ORDER OF SERVICE
FOR THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Services for the deceased faithful should be held in the church whenever possible. The casket should be closed before the service and thereafter remain closed. If there are to be flowers at the church, they should be limited to three or four pieces.

If the casket is in place, the service may begin with the Votum and Salutation. If the minister processes, as the casket is brought forward, the service shall begin with the Sentences. The Votum and Salutation must be used to open the service from the pulpit.

Votum

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Salutation

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or,

God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

Sentences

Any of the following Sentences may be used:

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

John 11:25-26

None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

Romans 14:7-8
We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

_ThTimothy 6:7_

The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

_Job 1:21_

_Then the minister shall lead in prayer._

**Prayer**

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, the consolation of the sorrowful and the support of the weary, who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men, look down in tender love and pity, we pray thee, on thy servants, this bereaved household, whose joy is turned into mourning. According to the multitude of thy mercies, be pleased to uphold, strengthen, and comfort them, that they may not faint under this visitation, but find in thee their strength and refuge; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**Psalms**

_One or more of the following selections of the Psalms may be read._

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou prepar est a table before me in the presence of my enemies. thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of Lord  
for ever.

_Psalm 23_

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
When evildoers assail me,  
uttering slanders against me,  
my adversaries and foes,  
they shall stumble and fall.  
Though a host encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.  
One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,  
he will set me high upon a rock.  
And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies round about me;  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.  
Teach me thy way, O Lord;  
and lead me on a level path  
because of my enemies.  
Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;  
for false witnesses have risen against me,  
and they breathe out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
yea, wait for the Lord!

*Psalm 27:1-6, 11-14*

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
and saved him out of all his troubles.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good!
Happy is the man who takes refuge in him!
O fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no want!
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.
The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him
will be condemned.

*Psalm 34:1-9, 18, 22*

Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will dwell in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your vindication as the light,
and your right as the noonday.
Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over him who prospers in his way, 
over the man who carries out evil devices!
The steps of a man are from the Lord,
and he establishes him in whose way he delights;
though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,
for the Lord is the stay of his hand.
I have been young, and now am old;
   yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or his children begging bread.
He is ever giving liberally and lending,
   and his children become a blessing.
Depart from evil, and do good;
   so shall you abide for ever.
For the Lord loves justice;
   he will not forsake his saints.
The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;
   he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
The Lord helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked, and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Psalm 37:3-7, 23-27, 39, 40

Lord, let me know my end,
   and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is!
Behold, thou hast made my days a few handbreadths,
   and my lifetime is as nothing in thy sight.
Surely every man stands as a mere breath!
   Surely man goes about as a shadow!
Surely for nought are they in turmoil;
   man heaps up, and knows not who will gather!
And now, Lord, for what do I wait?
   My hope is in thee.
Deliver me from all my transgressions.
   Make me not the scorn of the fool!
I am dumb, I do not open my mouth;
   for it is thou who has done it.
Remove thy stroke from me;
   I am spent by the blows of thy hand.
When thou dost chasten man with rebukes for sin,
though dost consume like a moth what is dear to him;
surely every man is a mere breath!
Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and give ear to my cry;
hold not thy peace at my tears!
For I am thy passing guest,
a sojourner, like all my fathers.
Look away from me, that I may know gladness,
before I depart and be no more!

Psalm 39:4-13

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God will help her right early.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
“I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth!”
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 46:1-7, 10, 11

For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly moved.

Psalm 62:1-2

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting thou art God.
For a thousand years in thy sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.
Thou dost sweep men away; they are like a dream,
like grass which is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
The years of our life are threescore and ten,
or even by reason of strength fourscore;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Satisfy us in the morning with thy steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad as many days as thou hast afflicted us,
and as many years as we have seen evil.
Let thy work be manifest to thy servants,
and thy glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish thou the work of our hands upon us,
yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

Psalm 90:1, 2, 4-6, 10, 12, 14-17

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,
who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”

Psalm 91:1, 2

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
   slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
He will not always chide,
   nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He does not deal with us according to our sins,
   nor requite us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
   so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
   so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
As a father pities his children,
   so the Lord pities those who fear him.
For he knows our frame;
   he remembers that we are dust.
As for man, his days are like grass;
   he flourishes like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
   and its place knows it no more.
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting
   upon those who fear him,
   and his righteousness to children’s children,
to those who keep his covenant
   and remember to do his commandments.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.
   From whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
   who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved,
   he who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
   will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord is your keeper;
   the Lord is your shade
on your right hand.
The sun shall not smite you by day,
   nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil;
   he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.

