

31. Devotee of Eucharistic Adoration

1 Cor 11:23–26 — The Eucharist proclaimed until He comes.

Jn 6:51–58 — “Whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

Theme: “He waited before the Lord, and the Lord now welcomes him to the eternal banquet.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of an old parish sacristan who would often notice one particular man sitting silently in the church long after everyone else had gone home. One evening he asked him, “What do you say to the Lord for so long?” The man smiled and answered, “Mostly, I just let Him look at me, and I look at Him.” Nothing dramatic happened in those hours of adoration, yet slowly his life became gentler, more patient, and more peaceful. Those who loved him could see that something sacred was shaping him from within.

Today, as we gather for this Funeral Mass, we remember someone whose heart was drawn again and again to the Eucharistic Lord. In the silence of adoration, in the celebration of the Mass, and in receiving the Bread of Life, he learned to place his trust in Christ. The Eucharist was not merely a devotion for him; it became the centre from which he drew strength, hope, and love.

The readings today remind us that every Eucharist points beyond itself. Saint Paul tells us: “Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.” And Jesus assures us in the Gospel: “Whoever eats this bread will live forever.” These are not only words for the living; they are words of hope for the departed. The One whom he adored on earth now calls him to the heavenly banquet.

Yet we also come before God aware of our human weakness and sin. At times we have failed to recognize the Lord’s presence, failed to trust Him, or failed to become the loving people He calls us to be. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us ask the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, Bread of Life, you nourish us with your presence and strengthen us in hope: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, living Bread come down from heaven, you remain with your people in love and mercy: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, eternal High Priest, you lead your faithful servants to the banquet of heaven: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who feeds His people with the Bread of Life and calls His faithful servants to the eternal banquet of heaven, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son left us the sacrament of His Body and Blood
as food for our pilgrimage on earth, grant that your servant,
who found strength and consolation in the Eucharist
and waited faithfully before your presence in adoration,
may now rejoice at the heavenly banquet
where Christ lives forever among His saints.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A nurse once spoke about an elderly man in a hospice who became restless and fearful each evening. One day, a chaplain brought him Holy Communion. After receiving the Eucharist, the man held the priest's hand and quietly said, "Now I am not alone." From that evening onward, he became calm. The Eucharist did not remove death, but it reminded him that Christ would walk through death with him.

That is the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus says, "Whoever eats this bread will live forever." He does not promise a life without suffering, nor a life untouched by loss. He promises something deeper: communion with Him that even death cannot destroy.

The person whose life we remember today understood something precious about this mystery. Eucharistic adoration teaches a person to remain with Christ, even in silence. In a noisy world, he learned the value of simply being present before the Lord. Many people think prayer must always be filled with words. But sometimes the deepest prayer is faithful presence.

There is another story of Saint John Vianney who once noticed a farmer praying silently before the tabernacle every day. The saint asked him, "What do you say to the Lord?" The farmer answered, "I look at Him, and He looks at me." That simple exchange captures the beauty of adoration. Love does not always need many words.

And something happens to people who spend time before the Eucharist. Their hearts slowly begin to resemble the One they adore.

They become more patient in suffering, more forgiving in relationships, more compassionate toward others.

A teacher once told her students to place a piece of iron near a magnet for several days. Slowly the iron itself became magnetized. "That," she said, "is what happens when we remain close to Christ." The Eucharistic Lord quietly shapes the soul.

Saint Paul in today's reading reminds us that every Mass proclaims the death and resurrection of Jesus "until He comes." Every Eucharist is therefore a bridge between earth and heaven. At this altar, heaven touches earth. The Lord whom we receive sacramentally today is the same Lord who now calls His faithful servant into eternal communion.

And perhaps this is the greatest comfort for us who mourn. Death is not the end of the relationship. Love continues in God. The One adored in faith is now seen face to face.

