

SOLEMN REQUIEM MASS OF AN *UNBAPTIZED* INFANT

RECEPTION OF THE BODY

All stand as the Celebrant meets the body of the deceased at the door of the church.

The casket is not sprinkled with Holy Water. The Celebrant says:

Brothers and sisters, the Lord is a faithful God who created us all after his own image. All things are of his making, all creation awaits the day of salvation. We now must entrust the soul of **N. to the abundant mercy of God, that our beloved child may find a home in his kingdom.**

The Celebrant and Ministers enter the sanctuary from the sacristy.

The body is borne into the church, as one or more of the following Sentences are said or sung.

PROCESSION WITH BURIAL SENTENCES

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. *(John 11:25, 26)*

I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand up at the last upon the earth: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another. *(cf. Job 19:25-27)*

We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. *(I Timothy 6:7; Job 1:21)*

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. *(Deuteronomy 33:27)*

Neither death, nor life, nor Angels, or principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *(Romans 8:38-39)*

Whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's for to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. *(Romans 14:8-9)*

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. *(Matthew 5:4)*

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. *(John 14:1)*

The coffin is not adorned with a pall or Christian symbols. Once the coffin is in place in the Nave, the Funeral Mass begins in the usual way with the Introit and the Collect for Purity.

INTROIT

Absterget Deus Revelation 21:4, Psalm 17:16

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes;
and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying:
neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away.

(Ps.) They will behold thy presence in righteousness:

and they will be satisfied when thy glory is manifested.

(Bow) Glory be to the Father...(Rise) As it was in the beginning...God shall wipe...

✠ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

KYRIE

COLLECT (DWM 1037)

All Sit for the Lesson and Epistle.

LESSON

PSALM (GRADUAL: *Beata gens* Psalm 33:12,6)

EPISTLE

ALLELUIA

Laudate, pueri Psalm 113:1

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, ye children: O praise the Name of the Lord.

Alleluia.

NO SEQUENCE

GOSPEL

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (SPECIFIC FOR FUNERALS)

The Celebrant says:

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

To each petition, the people respond: Amen.

The Celebrant continues:

ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church throughout the world, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

GRANT that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. *Amen.*

GRANT to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *Amen.*

GRANT to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. *Amen.*

GRANT to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. *Amen.*

GIVE courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. *Amen.*

HELP us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. *Amen.*

GRANT us grace to entrust **N. to thy never-failing love; receive **him** into the arms of thy mercy, and remember **him** according to the favour which thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.***

GRANT that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, **he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.***

Then the Celebrant says:

GRANT us, with all who have died in the hope of resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and with the blessed Virgin Mary and all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Mass continues as usual with the Penitential Rite and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

After the Postcommunion Prayer (DWM 1037), the Rites of Dismissal are omitted and the Celebrant proceeds to the Final Commendation (NB: not styled an Absolution at the Bier).

FINAL COMMENDATION

The Crucifer and Taperers precede the Celebrant out of the Chancel and stand in processional order a few pews into the nave to make room for the sacred ministers around the coffin. The Thurifer, too, enters the nave and stands in front of the Epistle-side pew screen.

The Celebrant moves to stand at the head of the coffin. He is accompanied by the Deacon, who carries the aspersorium, and Subdeacon, who carries the book; both standing in their usual places near the Celebrant.

The Celebrant says the following:

Celebrant **I know that my Redeemer lives: on the last day I shall rise again.**

People And in my flesh I shall see God.

Celebrant **Kyrie eleison.**

People Christe eleison.

Celebrant **Kyrie eleison.**

Thou art the author and sustainer of our lives, O God; thou art our final home.

We commend this child, **N., to thee. Trusting in thy mercy and love,
we humbly pray that thou wouldst give *him* happiness for ever.**

We beseech thee, O Lord, also to comfort all who have suffered this loss.

Strengthen the bonds of this family and community.

Confirm us in faith, in hope, and in love, that we may convey

**thy peace one to another, and one day stand together with all the saints
who praise thee for thy saving help. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Celebrant asks those present to pray for the soul of the deceased saying:

Let us pray.

V. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

R. Christ, have mercy upon us.

V. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

For the soul of **N. and for the souls of all the faithful departed let us pray
to God our heavenly Father:**

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.

The following versicles and responses may then be said by the Celebrant and People.

- V. Saints of God, come to *his* aid! Hasten to meet *him*, Angels of the Lord!**
R. Receive *his* soul and present *him* to God the Most High.
V. Grant unto *him* eternal rest;
R. And let perpetual light shine upon *him*.
V. We believe verily to see the goodness of the Lord;
R. In the land of the living.
V. O Lord, hear our prayer;
R. And let our cry come unto thee.
V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Incline thine ear, O Lord, to our prayers, as we entreat thy mercy, that the soul of thy child, which thou hast commanded to depart from this world, may be brought unto the country of peace and light, and made a partaker in the company of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At the end of the service in church there may be said:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ✠ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

*The body is borne from the church. The *In paradisum* may be sung in place, followed by a Recessional Hymn; or it may be sung as the Recessional with accompanying Psalmody from the Order of Christian Funerals.*

In Paradisum

*In Paradisum deducant te Angeli;
in tuo adventu suscipiant te Martyres,
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem
Chorus Angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro quondam paupere,
æternam habeas requiem.*

May the Angels lead thee into Paradise;
and the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming
and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem.
May the choirs of Angels receive thee,
and with Lazarus, who once was poor,
may you have everlasting rest.