

LOW REQUIEM MASS



S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

Providence, Rhode Island

www.sstephens.org

The death of a Christian can be the catalyst for a wide range of emotional responses for the bereaved, ranging from gratitude for the end of suffering, joy that our loved one has entered more fully into the Lord's presence, and of course deep sadness, or even fear, at the necessity of facing life deprived of the physical presence of our loved one. Scripture bears witness to all of these seemingly incongruous realities. St. Paul reminds us that in Christ "Death has been swallowed up in victory," (1 Cor. 15.54), that we die "so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life," (2 Cor. 5.4), and that in a real sense "we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5.8). Nevertheless "it does not yet appear what we shall be" at the resurrection (1 John 3.2), and indeed we know that the Lord himself wept for sorrow at the death of his dear friend Lazarus (John 11.35).

These responses to death are all very real and perfectly valid. And usually our response to the death of a loved one is some combination of all of them. So the Church's ritual surrounding death bears witness and gives voice to all of these responses. Perhaps above all else, the liturgy is serious. In it we give thanks to God for the life of our loved ones, and we plead to God prayerfully that he would continue to have mercy on the dead, that he would bring to fruition the salvation that he began to work in them during their mortal lives, all in the conviction that for God's faithful people, in the words of the liturgy, "life... is not taken away but changed." The Church's ritual surrounding death is therefore somber, yet charged with hope and spiritual joy.

This booklet is meant to help guide you through the liturgy. Note that at a "Low Mass," all of the texts are said and not sung.

When the bell rings, all STAND. The celebrant and other ministers enter.

The Celebrant then reads THE INTROIT as follows

Introit. *Requiem aeternam.* 2 Esdras 2:34–35.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them. *Psalm 65:1–2.* Thou, O God, art praised in Zion, and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem: thou that hearest the prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Then follow THE KYRIES

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

or

The celebrant says THE COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

At the conclusion of the Collect, the People respond

Amen.

The people SIT for THE LESSON(S)

One or two passages of Holy Scripture are read. A Psalm may be sung between the Lessons. Each lesson is concluded as follows:

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

After the lessons, the Celebrant reads THE GRADUAL & TRACT.

Gradual. *Requiem aeternam.* II Esdras 2:34–35.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them. *Ÿ.* The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance: he will not be afraid of any evil tidings.

Tract. *Absolve, Domine.*

Absolve, O Lord, the souls of all the faithful departed: from every chain of sin. *Ÿ*. And by the help of thy grace, may they be worthy to escape the judgment of condemnation: *Ÿ*. and attain the fruition of everlasting light.

On All Souls' Day at the first or principal Mass, and at other Masses as desired is said

THE SEQUENCE.

Day of wrath, and doom impending,
David's word with Sibyl's blending,
Heaven and earth in ashes ending.

**Oh, what fear man's bosom rendeth,
when from heaven the Judge descendeth,
on whose sentence all dependeth.**

Wondrous sound the trumpet flingeth;
through earth's sepulchers it ringeth;
all before the throne it bringeth.

**Death is struck, and nature quaking,
all creation is awaking,
to its Judge an answer making.**

Lo! the book, exactly worded,
wherein all hath been recorded:
thence shall judgment be awarded.

**When the Judge his seat attaineth,
and each hidden deed arraigneth,
nothing unavenged remaineth.**

What shall I, frail man, be pleading?
Who for me be interceding,
when the just are mercy needing?

**King of Majesty tremendous,
who dost free salvation send us,
Fount of pity, then befriend us!**

Think, kind Jesu, my salvation
cost thy wondrous Incarnation;
leave me not to reprobation!

**Faint and weary, thou hast sought me,
on the cross of suffering bought me.**

shall such grace be vainly brought me?

Righteous Judge! for sin's pollution
grant thy gift of absolution,
ere the day of retribution.

**Guilty, now I pour my moaning,
all my shame with anguish owning;
spare, O God, thy suppliant groaning!**

Through the sinful woman shriven,
through the dying thief forgiven,
thou to me a hope hast given.