There is a final story about a dying priest known for Eucharistic adoration. Shortly before his death, someone asked him, "What do you think heaven will be like?" He smiled weakly and answered, "Like one long gaze upon the One I have loved all my life." That is our hope today. The Lord whom he adored on earth now welcomes him to the eternal banquet where every hunger is fulfilled and every tear is wiped away forever.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered around the table of the Lord, and trusting in Christ who is the Bread of Life, let us bring before our heavenly Father our prayers for the Church, the world, and our departed brother.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may always draw strength from the Eucharist and lead people to deeper love of Christ present among us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For all priests, deacons, religious, and those who promote Eucharistic adoration, that their witness may renew faith and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For those who are lonely, sick, or nearing death, that the presence of Christ in the Eucharist may bring them comfort, courage, and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For family and friends who mourn today, that the promise of eternal life may strengthen them and bring healing to their hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For our departed brother, who loved the Eucharistic Lord, that he may now share forever in the heavenly banquet prepared for the faithful, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of mercy,
you gave us your Son as the Bread of Life for the journey.
Hear the prayers we place before you today,
and bring us one day to the eternal feast of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in memory of Christ who gives Himself as the Bread of Life, may bring hope to those who mourn and lead our departed brother to the eternal banquet of heaven, and may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we offer
in faith and hope for our departed brother.
As he found joy and strength
in the Eucharist during his earthly life,
grant that he may now share forever
in the fullness of your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For in the Eucharist your Son remains among His people
as the Bread of Life and the pledge of eternal salvation.
In every celebration of this sacred mystery,
He nourishes us with His presence,
strengthens us in hope, and teaches us to await the day
when we shall share fully in the banquet of heaven.

Today we give you thanks for your servant who loved to remain
in prayer before the Eucharistic Lord.
In moments of silence and worship,
he learned to trust your mercy
and to seek the things that endure forever.

And so, with the Angels and Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray with confidence to the Father who prepares for His children the eternal banquet of heaven.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
In moments of sorrow and uncertainty,
strengthen us through the Bread of Life,
and keep our hearts fixed on the heavenly banquet
where your faithful servants live forever in your presence,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
As we mourn our departed brother,
console us with the peace that comes
from knowing that those who share in your Body and Blood
are never separated from your love.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those invited to share in the heavenly banquet,
where Christ Himself becomes our Bread of Life
and leads His faithful people to eternal joy.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Eucharist is food for the journey. Throughout life, Christ nourishes His people with strength for weary days, light for uncertain paths, and hope in moments of sorrow. Today we entrust our departed brother to the Lord whom he adored in faith. The One received sacramentally on earth now invites him to the eternal feast of heaven. May that same hope sustain us until we too are gathered around the table of God's kingdom.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
we have shared in the Bread of Life
which your Son gave for the salvation of the world.
Grant that our departed brother,
who trusted in Christ's Eucharistic presence,
may now rejoice forever in the company of the saints.
Strengthen us also in faith and hope
until we come to the eternal banquet of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
strengthen you in faith
and give you peace in your sorrow.
Amen.

May Christ, the Bread of Life,
lead our departed brother
to the eternal banquet of heaven
and sustain you with the hope of the resurrection.
Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in Christ,
the Bread of Life,
who remains with His people now and forever.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Those who spend time in the presence of Christ are slowly transformed by His love. The Eucharist does not only prepare us for heaven someday; it teaches us how to live with faith, peace, and compassion today. The One whom we adore on earth is the same Lord who waits to welcome us into eternal life.

32. Elderly Couple / Long Marriage

Song of Songs 8:6–7 — “Love is strong as death.”

Jn 15:9–12

Theme: “Love that remained faithful becomes a sign of God’s eternal love.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, an elderly husband was asked what had kept his marriage alive through decades of joys, misunderstandings, sickness, sacrifices, and ordinary routines. He smiled and answered: “Every morning we decided again not to walk away from each other.” Their love was not perfect, but it endured because it was renewed day after day.

Today, in this Funeral Mass, we remember a life shaped by faithful love — a love that reflected something of God’s own steadfast heart. The readings remind us that true love is not merely emotion or romance. As the Song of Songs declares, “Love is strong as death,” and Jesus tells His disciples: “Remain in my love.”

Long marriages teach us that love grows strongest not in extraordinary moments alone, but in countless hidden acts of patience, forgiveness, listening, sacrifice, and presence. Such love leaves a quiet but lasting witness for children, family, friends, and the community.

As we gather with grief and gratitude, we also recognize our own failures to love as generously as Christ asks of us. Therefore, trusting in the mercy of God whose love never fails, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by acknowledging our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you remained faithful in love even unto death:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you teach us to love one another as you have loved us:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal wounded hearts and unite us in eternal communion: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who is patient with our weakness
and faithful even when human love falls short,
forgive us our sins,
heal what is broken within us,
strengthen us to love with generous hearts,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose love remains constant through every season of life,
you blessed your servant with the gift of enduring companionship
and taught many through the quiet witness of faithful love.
Comfort those who mourn today,
strengthen in us the commandment of charity given by your Son,
and lead us one day to the eternal union prepared for your faithful
people.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A retired teacher once shared the secret of her grandparents' sixty-year marriage. She said that every evening, no matter how difficult the day had been, her grandfather would make tea for his wife before going to bed. It was a tiny gesture, almost unnoticed by others, but after he died, the empty cup beside the kettle became one of the most painful signs of loss. Love had been hidden in ordinary faithfulness.

