never easy, regardless of the circumstances. As you begin the process of grieving the loss of a loved one, please be assured that the community of St. Bartholomew Parish holds you in our hearts and in our prayers at this time. All of the details that you must tend to at this time can be an added stress. The intention of this booklet is to familiarize you with certain aspects of the Catholic funeral rites in order to make it easier for you to plan the funeral. Additionally, this booklet will point out the parts where you may make the Funeral Mass more personal by choosing readings and songs, and choosing family or friends to participate. Included with this booklet is a sheet on which you can record your selections. This can be returned to the funeral director.

PRIOR TO THE FUNERAL LITURGY

About Christian Funerals and Burials

While the death of a loved one stirs up many thoughts, feelings and memories of the deceased, it is important to remember that a Catholic funeral is not a typical “memorial service” that we might often see portrayed on television or in the movies. The rites surrounding the Catholic funeral serve many purposes. We are mindful that we do not leave this world in a state of perfection and are in need of prayers for the cleansing of our sins. In the funeral prayers we pray for the deceased and we commend them to the loving and compassionate Father, entrusting them to his mercy.

Foremost among the things we remember in the Funeral Liturgy is the central aspect of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In making Jesus the central focus of our “memorial”, we who are left behind find comfort and consolation in the promise made by Jesus that our bodies would be raised up like his on the Last Day. We are encouraged in our time of grief by the prospect of one day seeing our loved one again and enjoying eternal life with him / her in God’s presence.

A Word on Cremation

Cremation, provided it is not done for reasons to deny our faith in the resurrection of the body, is permitted by the Catholic Church. It is preferred, however, that the body of the deceased be brought into the church for the Funeral Mass prior to cremation. If necessary, however, it is permitted to bring the cremated remains into the church for the Funeral Mass.

The Church maintains that, after the Funeral Mass, the cremated remains must be buried. Keeping the ashes at home, the sprinkling of ashes, putting them in jewelry or any other use of them is not permitted. When we bury the body, or the ashes, of a loved one in a cemetery we give witness to our faith that, on the Day of Resurrection, Jesus will raise up our bodies and give to them new and everlasting life.

Memorial Gifts

Today many families will ask that, instead of flowers, gifts in memory of the deceased be given to a particular cause. We ask that you might consider Saint Bartholomew Parish as possible recipients of memorial gifts by inviting people to make a donation to the parish in your loved one’s name.

THE FUNERAL LITURGY

Participation of Loved Ones

While not necessary, sometimes friends or family members of the deceased like to participate in the Funeral Mass. There are a few different opportunities for this to happen. Some involve speaking and others do not. Pall bearers carry the casket into the church and accompany it down the aisle. There is also the opportunity for a couple of people to proclaim the Word of God or read the Universal Prayers during the Liturgy of the Word. As we move into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, this is an opportunity to have two to three members of the family bring forward the gifts of bread and wine.

The Liturgy of the Word

We begin the Funeral Mass by listening to the Word of God in the Scriptures. It is not permitted to replace the Scriptures with non-biblical readings. You are welcome to ask family members or friends to proclaim the First and/or Second Readings. Choices for these readings are given in the next section. Proclaiming the Word of God is an important role. In choosing someone to do so, please choose someone who will be able to maintain composure and to speak clearly. The Responsorial Psalm is normally led by the cantor with the congregation joining in the refrain. The Gospel reading will be chosen by, and proclaimed by, the priest or deacon.

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Universal Prayers (also known as the General Intercessions). Assisting in reading these prayers is another opportunity for a family member or friend to participate. Sample prayers are given after the readings in the following section. Some can be personalized to remember other deceased members of the family.

Music

Music is very important at the Funeral Liturgy. The role of music in the Funeral Mass is to assist us in glorifying and giving praise to God, as well as to support and console those who grieve the loss of a loved one. For this reason, the music chosen for the Mass should be sacred music, composed for this purpose. Popular or secular music that is desired finds a fitting place in being played or sung either at the funeral home during the visiting hours, or at the cemetery, at the conclusion of the prayers. A selection of appropriate songs can be found on the back of the funeral planning sheet.

Remarks of Remembrance (Eulogy)

A eulogy is, strictly speaking, not a part of the Catholic funeral. In the Archdiocese of Boston, special permission is granted for only one representative of the family to offer some remarks of remembrance about the deceased for no more than five minutes. A good rule of thumb would be that the remarks be no more than two pages, double spaced. We ask you to please be respectful of this policy. Because it is the policy of the Archdiocese, the parish priest does not have authority to deviate from it.

