

Leading Funeral Vigils and Graveside Services

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King's College, London, Ontario

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Elements of the Ars Celebrandi

- # Structure of the Rite
- # Texts of the Rite
- # Architecture for the Rite
- # Painting and Sculpture for the Rite
- # Vestments, Furnishings and Sacred Vessels for the Rite
- # Liturgical Song for the Rite



Structure of Funeral Vigils

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Opening Song

Invitation to Prayer

Opening Prayer



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Gospel

Homily/Reflection



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Intercessions or Litany

Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer



CONCLUDING RITE

Responsory

Blessing



Texts and Music for the Rite

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

V: May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace, and may the Lord be always with you.

R: And also with you.

OR:

V: May the Father of mercies, the God of all consolation, be with you.

R: And also with you.



Opening Music: “A Shelter in the Time of Storm” from O
God of Past and Present

1. The Lord’s a rock and in him we hide:

A shelter in the time of storm.

He bids us come and with him abide:

A shelter in the time of storm.

REFRAIN: O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land,
a weary land.

O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of
storm.



- # 2. A shade by day, a defense by night:
- # *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- # No fear alarm and no foes affright:
- # *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- # REFRAIN: O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.
- # O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.



- # 3. The raging storms may around us beat:
- # *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- # We'll never leave our safe retreat:
- # *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- # REFRAIN: O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.
- # O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.



- # 4. O rock divine and our refuge dear:
- # *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- # Come be our helper who's ever near:
- # *A shelter in the time of storm.*
- # REFRAIN: O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a weary land,
a weary land.
- # O my Jesus is a refuge in a weary land, a shelter in the time of
storm.



Invitation to Prayer:

My brothers and sisters, we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us pray, asking God to gather N. to himself.

Opening Prayer:

Lord, in our grief we turn to you.

[*divine address*]

Are you not the God of love who open your ears to all?

[*divine activities and characteristics*]

Listen to our prayers for your servant N., whom you have called our of this world: lead him/her to your kingdom of light and peace and count him/her among the saints in glory.

[*petitions*]

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

[*stereotyped ending*]

Prayer of Intercession

Prayer leader:

Let us turn to Christ Jesus who is Lord both of the dead and of the living. As we look forward to the joys of God's kingdom, we pray with confidence:

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Assisting minister:

1. Open the door of eternal happiness to our brother/sister N and welcome him/her into the glory of eternal life.

2. N. was entrusted with your light in baptism: surround him/her now with the radiance of your undying light.

3. N. was nourished at the table of the eucharist: bring him/her rejoicing to the eternal feast of heaven.

- # 4. Be merciful to all who mourn: give them the consolation of your Church's faith.
 - # 5. Renew our longing to greet you when you come again, and keep us vigilant until that day.
 - # 6. Be with us at the moment of our death: may we be found faithful in your service and leave this world in your peace.
- # Lord's Prayer (begin by invitation from prayer leader)



Concluding Prayer:

Holy Lord, almighty and eternal God,

[*divine address*]

Hear our prayers for your servant N, who you have summoned out of this world. Forgive his/her sins and failings and grant him/her a place of refreshment, lift and peace. Let him/her pass unharmed through the gates of death to dwell with the blessed in light, as you promised Abraham and his children forever. Accept N. into your safekeeping and on the great day of judgment raise him/her up with all the saints to inherit your eternal kingdom.

[*petitions*]

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

[*stereotyped ending*]

Responsory

- # V: Blessed are those who have died in the Lord: let them rest from the labors for their good deeds go with them.
- # Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.
- # R: And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.
- # V: May he/she rest in peace.
- # R: Amen.
- # V: May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
- # R: Amen.

Blessing [Lay minister]

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit.

R. Amen.

[Sign of Peace]

[Music: On Eagle's Wings?]



Rite of Committal

N.B. [] = omitted in Short Rite

Invitation

[Scripture Verse]

Prayer over the Place of Committal



Committal

[Intercessions]

Lord's Prayer

[Concluding Prayer]

[Prayer over the People]

Responsory

Blessing



Invitation:

Our brother/sister 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/her 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.

Prayer over the Place of Committal

- # Form A = if the place of committal is to be blessed (collect)
- # Form B = of the place of committal has already been blessed (acclamations of praise + collect)
- # Form C = when the final disposition of the body is to take place at a later time (collect)

Committal

Because God has chosen to call our brother/sister N. from this life to himself, we commit his/her body to the earth [or the deep or its resting place], for we are dust and unto dust we shall return. But the Lord Jesus Christ will change our mortal bodies to be like his in glory, for he is risen, the firstborn from the dead. So let us commend our brother/sister to the Lord, that the Lord may embrace him/her in peace and raise up his/her body on the last day.

Lord's Prayer

Responsory: "Eternal rest..."

Blessing (lay minister):

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit.

R. Amen.

V. Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.

[Sign of leave-taking]

