

RITE FOR THE BURIAL OF ASHES

from Order of Christian Funerals

OUTLINE OF THE RITE

Invitation
Scripture Verse
Prayer of Committal
The Lord's Prayer
Blessing

12 RITE FOR THE BURIAL OF ASHES

324 This rite may be used when the family and friends of the deceased ask for the ashes to be buried shortly after the funeral.

INVITATION

325 The minister begins:

My friends, we have come together to bury/entomb the ashes of our brother/sister N. In doing this we recall that our bodies bear the imprint of the first creation when they were fashioned from dust; but in faith we remember, too, that by the new creation we also bear the image of Jesus who was raised to glory.

In confident hope that one day God will raise us and transform our mortal bodies:

SCRIPTURE VERSE

326 One of the following or another brief Scripture verse is read. The minister first says:

Let us listen to the words of scripture:

A John 14:1-3

Jesus says:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father’s house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am going now to prepare a place for you,
and after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me,
so that where I am you may be too.’

B Colossians 3:3-4

You have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

C Romans 6:8-9

We believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more.

PRAYER OF COMMITTAL

327 The minister then says the following prayer, during or after which the ashes are buried or entombed.

Let us pray.

Faithful God,

Lord of all creation,

you desire that nothing redeemed by your Son

will ever be lost,

and that the just will be raised up on the last day.

Comfort us today with the word of your promise

as we return the ashes of our brother/sister to the earth.

Grant N. a place of rest and peace

where the world of dust and ashes has no dominion.

Confirm us in our hope that he/she will be created anew

on the day when you will raise him/her up in glory

to live with you and all the saints

for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

A brief period of silent prayer or informal intercessions may follow.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

328 Using the following or similar words, the minister invites those present to pray the Lord's Prayer.

Now let us pray as Christ the Lord has taught us:

All say:

Our Father...

BLESSING

329 The minister then says the following:

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

R. Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

A A minister who is a priest or deacon says:

May the peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

B A lay minister invokes God's blessing and signs himself or herself with the sign of the cross, saying:

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.

The minister then concludes:

Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.

A sign or gesture of leave-taking may be made, for instance, sprinkling the place of burial or entombment with holy water.

This text has been made available for printing and placing in a 'presentation' folder for use in cemeteries.

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