

## FINAL COMMENDATION AND FAREWELL

### INVITATION TO PRAYER

*The celebrant begins with one of the following two introductions. Please choose the form that you would prefer.*

I

Before we go our separate ways, let us take leave of our brother/sister. May our farewell express our affection for him/her; may it ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys even death itself.

II

Trusting in God, we have prayed together for N. and now we come to the last farewell. There is sadness in parting, but we take comfort in the hope that one day we shall see N. again and enjoy his/her friendship. Although this congregation will disperse in sorrow, the mercy of God will gather us together again in the joy of his kingdom. Therefore let us console one another in the faith of Jesus Christ.

*The coffin is once again sprinkled with holy water as a reminder of the life of God which began in baptism; it is also incensed as a sign of the dignity of the body of the deceased and of our hope that by the power of the Holy Spirit they have been raised to eternal life.*

### SONG OF FAREWELL

*The following responsorial prayer is then prayed. It would be helpful to include this in the booklet so that people are aware of the response.*

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!

Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!

**R.** Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.

**R.** Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

**R.** Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High.

## PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

The celebrant then says one of the following prayers.

A

Into your hands, Father of mercies,  
we commend our brother/sister N.  
in the sure and certain hope  
that, together with all who have died in Christ,  
he/she will rise with him.

(We give you thanks for the blessings  
which you bestowed upon N. in this life:  
they are signs to us of your goodness  
and of our fellowship with the saints in Christ.)

Merciful Lord,  
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:  
open the gates of paradise to your servant  
and help us who remain  
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,  
until we all meet in Christ  
and are with you and with our brother/sister for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

B

To you, O Lord, we commend the soul of N. your servant;  
in the sight of this world he/she is now dead;  
in your sight may he/she live for ever.  
Forgive whatever sins he/she committed through human weakness  
and in your goodness grant him/her everlasting peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## PROCESSION TO THE PLACE OF COMMITTAL

**Celebrant:** In peace let us take our brother/sister to his/her place of rest.

The celebrant then says one of the following prayers.

A May the angels lead you into paradise;  
may the martyrs come to welcome you  
and take you to the holy city,  
the new and eternal Jerusalem.

B May choirs of angels welcome you  
and lead you to the bosom of Abraham;  
and where Lazarus is poor no longer  
may you find eternal rest.

It is customary to have either music or a hymn as the coffin is led in procession  
from the church.