The words that are spoken should highlight the Christian virtues and faith of the deceased. Please be mindful that you are in a sacred space and so inappropriate stories or language should not be used. Unfortunately, experience has taught us that we must include this instruction here. Remember that offering remarks is an option, and nobody should feel obliged to give a eulogy. As with those who are doing the readings, the person chosen to offer the Remarks of Remembrance should be able to maintain composure and speak clearly. A copy of the remarks should be given to the priest the evening prior to the funeral.

READING SELECTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL MASS

First Reading

The first reading for the Funeral Mass comes from the Old Testament. During the Easter Season, the First Reading is chosen from among readings 1, 17, 18 or 19 of the New Testament Readings.

1. Maccabees 12: 43-46

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

Judas, the ruler of Israel, took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

The word of the Lord.

2. Job 19: 1, 3-27a

A reading from the Book of Job

Job answered Bildad the Shuhite and said: Oh, would that my words were written down! Would that they were inscribed in a record: That with an iron chisel and with lead they were cut in the rock forever! But as for me, I know that my Vindicator lives, and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust; Whom I myself shall see: my own eyes, not another's, shall behold him; And from my flesh I shall see God; my inmost being is consumed with longing.

The word of the Lord.

3. (Long Form) Wisdom 3: 1-9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble; They shall judge nations and rule over peoples, and the LORD shall be their King forever. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

(Short form) Wisdom 3: 1-6, 9

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction and their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are in peace. For if before men, indeed they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality; Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself. As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself. Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love: Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The word of the Lord.

4. Wisdom 4:7-15

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

The just man, though he die early, shall be at rest. For the age that is honorable comes not with the passing of time, nor can it be measured in terms of years. Rather, understanding is the hoary crown for men, and an unsullied life, the attainment of old age. He who pleased God was loved; he who lived among sinners was transported— Snatched away, lest wickedness pervert his mind or deceit beguile his soul; For the witchery of paltry things obscures what is right and the whirl of desire transforms the innocent mind. Having become perfect in a short while, he reached the fullness of a long career; for his soul was pleasing to the LORD, therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness. But the people saw and did not understand, nor did they take this into account.

The word of the Lord.

5. Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

6. Lamentations 3:17-26

A reading from the Book of Lamentations

My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the LORD. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall; Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favors of the LORD are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the LORD, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the LORD to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; It is good to hope in silence for the saving help of the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

7. Daniel 12:1-3

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Daniel

In those days, I, Daniel, mourned and heard this word of the Lord: At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people; It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress since nations began until that time. At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace. But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

The word of the Lord.

The Second Reading

The second reading at a Funeral Mass is taken from the New Testament. The following are the options:

1. (Longer Form) Acts 10:34-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all, what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

(Shorter Form) Acts 10: 34-36, 42-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak, saying: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him. You know the word that he sent to the children of Israel as he proclaimed peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

2. Romans 5:5-11

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

3. Romans 5:17-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If, by the transgression of the one, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so, through one righteous act, acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

4. (Longer Form) Romans 6:3-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

(Short Form) Romans 6:3-4, 8-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

The word of the Lord.

5. Romans 8:14-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, "Father!" The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

6. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

7. Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: *As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.* So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

8. (Longer Form) 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet." But when it says that everything has been subjected, it is clear that it excludes the one who subjected everything to him. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord.

(Shorter Form) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

The word of the Lord.

9. 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?* The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

10. 2 Corinthians 4:14—5:1

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Knowing that the One who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God. Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

11. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The word of the Lord.

12. Philippians 3:20-21

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

The word of the Lord.

13. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

14. 2 Timothy 2:8-13

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

The word of the Lord.

15. 1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

16. 1 John 3:14-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved: We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

The word of the Lord.

17. Revelation 14:13

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," said the Spirit, "let them find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them."

The word of the Lord.

18. Revelation 20:11—21:1

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

The word of the Lord.

19. Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them as their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, for the old order has passed away." The One who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son."

The word of the Lord.

Universal Prayers

The Universal Prayers follow the homily and are the prayers of the community for the deceased and for others. Where the letter "N." appears, the given name of the deceased is inserted.

Option A:

Priest: 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:

1. In baptism, **N.** received the light of Christ. Scatter the darkness now and lead him/her over the waters of death. We pray to the Lord.
2. Many friends and members of our families have gone before us and await the kingdom. Grant them an everlasting home with your Son. We pray to the Lord.
3. 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. We pray to the Lord.
4. The family and friends of **N.** seek comfort and consolation. Heal their pain and dispel the darkness and doubt that come from grief. We pray to the Lord.
5. 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. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: 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.

Option B:

Priest: God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask him to save all his people, living and dead:

1. 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.
2. For our deceased relatives and friends and for all who have helped us, that they may have the reward of their goodness. We pray to the Lord.
3. For those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again, that they may see God face to face. We pray to the Lord.
4. 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. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all of us assembled here to worship in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord.

Priest: 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.

