

## Service for Visiting a Cemetery

*A lay minister greets those present in the following words:* Praise be to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God for ever.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

*The minister using these or similar words, says:* My dear friends, we gather today to pray for our brothers and sisters whose bodies lie here in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of their faults. We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of heaven.

### READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

*If Mass has not preceded, a reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.* Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

*4:13-18 We shall stay with the Lord for ever.* 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 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.

*As circumstances suggest, one of the following responsorial psalms may be sung or recited:*

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

*Psalm 25* In you I trust; let me not be put to shame, let not my enemies exult over me. No one who waits for you shall be put to shame; those shall be put to shame who heedlessly break faith. R.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day. R.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your kindness are from of old. The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not; in your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. R.

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, he teaches the humble his way. R.

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. For your name's sake, O LORD, you will pardon my guilt, great as it is. R.

*Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 4, 13* R. (v. 1) The Lord is my light and my salvation. *Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8* R. (v. 5) My soul has hoped in the Lord. *Psalm 143:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7, 9-10, 11-12* R. (v. 1) O Lord, hear my prayer.

## LITANY

1746 *While the following litany is sung or recited, the minister sprinkles the graves with holy water and, if desired, may also incense them.*

Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy Christ, have mercy Christ, have mercy Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for them Saint Michael, pray for them Saint John the Baptist, pray for them Saint Joseph, pray for them Saint Peter, pray for them Saint Paul, pray for them Saint Andrew, pray for them Saint Stephen, pray for them Saint Ann, pray for them Saint Teresa, pray for them Saint Catherine, pray for them Saint Frances Cabrini, pray for them Saint Elizabeth Seton, pray for them (*The names of other saints may be added.*) All holy men and women, pray for them

Christ, pardon all their faults: Lord, hear our prayer Christ, remember the good they have done: Lord, hear our prayer Christ, receive them into eternal life: Lord, hear our prayer Christ, comfort all those who mourn: Lord, hear our prayer

Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy Lord, have mercy

1747 *The minister then invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer, in these or similar words: With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us: All: Our Father . . .*

PRAYER *The minister then says the following prayer*

Almighty God and Father, by the mystery of the cross, you have made us strong; by the sacrament of the resurrection you have sealed us as your own. Look kindly upon your servants, now freed from the bonds of mortality, and count them among your saints in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

## CONCLUDING RITE

*The minister says:* Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. R. Amen.

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

*The service may be concluded by a suitable psalm or other song.*