That is the kind of love our readings speak about today.

The Song of Songs says: "Love is strong as death." Those words sound bold because death seems so powerful. Death separates. Death silences voices. Death leaves empty chairs and unfinished conversations. Yet Scripture says love is just as strong. Why? Because real love leaves traces that death cannot erase.

Jesus deepens this truth in the Gospel: "Remain in my love." He does not speak of fleeting affection. He speaks of a love that chooses to stay. A long marriage becomes holy not because the couple never struggled, but because they kept returning to each other with forgiveness and commitment.

There is a story of an elderly wife caring for her husband who no longer remembered her because of dementia. Someone asked her, "Why do you still sit beside him every day when he no longer knows who you are?" She answered quietly, "Because I still know who he is." That is faithful love. That is love that mirrors God Himself.

In every enduring marriage there are hidden crosses: financial worries, misunderstandings, illness, disappointments, sacrifices for children, sleepless nights, fears about the future. Yet love matures

precisely there. The deepest love is rarely dramatic; it is often repetitive, patient, and quiet.

Jesus says: "Love one another as I have loved you." Christ loved by remaining present. He stayed with humanity even through suffering and death. The love shared in a long marriage becomes beautiful because it participates in Christ's own faithful love.

There is another simple story. An elderly couple used to walk together every afternoon. In their final years, they walked very slowly. Someone once joked that they would reach home faster if they walked separately. The husband replied: "But we were never trying to get home faster. We were trying to get there together." Those words capture something sacred about lifelong love.

Today we mourn separation. We feel the pain of absence. Yet we also give thanks because a life of faithful love leaves behind more than memories. It leaves lessons. It teaches children how to forgive. It teaches grandchildren that commitment matters. It teaches all of us that love is more than feelings — it is a decision renewed every day.

And Christian faith tells us something even greater: death does not have the final word. The God who united hearts in love on earth calls His faithful ones into eternal communion. What was lived imperfectly here will be fulfilled perfectly in His Kingdom.

A widower once said after many years of marriage: "I spent my life learning how to love one person well. Perhaps that was God's way of teaching me how to love Him." That may be the deepest meaning of faithful love. Human love, at its best, becomes a path toward God.

And so today, even through tears, we entrust our beloved departed into the hands of the Lord whose love is stronger than death, trusting that every act of faithful love finds its fulfillment in eternal life.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters,

God is the source of every faithful love and the comfort of all who mourn. Trusting in His mercy and compassion, let us bring before Him our prayers.

For the Church, that she may continue to witness to Christ's faithful and enduring love in a world often marked by division and loneliness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For married couples, especially those enduring hardship, illness, or distance, that God may strengthen them in patience, forgiveness, and lifelong fidelity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For families grieving the loss of a spouse, parent, grandparent, or friend, that cherished memories may become a source of gratitude and hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the elderly, especially those who feel forgotten or alone, that they may experience companionship, dignity, and loving care, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our departed brother/sister N., that the Lord who blessed a life of faithful love on earth may now welcome him/her into eternal communion and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of enduring love,

you never abandon those who trust in you.

Hear the prayers we offer with faith

and keep us united in your love

until we meet again in your eternal Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and love, may deepen our trust in the God whose faithful love endures beyond death and may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts offered in memory of your servant, whose life reflected the beauty of faithful and enduring love.

May this sacrifice bring comfort to those who mourn, strengthen our bonds of charity, and lead the departed into the eternal banquet of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you created us in love and called us to walk together through the seasons of life. In faithful companionship, patience, sacrifice, and forgiveness, you allow human hearts to reflect your own enduring mercy. In your Son Jesus Christ, you revealed a love that remains faithful even unto death, a love stronger than fear, suffering, and the grave itself. And in the promise of the Resurrection you assure us that those united in love on earth are called to everlasting communion in your Kingdom. Therefore, with the Angels and Saints, we proclaim your glory, as with one voice we sing:
Holy, Holy, Holy ...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, where every separation will end and faithful love will find its eternal fulfillment:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be strengthened in love, patient in times of trial, and comforted in moments of loneliness and grief, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to remain in your love and to love one another with faithful hearts. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, who loved us faithfully even unto death and calls us to eternal communion with Him. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful love changes people quietly.
It teaches patience through daily routines,
forgiveness through weakness,
and hope through difficult years.
Today we thank God for a love that endured,
for hands that served,
for companionship that remained,
and for memories death cannot erase.
And as Christ nourishes us in this Eucharist,
we trust that His eternal love now embraces our departed loved one
forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and strengthened us in the hope of eternal communion.
Grant that the witness of faithful love we remember today
may inspire us to live with greater charity, patience, and trust in you,
until we are gathered together in your heavenly Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of faithful love
comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you with the hope of eternal life.
Amen.