**Worthless are my tears and sighing,
yet, good Lord, in grace complying,
rescue me from fires undying!**

With thy sheep a place provide me,
From the goats afar divide me,
To thy right hand do thou guide me.

**When the wicked are confounded,
doomed to flames of woe unbounded
call me with thy saints surrounded.**

Low I kneel, with heart-submission,
see, like ashes, my contrition;
help me in my last condition.

**Ah! that day of tears and mourning!
From the dust of earth returning
man for judgment must prepare him;
Spare, O God, in mercy spare him!**

**Lord, all-pitying, Jesu blest,
grant them thine eternal rest. Amen**

All STAND for THE GOSPEL.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according John.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel:

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

A homily may follow:

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRIFICE

Before preparing the Altar, the celebrant reads the OFFERTORY, first saying.

The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Offertory: Domine, Iesu Christi.

O Lord Jesus Christ, King of Majesty, deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from the hand of hell, and from the pit of destruction: deliver them from the lion's mouth, that the grave devour them not; that they go not down to the realms of darkness: but let Michael, the holy standard-bearer, make speed to restore them to the brightness of glory: which thou hast promised in ages past to Abraham and his seed. *Ÿ*. Sacrifice and prayer do we offer to thee, O Lord: do thou accept them for the souls departed, in whose memory we make this oblation: and grant them, Lord, to pass from death unto life: which thou hast promised in ages past to Abraham and his seed.

The Celebrant announces the Mass intentions then says

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his Name, both to our benefit, and that of all his holy Church.**

Celebrant Amen.

The Celebrant then says THE SECRET, which he prays quietly, concluding aloud
world without end.

People **Amen.**

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

The Celebrant continues:

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God

Preface of the Dead

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and doth comfort us with the blessed hope of everlasting life; for to thy faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body doth lie in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying,

All join in saying THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

“Take, eat,
THIS IS MY BODY
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”



Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,


“Drink ye all of this; for
THIS IS MY BLOOD
of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”



Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be  filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

Here may be made a commemoration of the departed.

Remember, Lord, also the souls of thy servants and handmaids which are gone before us with the mark of faith, and rest in the sleep of peace, [N. (and N.)].

We beseech thee, O Lord, that unto them, and unto all such as rest in Christ, thou wilt grant a place of refreshing, of light, and of peace. And vouchsafe to give unto us some portion and fellowship with thy holy Apostles and Martyrs..., and with all thy Saints; within whose fellowship we beseech thee to admit us.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, **who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

The Peace is not exchanged amongst the Ministers or the people.

Then all join in saying
THE AGNUS DEI:

- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
grant them rest.**
**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
grant them rest.**
**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world:
grant them rest eternal.**

Showing the sacred Host to the people, the Celebrant says

✠ Behold the Lamb of God.
Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof.

People **But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In union, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to thee. And since I cannot now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from thee. Let me live and die in thy love. Amen.

Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that as the hem of thy garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch thy Body, so the soul of thy servant may be healed by like faith in thee, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive; through thy tender mercy, who livest and reignest with the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost ever one God. Amen.

After the communion, the following verse is said.

Communion. *Lux aeterna.* II Esdras 2:35.

May light eternal shine, O Lord, upon them, for endless ages with thy blessed ones, for thou art gracious. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them, for endless ages with thy blessed ones, for thou art gracious.

The celebrant then says the following or another proper POSTCOMMUNION

Almighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

No blessing is given.

The following is said for the DISMISSAL:

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant May they rest in peace.

People **Amen.**

**Appendix:
The Gregorian Canon**

The following translation of the Gregorian Canon (the Eucharistic prayer of the Western Church before the Reformation) is that of Salisbury Cathedral, made by Miles Coverdale.

