

## Para-liturgy for All Souls at the cemetery (or at home) by Laity

Leader: Just as Jesus died and has risen again,  
so through Jesus God will bring with him  
those who have fallen asleep;  
and as in Adam all die,  
so also in Christ will all be brought to life. *(or a suitable hymn)*

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L: The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead be with all present here.

All: Blessed be God forever.

L: We gather this day to remember our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. We remember N. (names of the faithful departed to be read). May they *(he/she)* rest in the peace of Christ *(in eternal peace)* and let perpetual light shine upon them *(him/her)*.

L: A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:50-55

What I am saying, brothers, is that mere human nature cannot inherit the kingdom of God: what is perishable cannot inherit what is imperishable. Now I am going to tell you a mystery: we are not all going to fall asleep, but we are all going to be changed, instantly, in the twinkling of an eye, when the last trumpet sounds. The trumpet is going to sound, and then the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed, because this perishable nature of ours must put on imperishability, this mortal nature must put on immortality. And after this perishable nature has put on imperishability and this mortal nature has put on immortality, then will the words of scripture come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

*Alternatively, you may choose one of the readings at Mass for All Souls Day*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23)

**R: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

**The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

**The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

**The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

**The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.**

L: Let us pause for a moment of silence as we reflect on the Word of God.

Litany

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy on us.  
Christ, have mercy on us.  
Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God,

Have mercy on the Souls of the faithful departed.

Holy Mary ,  
Holy Mother of God,  
Saint Michael,  
Saint Gabriel,  
All holy Angels and Archangels,  
Saint John the Baptist,  
Saint Joseph,  
All holy Patriarchs and Prophets,  
Saint Peter,  
Saint Paul,  
Saint John,  
All holy Apostles and Evangelists,

Pray for the Souls of the faithful departed.

Saint Stephen,  
Saint Lawrence,  
All holy Martyrs,  
Saint Gregory,  
Saint Ambrose,  
All holy bishops and confessors,  
Saint Mary Magdalen,  
Saint Catherine,  
All holy Virgins and widows,  
All Saints of God,

Be merciful, Spare them, O Lord.

Be merciful, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,  
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,

Grant them eternal rest.  
Grant them eternal rest.  
Grant them eternal rest.

Let Us Pray.

O God, Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the Souls of Thy departed servants the remission of all their sins, that through our pious supplications they may obtain the pardon which they have always desired. Through Christ Our Lord. R. Amen.

#### PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God the Almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead, who broke the chains of death once and for all. With the promise of eternal life to all who believe and call upon your name, we ask you Lord to save all your people living and dead.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That N., (the faithful departed/they) be admitted to the company of the saints.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That N., (the faithful departed/they) be raised up on the last day.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That N., (the faithful departed/they) in the hope of rising again, may see You face to face.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That our brother N., (deacon/priest/bishop) who served in the ordained ministry be given a place in the liturgy of heaven.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That our brother/sister N., (religious) who spent his/her life following Jesus, poor, chaste and obedient by counted among all holy men and women who sing in your courts.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That N., whose faith is known to you alone find refreshment, rest and peace.

Lord, graciously hear us.

That one day we may all share in your banquet, praising you for your victory over death.

Lord, graciously hear us.

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayers to the Father:

Our Father...

L: Lord God,  
whose days are without end  
and whose mercies beyond counting,  
keep us mindful  
that life is short and the hour of death unknown.  
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth  
in the ways of holiness and justice,  
that we may serve you  
in union with the whole Church,  
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.  
And when our earthly journey is ended,  
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,  
where you live for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

*(When the para-liturgy is celebrated at the cemetery, the blessing of the grave can take place now or you may choose to bless the grave at the end of the service.)*

L: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
A: and let perpetual light shine upon them.

L: May they rest in peace.  
A: Amen.

L: May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

A: Amen.

A: 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 the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.