

# Liturgies for the Dead

**Office of the Dead**

**Mass for the Dead**

*adapted for use with the*

*Book of Common Prayer (1979)*

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Psalms are from the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

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# Office of the Dead

## Morning Prayer:

### Rite Two

#### The Invitatory and Psalter

**Venite**      *Psalm 95:1-7*

**Antiphon:** All things live for the King: Come, let us worship him.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
    let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
    and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
    and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of  
his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**Antiphon:** All things live for the King: Come, let us  
worship him.

*Then follows*

### **The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

**Psalm 51**     *Miserere mei, Deus.*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your  
loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not  
despise.
- 19 Be favorable and gracious to Zion, \*  
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- 20 Then you will be pleased with the appointed  
sacrifices,  
with burnt-offerings and oblations; \*  
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your  
altar.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Psalm 23**     *Dominus regit me.*

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; \*  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul \*  
and guides me along right pathways for his  
Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those  
who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all  
the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for  
ever.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Psalm 27**     *Dominus illuminatio.*

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who  
stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, \*

- yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all  
the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe  
in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper;  
cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed  
that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*

in the land of the living!  
18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure;  
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; \*  
wait patiently for the LORD.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Psalm 150** *Laudate Dominum.*

- 1 Praise God in his holy temple; \*  
praise him in the firmament of his power.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty acts; \*  
praise him for his excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise him with the blast of the ram's-horn; \*  
praise him with lyre and harp.
- 4 Praise him with timbrel and dance; \*  
praise him with strings and pipe.
- 5 Praise him with resounding cymbals; \*  
praise him with loud-clanging cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath \*  
praise the Lord.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

## The Lessons

*One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading (Lesson) from the Book of Job.

I would not live for ever. Let me alone, for my days are a breath. What are human beings, that you make so much of them, that you set your mind on them, visit them every morning, test them every moment? Will you not

look away from me for a while, let me alone until I swallow my spittle? If I sin, what do I do to you, you watcher of humanity? Why have you made me your target? Why have I become a burden to you? Why do you not pardon my transgression and take away my iniquity? For now I shall lie in the earth; you will seek me, but I shall not be. I loathe my life; I will give free utterance to my complaint; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. I will say to God, Do not condemn me; let me know why you contend against me. Does it seem good to you to oppress, to despise the work of your hands and favor the schemes of the wicked? Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as humans see? Are your days like the days of mortals, or your years like human years, that you seek out my iniquity and search for my sin, although you know that I am not guilty, and there is no one to deliver out of your hand? Your hands fashioned and made me; and now you turn and destroy me. Remember that you fashioned me like clay; and will you turn me to dust again? Did you not pour me out like milk and curdle me like cheese? You clothed me with skin and flesh, and knit me together with bones and sinews. You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my spirit. Yet these things you hid in your heart.

**Canticle of Hezekiah**

*Ego dixi in dimidio*

*Is. 38:10-20*

I said: In the noontide of my days \*

I must depart for the gates of hell.

I sought for the remainder of my years. \*

I said, I shall not see the Lord in the land of the living.

I shall look upon mortals no more, \*

nor the inhabitants of the land of rest.

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me \*  
as if it were a shepherd's tent.  
My life has been rolled up as if by a weaver, he cuts me  
off from the loom: \*  
from day to night you bring me to an end.  
I cry for help until morning, \*  
Like a lion he breaks all my bones.  
From day to night you bring me to an end: \*  
Like a swallow or a crane I will clamor, I will  
moan like a dove.  
My eyes are weary \*  
with looking upward.  
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security! \*  
What can I say, or what can he answer, because  
he himself has done it?  
Before you I will call to mind all my years \*  
in the bitterness of my soul.  
O Lord, if by these things people live, and in all these is  
the life of my spirit,  
you shall restore me to health and make me live. \*  
Behold, in peace my bitterness is most bitter.  
You have held back my life from the pit of destruction: \*  
You have cast all my sins behind your back.  
For hell cannot thank you,  
death cannot praise you; \*  
those who go down to the pit cannot hope for  
your faithfulness.  
The living, the living, they thank you,  
as I do this day; \*  
fathers make known to the children your  
faithfulness.  
O Lord, save me, \*  
and we will sing our psalms all the days of our  
lives,  
in the house of the Lord.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

A Reading (Lesson) from the Book of Job.