May Christ,
who remained with us even unto death,
walk beside you in every moment of grief and loneliness.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
keep alive in your hearts the memories of love shared
and lead you one day to everlasting peace.
Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
carrying with you the witness of faithful love,
and remain in the love of Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Love becomes strongest not in grand moments alone, but in the
quiet decision to remain faithful day after day. Human love may end
in separation for a time, but every act of genuine love finds its
fulfillment in the eternal love of God.

33. Sudden Heart Attack

Philippians 3:20–21 — “Our citizenship is in heaven.”

Luke 12:35–40 — “Be prepared.”

Theme: “Ready in Love, Called Home in Hope.”

Life can change in a single moment, yet the Gospel reminds us that those who live with faith, love, and trust in God are never unprepared for eternity. Our true citizenship is in heaven, where Christ awaits His people with mercy and peace.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a village clockmaker whose clocks were found in every home of the town. One day a young apprentice asked him, “How do you make clocks that last so long?” The old man smiled and replied, “I do not build them merely to tell time; I build them so people remember that every hour is precious.” Years later, when the clockmaker died suddenly at his workbench, the whole village realized that his life itself had been his greatest lesson: every moment is a gift.

Today we gather with heavy hearts because death came suddenly through a heart attack. There was no time for final words, no opportunity to prepare ourselves emotionally for goodbye. Sudden loss often leaves us shocked, unsettled, and full of questions. Yet the Word of God gently reminds us that while death may come unexpectedly to us, no one is ever unexpected to God.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, “Be prepared.” These words are not meant to fill us with fear, but with trust. To live prepared means to live each day with faith, kindness, forgiveness, and love. Saint Paul

reminds us that “our citizenship is in heaven.” Earth is our journey; heaven is our home.

As we stand before the Lord today, we recognize the times when we were too distracted to love deeply, too busy to forgive quickly, or too certain that tomorrow would always come. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us ask God for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you remind us to stay awake and ready for your coming:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are our hope when life changes suddenly and unexpectedly: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in you:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and teach us to live each day with hearts ready to meet Him in faith, hope, and love, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Merciful and eternal God,
in the midst of sudden loss and fragile human life,
you remind us that our true home is with you in heaven.
Grant us the grace to live each day prepared in faith, steadfast in love, and rich in mercy, so that when you call us from this world, we may enter with confidence into your eternal kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once asked her students to write what they would do if they only had one day left to live. Most wrote about traveling, spending money, or seeking adventure. One quiet boy simply wrote: “I would go home early, sit with my grandmother, and tell her I love her.” The teacher later said that the child understood something many adults forget — that readiness for eternity is not about panic; it is about love.

Today’s Gospel can sound unsettling: “Be prepared.” Many hear those words and imagine fear, judgment, or anxiety. But Jesus speaks these words not to frighten us, but to awaken us. Life is fragile. None of us controls tomorrow. Sudden death reminds us of that truth with painful clarity.

When a heart attack takes someone unexpectedly, families are often left saying, “We were not ready.” There were conversations left unfinished, plans left incomplete, ordinary moments suddenly transformed into precious memories. Sudden death shakes us because it reminds us how quickly life can change.

A nurse once shared that after medical emergencies, families rarely speak about achievements or possessions. Instead, they say things like: “I wish I had spent more time with him.” “I wish I had forgiven sooner.” “I wish I had said thank you more often.” At the end of life, love becomes the only thing that truly matters.

Jesus compares life to servants waiting for their master’s return. Good servants are not terrified servants; they are faithful servants. They keep the lamp burning. They remain attentive. In Christian life, readiness means living with a heart awake to God and open to others.

Saint Paul tells us, “Our citizenship is in heaven.” That changes how we see everything. We work, love, struggle, and dream on earth, but we do not belong only to this world. We are pilgrims moving toward eternity.

There is a story of a businessman who always carried a small suitcase packed in his closet. When his wife once asked why, he answered jokingly, “Because one day God may call me suddenly.” After his death, his family found inside the suitcase not clothes or money, but letters of forgiveness, family photographs, and a Bible. He had understood what it meant to be prepared: not materially, but spiritually.