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, says

The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

The Celebrant continues

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Preface of the Dead

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and doth comfort us with the blessed hope of everlasting life; for to thy faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body doth lie in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying,

All join in saying THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Therefore, most gracious Father, through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, we humbly beseech thee, and we desire, that thou accept, and bless, these gifts, these presents, these holy and unspotted sacrifices, which, first of all, we offer unto thee for thy holy Catholic Church: that thou vouchsafe to pacify, keep, unite and govern it throughout the whole world: with thy servant *N.* our chief Bishop, and *N.* our own Bishop, and all true believers, and such as have the Catholic and Apostolic faith in due estimation.

Remember, Lord, thy servants and handmaids, [N. and N.], and all who stand here round about, whose faith and devotion unto thee is known and manifest: for whom we offer unto thee, or who themselves do offer unto thee, this sacrifice of praise (for them and theirs, for the redemption of their souls, for the hope of their salvation and health) and render their vows unto thee, the eternal, living, and true God:

In communion with and in worshipful remembrance of the glorious and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of our God and Lord Jesus Christ:

and also of thy blessed Apostles and Martyrs, Peter, Paul, Andrew, James, John, Thomas, James, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Simon and Thaddeus: Linus, Cletus, Clement, Xystus, Cornelius, Cyprian, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmas and Damian: and of all thy Saints; by whose merits and prayers grant thou that in all things we may be defended with the help of thy protection. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Therefore, Lord, we beseech thee, that thou wilt graciously receive this oblation of our bounden service, and of all thy household:

And do thou order our days in thy peace, and command us to be delivered from eternal damnation, and to be numbered in the flock of thine elect. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Which oblation, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, in all things to make blessed, appointed, ratified, reasonable and acceptable, that unto us it may be the Body and Blood of thy most dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who the next day afore he suffered, took bread into his holy and reverent hands, and his eyes being lifted into heaven unto thee, God almighty his Father, rendering thanks unto thee, he blessed, he brake, and gave unto his disciples, saying: Take and eat this, ye all. For this is my body.

Likewise after they had supped, he taking this excellent Cup into his holy and reverent hands, rendering thanks also unto thee, blessed, and gave unto his disciples, saying, Take and drink of this, ye all.

For this is the cup of my blood of the new and everlasting testament: the mystery of faith: which for you and for many shall be shed to the remission of sins. As oft as ye do these things, ye shall do them in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Lord, we also, thy servants, and thy holy people, being mindful as well of the blessed passion and resurrection, as of the glorious ascension of the same Christ thy Son, our Lord God, do offer unto thy excellent Majesty of thy own rewards and gifts, a pure host, a holy host, an undefiled host, the holy bread of eternal life, and the cup of eternal salvation.

Vouchsafe thou also, with a merciful and pleasant countenance, to have respect hereunto: and to accept the same, as thou didst vouchsafe to accept the gifts of thy righteous servant Abel, and the sacrifice of our Patriarch Abraham, and the holy sacrifice, the undefiled host, that the high priest Melchisedek did offer unto thee.

We humbly beseech thee, O Almighty God, command thou these to be brought by the hand of thy holy Angel unto thy high Altar in the presence of thy Divine Majesty, that as many of us as of this partaking of the Altar shall receive thy Son's holy Body and Blood may be replenished with all heavenly ✠ benediction and grace. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Remember, Lord, also the souls of thy servants and handmaidens, [N.and N.] which are gone before us with the mark of faith, and rest in the sleep of peace. We beseech thee, O Lord, that unto them, and unto all such as rest in Christ, thou wilt grant a place of refreshing, of light, and of peace. Through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Unto us sinners also, thy servants, hoping of the multitude of thy mercies, vouchsafe to give some portion and fellowship with thy holy Apostles and Martyrs; with John, Stephen, Matthias, Barnabas, Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicitas, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucia, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia, and with all thy Saints: within whose fellowship we beseech thee to admit us, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses. Through Christ our Lord.

By whom, O Lord, all these good things thou dost ever create, thou sanctifiest, thou quickenest, thou blessest, and givest unto us.

Through him, and with him, and in him, is unto thee, God the Father Almighty, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory. World without end. **AMEN.**

Let us pray: Commanded by saving precepts, and taught by divine example, we are bold to say:

Continue with the Lord's Prayer, page 6



And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

REVELATION 14.13