Then call, and I will answer; or let me speak, and you reply to me. How many are my iniquities and my sins? Make me know my transgression and my sin. Why do you hide your face, and count me as your enemy? Will you frighten a windblown leaf and pursue dry chaff? For you write bitter things against me, and make me reap the iniquities of my youth. You put my feet in the stocks, and watch all my paths; you set a bound to the soles of my feet. One wastes away like a rotten thing, like a garment that is moth-eaten. A mortal, born of woman, few of days and full of trouble, comes up like a flower and withers, flees like a shadow and does not last. Do you fix your eyes on such a one? Do you bring me into judgment with you? Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? No one can. Since their days are determined, and the number of their months is known to you, and you have appointed the bounds that they cannot pass, look away from them, and desist, that they may enjoy, like laborers, their days. Oh that you would hide me in the grave, that you would conceal me until your wrath is past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! If mortals die, will they live again? All the days of my service I would wait until my release should come. You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. For then you would not number my steps, you would not keep watch over my sin.

**The Song of Zechariah**    *Benedictus Dominus Deus*  
*Luke 1:68-79*

**Antiphon:** I am † the Resurrection and the Life; those who have faith in me shall have life, even though they die, \* and all who have life and have committed themselves to me in faith shall not die for ever.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
    holy and righteous in his sight  
    all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most  
    High, \*  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his  
    way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
    shadow of death, \*  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
  
Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
    and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Antiphon:** I am the Resurrection and the Life; those who have faith in me shall have life, even though they die, \* and all who have life and have committed themselves to me in faith shall not die for ever.

## The Prayers

### *Officiant and People*

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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

℣. From the gates of hell,

℟. Deliver *their souls*, O Lord.

℣. May *they* rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

℣. Lord, hear my prayer.

℟. And let my cry come before you.

### *The Collect*

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And also with you.

Let us pray.

*An appropriate Collect is prayed from the section "Collects for the Dead" below, or one of the following Collects may be used.*

Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant N., and grant *him* an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

℣. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,  
℟. And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
℣. May they rest in peace.  
℟. Amen.

# Office of the Dead

## Evening Prayer:

### Rite Two

#### The Psalter

#### The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

**Psalm 116**    *Dilexi, quoniam.*

- 1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of  
my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever  
I called upon him.
- 2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.

- 3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
    “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”
- 4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
    our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
    I was brought very low, and he helped me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul. \*  
    for the LORD has treated you well.
- 7 For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
    my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
- 8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
    in the land of the living.
- 9 I believed, even when I said,  
    “I have been brought very low.” \*  
    In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”
- 10 How shall I repay the LORD \*  
    for all the good things he has done for me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
    and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
    in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
    is the death of his servants.
- 14 O LORD, I am your servant; \*  
    I am your servant and the child of your  
        handmaid;  
    you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
    and call upon the Name of the LORD.
- 16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
    in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the LORD’s house, \*  
    in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
    and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Psalm 120**    *Ad Dominum.*

- 1 When I was in trouble, I called to the LORD; \*  
    I called to the LORD, and he answered me.
- 2 Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips \*  
    and from the deceitful tongue.
- 3 What shall be done to you, and what more besides, \*  
    O you deceitful tongue?
- 4 The sharpened arrows of a warrior, \*  
    along with hot glowing coals.
- 5 How hateful it is that I must lodge in Meshech \*  
    and dwell among the tents of Kedar!
- 6 Too long have I had to live \*  
    among the enemies of peace.
- 7 I am on the side of peace, \*  
    but when I speak of it, they are for war.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
    and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Psalm 121**    *Levavi oculos.*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
    from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
    the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
    and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
    shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
    the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
    nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
    it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and  
your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Psalm 130** *De profundis.*

1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my  
supplication.

2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O LORD, who could stand?

3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.

4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.

5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.

6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;

7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

## The Lessons

*One or two Lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading (Lesson) from the Book of Job.

My spirit is broken, my days are extinct, the grave is ready for me. Surely there are mockers around me, and my eye dwells on their provocation. Lay down a pledge for me with yourself; who is there that will give surety for me? Since you have closed their minds to understanding, therefore you will not let them triumph. Those who denounce friends for reward—the eyes of their children will fail. He has made me a byword of the peoples, and I am one before whom people spit. My eye has grown dim from grief, and all my members are like a shadow. The upright are appalled at this, and the innocent stir themselves up against the godless. Yet the righteous hold to their way, and they that have clean hands grow stronger and stronger. But you, come back now, all of you, and I shall not find a sensible person among you. My days are past, my plans are broken off, the desires of my heart. They make night into day; ‘The light,’ they say, ‘is near to the darkness.’ If I look for the grave as my house, if I spread my couch in darkness, if I say to the Pit, ‘You are my father,’ and to the worm, ‘My mother,’ or ‘My sister,’ where then is my hope? Who will see my hope? My bones cling to my skin and to my flesh, and I have escaped by the skin of my teeth. Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. Why did you bring me forth from the womb? Would that I had died before any eye had seen me, and were as though I had not been, carried from the womb to the grave. Are not

the days of my life few? Let me alone, that I may find a little comfort before I go, never to return, to the land of gloom and deep darkness, the land of gloom and chaos, where light is like darkness.