The suddenness of death also teaches us how to live now. Do not postpone kindness. Do not delay reconciliation. Do not assume there will always be another opportunity to say, “I love you.” Preparedness is not living in fear of death; it is living fully in grace. For Christians, death is not the final disaster. Christ himself passed through death and opened eternal life. Because of Him, even when death arrives suddenly, it does not have the last word. Love is stronger. Mercy is greater. Resurrection is promised.

A priest once visited an elderly woman who kept a candle near her window every evening. When asked why, she replied, “I keep it lit so that if the Lord comes tonight, He will know He is welcome here.” That is the heart of today’s Gospel. Readiness is keeping the light of faith burning.

Today we commend our beloved departed to God’s mercy. Though the departure came suddenly, we trust that the Lord who called unexpectedly also welcomed lovingly. And as we continue our own journey, may we live with open hearts, reconciled souls, and steady faith — always ready, always hopeful, always trusting in Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord who calls us to eternal life and prepares a place for His faithful people, let us bring our prayers before Him.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may help people live each day in faith, hope, and readiness for the coming of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For all who suffer the shock of sudden loss, that God may comfort their hearts and surround them with loving support, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For doctors, nurses, emergency workers, and all who care for the seriously ill, that God may strengthen them in compassion and wisdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For our departed brother/sister N., that Christ may welcome him/her into the heavenly homeland prepared for God's faithful servants, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all of us gathered here, that we may live each day with grateful hearts, reconciled spirits, and trust in God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,
you know the uncertainty of human life and the longing of every heart.

Hear the prayers we place before you today,
and keep us faithful as we journey toward our heavenly home.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and hope before the Lord who calls us home unexpectedly yet lovingly, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings which we place upon your altar in faith and trust in your eternal promises.

Through this sacred sacrifice, strengthen our hope in the resurrection and teach us to live each day prepared in love and mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the midst of life's uncertainty, you never abandon your people.
You remind us through your Son to keep watch with faithful hearts,
for our true citizenship is in heaven.

Even when death comes suddenly, your mercy remains steadfast
and your promises do not fail.

In Christ, death has become the doorway to eternal life,
and those who trust in you are welcomed into the kingdom prepared
for them from the beginning of the world.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray with confidence to the Father
whose kingdom is our true and eternal home:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we learn to live each day prepared in faith and trust,
awaiting the moment when you call us home to yourself,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you told your disciples to remain watchful and unafraid,
for you are always near to those who trust in you.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your
will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who strengthens us for our earthly journey
and leads us toward the eternal kingdom prepared for God's faithful
people.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Life is fragile and often unpredictable,
yet God's love remains constant.
Today Christ has nourished us with the Bread of Life,
reminding us that our journey does not end in death but in eternity.
May we leave this place with hearts more awake to love,
quicker to forgive,
and more ready to welcome the Lord whenever He comes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these holy mysteries
you have strengthened us with the promise of eternal life.
Help us to walk faithfully through the uncertainties of this world
with hearts prepared in love and trust,
until the day we are welcomed into our heavenly homeland.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you in hope.

May Christ, who conquered death and opened the gates of eternal
life, keep your hearts steadfast in faith.

And may the Holy Spirit teach you to live each day in love, mercy,
and readiness for the Lord's coming.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that our true citizenship is in heaven,
and live each day with hearts ready to welcome the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Do not wait for tomorrow to love, forgive, or believe.
The best way to be ready for eternity is to live today with a faithful
and loving heart.”

34. Person of Great Charity

1 Cor 13:1–13 — The greatness of love.

Mt 25:34–40

Theme: “Love is the only treasure we take into eternity.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an old woman who lived in a poor village. She had very little money, yet every evening she cooked one extra portion of food and left it near her door for anyone who might be hungry. For years, no one knew how many lives were touched by that simple act. After her death, people began to speak: a traveller who survived because of her meal, a child who found hope in her kindness, a lonely widow who felt remembered because someone cared. Her greatness was not in wealth or fame, but in love quietly given. Today, in the Gospel, Jesus tells us that whatever we do for the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, and the forgotten, we do for Him. Saint Paul reminds us that even the greatest achievements mean nothing without love. Faith and hope will one day pass into fulfillment, but love remains forever.

As we gather to commend our beloved departed to the Lord, we thank God for every act of generosity, compassion, patience, and service that reflected Christ’s own heart. The life we remember today teaches us that holiness is often found not in extraordinary deeds, but in ordinary kindness faithfully lived.