Psalm 121

Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord!
   Lord, hear my voice!
Let thy ears be attentive
   to the voice of my supplications!
If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,
   Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee,
   that thou mayest be feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
   and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
   more than watchmen for the morning,
   more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the Lord!
   For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
   and with him is plenteous redemption.
And he will redeem Israel
   from all his iniquities.

Psalm 130

O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me!
Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up;
   thou discernest my thoughts from afar.
Thou searchest out my path and my lying down,
   and art acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
   lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.
Thou dost beset me behind and before,
   and layest thy hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
   it is high, I cannot attain it.
Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?
   Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
If I ascend to heaven, thou art there!
   If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!
If I take the wings of the morning
   and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there thy hand shall lead me,
and thy right hand shall hold me.
If I say, “Let only darkness cover me,
and the light about me be night,”
even the darkness is not dark to thee,
the night is bright as the day;
for darkness is as light with thee.
For thou didst form my inward parts,
thou didst knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful.
Wonderful are thy works!
Thou knowest me right well;
my frame was not hidden from thee,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.
Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance;
in thy book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.
How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.
When I awake, I am still with thee.
Search me, O God, and know my heart!
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:1-18, 23, 24

At the close of the reading of the Psalter, the minister shall say, or the congregation may sing, the

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

Then the minister shall read from the New Testament, choosing one or more of the following passages, first from the Epistles and then from the Gospels, and before the reading let him say:

Hear the Word of God as it is written in the New Testament.
Epistles

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 18, 28, 35, 37-39

And what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is alike, but there is one kind for men, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are celestial bodies and there are terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks to be God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

I Corinthians 15:37-44a, 53-58

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

II Corinthians 1:3, 4

BURIAL OF THE DEAD, 1968  11
We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, “I believed, and so I spoke,” we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, because we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen; for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

II Corinthians 4:8-18

But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, 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 fallen asleep. 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, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1, 2

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy
we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

_I Peter 1:3-9_

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and whence have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night within his temple; and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

_Revelation 7:9-17_

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:1-4

Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There shall no more be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall worship him; they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And night shall be no more; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:1-5

Gospels

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?” And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, “Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.”

Mark 16:1-7

“And when they had gone away, Jesus went out of the city. And when he saw a woman named Mary sitting in the house, weeping, he said to her, “Why do you weep?” And she said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, I would have believed; but now you have come, and I know that you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Mary said to him, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” And he said to her, “Because of this I have been glad.” And she said to him, “Lord, I have seen your glory, which you are about to give to your people.”

John 11:20-31
to the Father, but by me.”

**John 14:1-6**

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

**John 14:15-20**

These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**John 14:25-27**

Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world.

**John 17:24**

For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

**John 6:40**

*At the conclusion of the reading of the Gospel the minister may say:*

Believe this Gospel and go forth to live in peace.

**Confession of Faith**

*The Creed may be used here or at the committal service.*

Let us make confession of our Faith, in the words of the Apostles’ (or Nicene) Creed.
I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Or,

We believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds; God of God, light of light, very God of very God; begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven; and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven; and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost; the Lord and giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy Catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead; and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn

*A suitable hymn, anthem, or solo may be sung.*
Sermon

The minister may preach a brief sermon bearing testimony to the hope and promises set forth in Scripture, and may conclude with an ascription of praise.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the Christian Gospel and the Blessed Hope, for the light of the Gospel as displayed in this life, and for the comfort of the family, may then be made. The following prayers may be used.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal and ever-merciful God, whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, has triumphed over sin and death and the grave, we praise and bless thy name for the life and immortality which have been brought to light in the Gospel. We glorify thee that he, having destroyed the power of death, opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers, and that, because he lives, we shall live also. Even now, having peace with thee through him, we rejoice in the hope of thy glory. Thanks be to thee, O God, who givest us the victory; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, look in thy tender love and pity, we pray thee, on thy sorrowing servants. Enable them to find in thee their refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble; and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge. Grant them faith and hope in him who by death has conquered death, and by rising again has opened the gates of eternal life, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ever-blessed God, we give thee thanks for all the generations of the faithful, who, having served thee here in godliness and love, are now with thee in glory. We praise thee especially for him whom thou hast now taken to thyself, this pilgrim now come to the heavenly city. For all thy loving-kindness toward him throughout his earthly life we give thee thanks; for all that he was, by nature and by grace, to those who loved him and to the Church of thy dear Son. We thank thee that, his trials and temptations being ended, sickness and death being passed, he has now entered into the rest that remains for thy people. Seeing that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, enable us, O God, to lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Keep us in unbroken fellowship with the Church in heaven; enrich our souls in those things over
which darkness and death no longer have any dominion; and bring us at last, with all the faithful in Christ, to the eternal peace and joy of the presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord; in whose name we are bold to say:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Then a hymn may be sung.

Benediction