### **The Song of Mary** *Magnificat*

*Luke 1:46-55*

**Antiphon:** Everyone † the Father gives to me will come to me, \* and I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, \*  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Antiphon:** Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me, \* and I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

## The Prayers

### *Officiant and People*

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.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
    for ever and ever. Amen.

℣. From the gates of hell,

℟. Deliver *their souls*, O Lord.

℣. May *they* rest in peace.

℟. Amen.

℣. Lord, hear my prayer.

℟. And let my cry come before you.

### *The Collect*

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And also with you.

Let us pray.

*An appropriate Collect is prayed from the section "Collects for the Dead" below, or one of the following Collects may be used.*

Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant N., and grant *him* an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

℣. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,  
℞. And let light perpetual shine upon them.  
℣. May they rest in peace.  
℞. Amen.

# Mass for the Dead

## Holy Eucharist:

### Rite Two

#### The Word of God

*The following Introit is traditional and may be said or sung before the Collect.*

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord:  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; \*  
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.  
To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, \*  
because of their transgressions.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord:  
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

*The hymn Glory to God in the highest is omitted in Masses  
for the Dead.*

*The traditional Sequence may be said or sung before the Gospel  
reading.*

Day of wrath and day of judgment  
all the world in fire dissolves,  
as David and Sibyl prophesied.  
How terrible shall be the quaking,  
when the judge to earth shall come  
smashing everything to ruin!  
The trumpet sounds a marvelous blast  
throughout the tombs of every land  
and gathers all before the throne.  
Death and nature will be stunned  
when the creature comes to life  
in answer to the judge's call.  
The written book shall be brought forth,  
containing all the judge will need  
to sit in judgment of the world.  
So when the judge shall mount the throne,  
all hidden things will be revealed;  
no wrongs unanswered will remain.  
What am I, poor wretch, to say?  
What patron should I beg to pray,  
when even the just are barely safe?  
King of glorious majesty,  
who freely saves the saved ones,  
save me, O font of piety.  
Remember, faithful Jesus, Lord,  
the people, cause of your life's journey:  
do not lose me on that day.

You sat down, weary, seeking me,  
redeemed me suffering on the Cross;  
let not this labor come to loss.  
Just judge of all rightful punishment,  
give the gift of our forgiveness  
before the Day of Reckoning.  
I groan as the accused one,  
my face turns red with thoughts of guilt:  
please spare this supplicant, O God.  
You, who forgave the sinful woman  
and with mercy heard the thief,  
have also given hope to me.  
My prayers are by themselves unworthy,  
but, O good one, hear them kindly,  
and spare me from eternal fire.  
Give me a place among your sheep  
and keep me from the herd of goats,  
placing me at your right hand.  
Once the damned have been made silent  
and given over to the flames,  
number me among the blessed.  
I pray to you kneeling and bowed down,  
with a heart contrite as ashes,  
at my end please care for me.  
Tearful, then, that day will be,  
on which they shall arise from coals  
to stand before your judgment seat.  
Therefore, O God, spare them I pray.  
Faithful Jesus, Lord,  
give them rest.  
*Amen.*

*The Creed is omitted.*

*The Offertory may begin with one or both of the following sentences.*

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit: deliver them from the lion's mouth, so that hell will not swallow them up and they will not fall into darkness. Let Michael the standard-bearer bring them into the holy light which you promised of old to Abraham and his children for ever.

We offer you, O Lord, this sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving: receive it for the souls whose memory we recall this day. Make them, O Lord, pass from death into life, which you promised of old to Abraham and his children for ever.

## The Holy Communion

### **Preface of the Commemoration of the Dead**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

*In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said*

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no

death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy  
with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

*Amen.*

*The service ends with the following*

*Deacon*            May they rest in peace.

*People*            Amen.

*The blessing is not given in Masses for the Dead.*

# The Readings at Mass

## **On the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, First Mass**

A Reading (Lesson) from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying

that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been 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 Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

### **On the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, Second Mass**

A Reading (Lesson) from the Second Book of Maccabees.

The noble Judas took up a collection, man by man, to the amount of two thousand drachmas of silver, and sent it to Jerusalem to provide for a sin-offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead. But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious

thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, so that they might be delivered from their sin.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

### **On the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed, Third Mass**

The Reading (Lesson) from the Revelation of St. John the Apostle.