Yet we also know that none of us has loved perfectly. There were moments when we failed to notice Christ in others, moments when selfishness closed our hearts. Therefore, with humility and trust in God’s mercy, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You showed us the face of the Father through compassion and mercy: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You are present in the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You call us to love as You have loved us:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen us to recognize Christ in one another through lives of generous love and compassionate service, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
source of all goodness and lasting love,
you taught us through your Son
that whatever is done for the least of our brothers and sisters is done for him.

As we remember our departed brother/sister today,
we thank you for the many ways charity and kindness were shared through his/her life.

Grant that we who mourn may learn anew
that love alone endures forever
and that faithful service opens the way to your kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once asked her students to write about what they wanted to become in life. Most wrote about success, wealth, or fame. One small boy wrote only one sentence: *"I want people to feel happier because I lived."* Years later, the teacher said she could not remember the grades of many students, but she never forgot that sentence. In the eyes of God, that child had already understood the meaning of greatness.

Today's Gospel brings us to the final judgment scene in Matthew 25. Jesus does not ask how powerful people were, how much money they earned, or how admired they became. Instead, He asks: *Did you feed the hungry? Did you welcome the stranger? Did you visit the sick?* In other words: *Did you love?*

Saint Paul, in the beautiful hymn from First Corinthians, tells us that love is patient, kind, humble, forgiving, and enduring. He even says that miracles, knowledge, and achievements pass away, but love never ends. At the end of life, love is the only thing that remains.

There is a story about Saint Martin of Tours. One freezing winter night, he met a beggar shivering in the cold. Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the poor man. That night he dreamed of Christ wearing the very cloak he had shared. The next day he understood: when he clothed the poor man, he had clothed Christ Himself. That is exactly what Jesus teaches in today's Gospel.

Very often, charity does not look dramatic. Sometimes it is hidden in small acts. A mother staying awake beside a sick child. A father working long hours so his family can live with dignity. A friend listening patiently to someone in pain. A neighbour bringing food to the lonely. Heaven sees these things even when the world does not.

There is another story of a nurse in a hospice who was asked by a dying patient, “What do people usually talk about before they die?” She answered, “Almost never about success or possessions. They speak about people who loved them and people they loved.” In the final moments of life, the human heart understands what truly matters.

That is why today is not only a day of mourning. It is also a day of reflection for all of us. One day our lives too will be measured by love. Not by how much we owned, but by how much we gave. Not by how loudly we spoke, but by how deeply we cared.

And yet the beautiful truth of Christianity is this: we do not love alone. Christ first loved us. Every act of kindness becomes possible because His grace works within us. The Eucharist we celebrate today is the greatest sign of that love — a God who gives Himself completely for His people.

A man once visited an old cemetery and noticed a simple inscription on one grave: “*She made life gentler.*” Nothing else was written — no titles, no achievements, no honours. Yet perhaps that was enough. To make life gentler, kinder, more hopeful for others — that is a life close to the heart of Christ. May our departed brother/sister now hear those blessed words of the Gospel: “*Come, blessed of my Father... inherit the kingdom prepared for you.*” Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Jesus taught us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Him. Trusting in His mercy and love, let us now bring our prayers before the Father.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to be a living witness of compassion, mercy, and generous service to the

poor, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For leaders of nations and communities, that they may govern with justice and care for the vulnerable, the hungry, and the forgotten, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For all who dedicate their lives to works of charity — caregivers, volunteers, medical workers, and all who serve the suffering — that God may strengthen and bless them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For our departed brother/sister, that every act of kindness and love offered during life may now be brought to fulfillment in the joy of God’s kingdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For all of us gathered here, that this Eucharist may deepen our commitment to love generously and recognize Christ in one another, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

you are rich in mercy and boundless in love.

Hear the prayers we offer with faith and grant that, following the example of your Son, we may live lives of charity and compassion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in love and thanksgiving for the life of our departed brother/sister, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept these gifts we place upon your altar
as signs of our gratitude for the love you have shown us in Christ.
May this holy sacrifice bring comfort to those who mourn
and grant eternal peace to our departed brother/sister,
who sought to serve you in serving others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you have shown us in your Son
that the path to greatness is the path of love and humble service.
In Christ, the hungry are fed, the sorrowful comforted,
and the forgotten remembered.

