

Funeral Rite at a Crematorium

The prayers in this leaflet are a selected from various authorised sources. The priest or deacon may select alternative texts. Please join in with the responses **(R)**.

Entrance

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. He who believes in me, even though he has died will live and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

As the coffin is carried into the chapel, the priest/deacon may say quietly:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.....

Invitation

My brothers and sister, we have offered the holy sacrifice of the Mass for N. and commended him/her to the loving mercy of our Father. As we gather now to commit his/her body to be cremated, let us pray for the happy repose of his soul and take heart from our Christian hope in the resurrection. As Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, we too are called to follow him through death to the glory where God will be all in all.

Come you whom my Father has blessed, says the Lord; inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the first letter of St John:

First Reading

Think of the love that the Father has lavished upon us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God

Please join in the response after each verse.

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Relieve the anguish of my heart and set me free from my distress.
See my affliction and toil and take all my sins away.

R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Preserve my life and rescue me. Do not disappoint me, you are my refuge.
May innocence and uprightness protect me; for my hope is in you, O Lord.

R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Please stand for the gospel.

Acclamation

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord, whoever believes in me will never die. Alleluia!

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John:

Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you'. 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'. Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into the world.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief homily is given after the gospel reading.

There may follow some intercessions or other prayers.

The Lord's Prayer

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father.

All: 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 into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Prayer Before Committal

Almighty God and Father of all, you have strengthened us with the mystery of the cross and signed us with the sacrament of your Son's resurrection. Mercifully grant that your servant N., now freed from the toils of this life, may be joined with the company of all your chosen ones. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen. Song of Farewell

The minister sprinkles the coffin with Holy Water as a reminder of our Baptism which is the pledge of eternal life.

May the angels lead you into paradise. May the martyrs welcome your arrival and take you into the heavenly city of Jerusalem.

May the chorus of angels receive you and with Lazarus who is now no longer a poor man, may you have eternal rest.

Committal

During this prayer, the curtains may be closed if wished.

Because God has chosen to call our brother/sister N. from this life to himself, we commit his/her body to be cremated, for we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

But the Lord Jesus will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead.

So let us commend our brother/sister to the Lord that the Lord may embrace him / her in peace and raise up his/her body on the last day.

Concluding Prayer

Listen, O God to the prayers of your Church on behalf of the faithful departed, and grant to your servant N., whose funeral we have celebrated today, the inheritance promised to all your saints.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest give unto him/her, O Lord,

R: and let perpetual light shine upon him/ her.

May he/she rest in peace.

R: Amen.

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

R: Amen.

Prayer for Those Present

Grant, O God that while we lament the departure of this your servant, we may always remember that we are most certainly to follow him/her. Give us the grace to prepare for that last hour by a good life that we may not be surprised by a sudden and un-provided death but be ever watching, that when you call, we may enter into eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

May Mary, the most merciful Virgin Mother of God, kindest comforter of those who mourn, commend to her Son the soul of this His servant, that through her motherly prayers, he may pass through the gates of death and, with her as guide, joyfully reach his/her longed for home in the heavenly fatherland.

R: Amen.

God, our shelter and our strength, you listen in love to the cry of your people: hear the prayers we offer for our departed brother/sister N. Cleanse him/her and all the faithful departed of their sins and grant them the fullness of redemption. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.