I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has

given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

### **On the day of death or burial**

The Reading (Lesson) from the First Epistle of St. Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection

and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

### **On the anniversary of the burial**

*Mass is said as at the Second Mass of All Faithful Departed as above, with the appropriate Collect from below.*

### **At daily Masses of the Dead**

*Mass is said as at the Third Mass of All Faithful Departed as above, with the appropriate Collect from below.*

### **At a Mass for a departed bishop or priest**

*Mass is said as at the First Mass of All Faithful Departed as above, with the appropriate Collect from below.*

# The Collects for the Dead

## **On the day of burial, if the body is absent**

We pray to you, O Lord, absolve the *soul* of your *servant* N., so that dead to the world *he* may live in you: and that whatever sins *he* may have committed through the frailty of human flesh during *his* earthly conversation may be taken away by the pardon of your most merciful loving-kindness. Through...

## **On the day of burial, if the body is present**

O God, who is always merciful and forgiving, receive our petitions for the *soul* of your *servant* N., whom you have commanded to depart from this world today: do not deliver *him* into the hand of the enemy and do not forsake

*him* at the last, but command your holy Angels to receive *him* and bring *him* to the country of paradise; so that hoping and believing in you, *he* may not undergo the pains of hell, but may take part in everlasting joy. Through...

### **On the third, seventh, and thirtieth day after the burial**

We pray to you, O Lord, that the *soul* of your *servant* N., whom *three* days ago we committed to the ground, may take part in the fellowship of your elect; and that you would pour out on *him* the continual dew of your mercy. Through...

### **At the anniversary of the burial**

O forgiving God: grant to the *soul* of your *servant* N., the anniversary of whose burial we remember, a place of rest and refreshment, peace and blessing, light and glory. Through...

### **For a chief bishop departed**

O God, by your ineffable providence you called your *servant* N. to be numbered among your high priests: grant, we ask, that as *he* fulfilled the office of your only-begotten Son on earth, so *he* may be numbered for ever in the fellowship of those who have served you faithfully. Through...

### **For a bishop departed**

O God, you brought your *servant* N. to stand before you in the ranks of the Apostolic Priesthood in the high place of bishop: grant, we ask, that *he* may be for ever

joined in the company of those who shared *his* ministry.  
Through...

### **For a priest departed**

O God, you brought your *servant* N. to stand before you in the ranks of the Apostolic Priesthood in the high place of priest: grant, we ask, that *he* may be for ever joined in the company of those who shared *his* ministry.  
Through...

### **Another Collect for a priest departed**

Almighty God, grant, we ask, that the *soul* of your *servant* N., whom you adorned with the holy office of your Priesthood while *he* lived in this world, may for ever rejoice in the glory of heavenly joy. Through...

### **For a person departed**

Incline your ear, O Lord, to our prayers as we humbly call upon you to show mercy on the *soul* of your *servant* N., whom you have called out of this world, and set *him* in a dwelling of peace and light, so that *he* may take part in the fellowship of your elect. Through...

### **For dead sisters and brothers, relatives, and benefactors**

O God, you do not desire the death of a sinner but rather that all humanity shall be saved: we ask you mercifully to grant that the sisters and brothers, relatives, and benefactors of our congregation who have passed out of this world may, by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all your saints, come to enjoy everlasting blessedness with them. Through...

### **For a father and mother**

O God, you commanded your people to honor their fathers and mothers: of your loving-kindness, have mercy on the souls of my father and mother and forgive them their sins; and I humbly pray to you that you would let me see their faces in the glory of eternal joy. Through...

### **For a father only or a mother only**

*The above prayer is modified appropriately.*

### **For those who rest in a cemetery**

O God, in your mercy rest the souls of all your faithful people: mercifully grant to all your servants, and to all that rest here and in all places with Christ, the forgiveness of their sins; that, delivered from every bond of iniquity, they may rejoice with you in everlasting joy. Through...

### **For many persons departed**

O forgiving God: have compassion on the souls of your servants and grant them forgiveness of all their sins; that, delivered from the bonds of our sinful nature, they may pass for ever into everlasting life. Through...

### **Another Collect for many persons departed**

O Lord, grant, we ask you, your perpetual mercy to the souls of your servants: that as they have hoped and trusted in you, their hope and faith may bring them unto life everlasting. Through...

## **For all faithful departed**

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all who believe:  
grant to the souls of your servants the forgiveness of all  
their sins; so that through the prayers of their sisters and  
brothers they may receive your merciful pardon, which  
they have ever desired. Who...