Through his death and resurrection
you opened for us the gates of eternal life,
where every act of charity finds its fulfillment in your kingdom.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray to the Father whose love calls us to become one
family in Christ.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by your mercy,
we may learn to live with generous hearts,
quick to forgive and ready to serve one another in love,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us that love for one another is the sign of your disciples.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your
will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who comes to us in love and gives himself for the life of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love never ends.
The kindness we give, the compassion we share, and the mercy we
offer are never lost before God. In this Eucharist, Christ has
nourished us with His own life so that we may continue His work of
love in the world. May the memory of our departed brother/sister
inspire us to live more generously, forgive more readily, and serve
more faithfully.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy Eucharist
you have strengthened us with the bread of eternal life.
Teach us to walk always in the way of charity,
so that, having loved and served you in others on earth,
we may rejoice one day in the eternal banquet of heaven
with our departed brother/sister and all the saints.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all compassion,
who calls us to love one another as Christ has loved us,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope.

May Christ Jesus,
who is present in the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten,
lead our departed brother/sister into the joy of his eternal kingdom.

And may the Holy Spirit
fill your hearts with peace and inspire you to lives of faithful charity.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives of charity and compassion.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

At the end of life, we will not be remembered most for what we
possessed, but for how deeply we loved.

35. Funeral of a Saintly Grandmother

Prov 31:10–31 or 2 Tim 1:1–5

Jn 14:1–3

Theme: “A faith lived quietly becomes a home that leads others to God.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a grandson was helping his grandmother clean an old wooden cupboard. Hidden inside was a small prayer book, worn out from years of use. Between its pages were names of children, grandchildren, and even neighbours, each carefully written in fading ink. The grandson realized that every day, long before others awoke, his grandmother had carried all of them to God in prayer. Few people noticed it, but her quiet faith had become the unseen strength of the family.

Today, as we gather to commend our beloved grandmother to the Lord, the Scriptures remind us that holiness is often lived in ordinary ways. The Book of Proverbs praises the woman whose goodness, wisdom, and kindness bless everyone around her. Saint Paul remembers the sincere faith of Timothy’s grandmother and mother—a faith handed on not only by words but by example. And in the Gospel, Jesus comforts grieving hearts: “Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am going to prepare a place for you.”

We come here with gratitude for a life that reflected God’s tenderness through patience, sacrifice, prayer, hospitality, and steadfast love. Even in small unnoticed acts, she helped build a home where faith could grow.

Yet none of us loves perfectly. Even the holiest among us stands before God relying not on achievements but on mercy. Therefore, trusting in the compassion of Christ who prepares a place for His people, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You welcomed children, the weary, and the forgotten into Your heart: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You strengthen families through the witness of faithful and loving hearts: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You prepare eternal homes for those who trust in You: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, deepen within us the faith handed on through loving witnesses, comfort us with the hope of eternal life, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of every good and lasting gift,
You blessed Your servant with the grace to reflect Your love within her family through prayer, kindness, patience, and faithful devotion.
As we commend her to Your merciful care,
strengthen our hearts with the hope
that Christ has prepared an eternal dwelling for His people,
and help us to continue the legacy of faith
that she has handed on to those she loved.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once asked her students to describe the strongest person they knew. Some spoke about athletes, others about famous leaders. One quiet child answered, “My grandmother.” The teacher smiled and asked why. The child replied, “Because she keeps loving everyone even when she is tired, hurting, or forgotten.” That child understood something profound: true strength is often gentle.

Today we remember a grandmother whose greatness was not measured by public recognition, wealth, or power, but by the quiet holiness with which she lived each day. The Scriptures today speak beautifully about such a life.

The Book of Proverbs describes the noble woman whose value is “far beyond pearls.” She works with care, speaks with wisdom, stretches out her hands to those in need, and brings goodness into her home. This passage is not praising perfection; it is praising faithful love lived consistently over many years.

I remember hearing about an elderly grandmother who always kept extra plates at the dinner table. When her family asked why, she would simply say, “You never know who may need a meal.” Over time, neighbors, lonely students, struggling relatives, and grieving friends all found a place at her table. Without realizing it, she was preaching the Gospel through hospitality. That is often how saintly grandmothers evangelize—not from pulpits, but from kitchens, dining rooms, hospital visits, and whispered prayers.

Saint Paul, writing to Timothy, recalls the sincere faith first lived by Timothy’s grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. Faith is not handed on only through catechism lessons; it is transmitted through lived witness. Children remember the folded hands of prayer, the

candle lit before an image of Mary, the patient forgiveness after an argument, the insistence on Sunday Mass, the comforting words spoken during difficult nights.

