

## **The Vigil for the Deceased**

*The word “vigil” means to keep watch. The Christian community keeps watch with the family as they mourn the loss of a loved one. The gathering of friends and church members offer prayers for the deceased and his/her relatives. The vigil calls on God to receive the deceased into the eternal kingdom of heaven. The vigil normally takes place in a mortuary chapel. The normal structure for the vigil includes the following:*

### **Greeting from the Priest/Deacon/Lay Leader**

### **Opening Prayer**

### **First Reading**

A Reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom do I fear?  
The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom am I afraid?

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

One thing I ask of the LORD;  
this I seek:  
To dwell in the LORD'S house  
all the days of my life,  
To gaze on the LORD'S beauty,  
to visit his temple.

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hear my voice, LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.  
Your face, LORD, do I seek!  
Do not hide your face from me.

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe I shall enjoy the LORD'S goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD, take courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD!

Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

### **Gospel (Read by Priest/Deacon/Lay Leader)**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Luke

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord

Thanks be to God

### **Homily by the Priest/Deacon or reflection by Lay Minister**

### **Prayer of Intercession lead by Minister**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Concluding Prayer and Blessing**

- *Singing of liturgical songs is encouraged during the vigil (e.g., Amazing Grace, the Responsorial Psalm, etc.)*
- *After the Vigil, the family may want to offer a **Eulogy** and/or **Recite the Rosary**.*

### **The Funeral Mass**

The Funeral Mass is to be celebrated in the parish church. If the family is unable to celebrate a Mass, a Funeral Outside of Mass may be held in the mortuary chapel or parish church. The ordinary Service for a Funeral Mass is as follows:

## Greeting of the Body at the Door of the Church

*Family members, pal bearers, and clergy are gathered at the entrance of the church for the Introductory Rites. When a casket (or urn) is not present, the family simply sits in the front pew and the priest processes as he would at a normal Mass.*

## Opening Prayer

## Liturgy of the Word

*Family members or friends of the deceased are encouraged to read from the Sacred Scriptures. You are encouraged to select one reading from the Hebrew Scripture, one Responsorial Psalm (should be sung by cantor) and one from the Christian Scriptures. If you choose not to have music at this service, please select a reader for the Responsorial Psalm.*

## First Reading

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (Is 25:6-9)

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations;

he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

## Responsorial Psalm:

**The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdent pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
He refreshes my soul.

## Response

He guides me along the right path  
for his name's sake.  
Even when I walk through a dark valley,  
I fear no harm for you are at my side;  
your rod and staff give me courage.

## **Response**

You spread the table before me  
In the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

## **Response**

Only goodness and love will pursue me  
all the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

## **Second Reading**

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 15:20-23)

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ.

The Word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God

*A Gospel will be selected and proclaimed by the priest or deacon.*

A Reading from the holy gospel according to John (Jn 14: 1-6)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus, Christ.

## **General Intercessions Read by Minister**

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

## **Communion**

## **After Communion**

*We request that only one eulogy be offered at this time. It is recommended that the eulogist read from a text prepared prior to Mass and that the eulogy last no more than five minutes. All other eulogies should have been presented at the Vigil the night before. People may also share reflections on the life of the deceased after the burial service or at the reception.*

## **Final Commendation and Farewell**

*The body or ashes are incensed as a final commendation is sung*

## **Recessional and/or Procession to the Graveside**

## **Rite of Committal**

*At the graveside or other place of committal, the family will be lead by the priest or deacon prayer according to the following form:*

## **Invitation to Prayer**

## **Scripture Verse**

## **Prayer over the Place of Committal**

## **Prayer of Committal**

## **Intercessions**

People Respond: "Lord Hear our Prayer"

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Concluding Prayer and Final Blessing**