

# THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL



*Adapted from the Order of Christian Funerals*

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

Priest: In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: Amen.

### INVITATION TO PRAYER

Priest: My brothers and sisters, N. has gone to his (her) rest  
in the peace of Christ.  
May the Lord now welcome him (her)  
to the table of God's children in Heaven.  
With faith and hope in eternal life,  
let us assist him with our prayers.

Let us pray to the Lord also for ourselves.  
May we who mourn  
be reunited one day with our brother (sister);  
together may we meet Christ Jesus  
when He who is our life appears in glory.

### READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

We read in Sacred Scripture:

This is the will of my Father, says the Lord,  
that I should lose nothing  
of all that He has given to me,  
and that I should raise it up  
on the Last Day.

### PRAYER OVER THE PLACE OF COMMITMENT

Priest: O God,  
by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,  
bless ✠ this grave,  
and send your holy Angel to watch over it.  
As we bury here the body of N.,  
deliver his (her) soul from every bond of sin,  
that he (she) may rejoice in you with your Saints for ever and ever.  
People: Amen.

The grave is blessed with Holy Water.

### THE COMMITMENT

Priest: In sure and certain hope  
of the resurrection to eternal life  
through Our Lord Jesus Christ  
we commend to Almighty God our brother (sister) N.,  
and we commit his (her) body to the ground,  
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Priest scatters some earth upon the coffin.

The Lord bless him (her) and keep him (her),  
the Lord make His face to shine upon him (her)  
and be gracious to him (her),  
the Lord lift up His countenance upon him (her)  
and give him (her) peace.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
People: Our Father...

#### THE INTERCESSION OF THE VIRGIN

Priest: Leader: We turn to Mary and ask the help of her prayers as we say:  
People: Hail Mary...

Priest: May the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God,  
who stood by the Cross as her Son was dying,  
help those who mourn for **N**.  
May she give us the consolation of her faith,  
and by her prayers  
lead us to the happiness of Heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

#### CONCLUSION

Priest: Eternal rest grant unto him (her), O Lord.

People: And let perpetual light shine upon him (her).

Priest: May he (she) rest in peace.

People: Amen.

Priest: May his (her) soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: Amen.

#### BLESSING

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Priest: May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The custom of mourners scattering earth on the coffin is to be omitted.