Many of us here today carry memories like these. Perhaps we remember rosary beads worn smooth with use. Perhaps we remember being blessed before exams, journeys, or surgeries. Perhaps we remember hearing, “God will provide,” spoken during hard times. These simple acts become anchors for the soul.

In the Gospel, Jesus says: “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” These words were spoken to disciples facing loss and uncertainty. Jesus does not deny grief, but He transforms it with hope. He promises not an ending, but a home: “I am going to prepare a place for you.”

There is a beautiful story of an elderly woman nearing death. She told her family not to cry too much because she was “going home.” When asked what she meant, she smiled and said, “All my life I tried to keep a home ready for my family. Now God is preparing one for me.” That is the Christian hope we celebrate today.

A saintly grandmother teaches us that holiness is built through ordinary faithfulness: showing up, praying daily, forgiving generously, loving patiently, enduring suffering quietly, and trusting God through every season of life.

The greatest tribute we can offer her today is not only flowers or tears, but continuation. If she taught us to pray, we must pray. If she taught us kindness, we must become kind. If she taught us trust in God, we must live that trust ourselves.

There is an old custom in some homes: when one candle burns low, another candle is lit from its flame so the light continues. Today we

thank God for the light of this grandmother’s life. Though her earthly candle has dimmed, the faith she passed on still burns in her children, grandchildren, and all whose lives she touched.

And so we entrust her now to the Lord who said: “I will come back again and take you to myself.” May Christ welcome her into the eternal home prepared from the foundation of the world, where every tear is wiped away and love never ends.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in God our Father, who prepares an eternal home for His faithful people, let us place before Him our prayers for the Church, the world, and our beloved departed.

1. For the Church, that she may continue to strengthen families through faith, compassion, and faithful witness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For grandparents and elderly people everywhere, that they may be valued for their wisdom, sacrifices, and enduring love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For families experiencing grief, loneliness, or division, that Christ may bring healing, reconciliation, and peace to their homes, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For all who cared lovingly for others through quiet acts of service and prayer, that God may reward their goodness abundantly, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For our beloved departed grandmother, that the Lord Jesus, who prepared a place for His faithful servants, may welcome her into eternal joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,
You are the source of every loving home and every lasting hope.
Hear the prayers we bring before You with confidence and faith,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that the gifts we offer in grateful remembrance of a life marked by faith, prayer, and loving service may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we place upon Your altar
in thankful remembrance of Your servant
whose life reflected the goodness and tenderness of Christ.
May this sacrifice bring comfort to those who mourn,
strengthen our faith in the resurrection,
and open for her the gates of eternal peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You never abandon those who trust in You,
but guide them through the changing seasons of life
toward the eternal home You have prepared.
In faithful mothers and grandmothers
You reveal the quiet beauty of steadfast love,

the strength of patient sacrifice,
and the grace that forms hearts in faith.

Through lives devoted to prayer, compassion, and care for others,
You show us that holiness is often hidden
within ordinary acts of kindness and fidelity.
And in the resurrection of Your Son,
You give us the sure hope
that death is not the end
but the doorway to everlasting life.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by the faith handed on through loving generations, we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by the example of faithful lives
and strengthened by Your mercy,
we may remain steadfast in hope,
comfort one another in times of sorrow,
and walk faithfully toward the eternal home
prepared for Your children in heaven,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You comforted Your disciples with the promise
that You would prepare a place for them.
Look kindly upon Your people gathered in sorrow and hope.
Grant peace to troubled hearts,
unity to families, and serenity to all who mourn,
that trusting in Your resurrection
we may walk together toward Your eternal kingdom.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,
where Christ gathers His faithful people into the everlasting home of
heaven.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love leaves traces behind.
A grandmother's faith continues in the prayers she taught,
the kindness she inspired,
the courage she planted in hearts,
and the trust in God she quietly lived each day.
Today Christ assures us that such love is never lost.
What is rooted in Him lives forever.
May we continue the light she carried,
until we meet again in the Father's house.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
You have strengthened us with the bread of life and hope.
Comfort us in our sorrow and help us to remain faithful to the Gospel
that Your servant lived with quiet devotion and love.
May the promise of Christ sustain us always,
until we are gathered together in the eternal home of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation bless you in your sorrow
and strengthen you with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

May Christ, who prepared an eternal dwelling for His faithful people,
welcome our departed sister into His peace
and keep your hearts steadfast in faith. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, who sustains families through love and prayer,
guide you to continue the legacy of goodness you have received.
Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, carrying forward the faith, kindness, and
love that have been entrusted to you.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The holiest lives are often built from ordinary acts of love repeated
faithfully over many years. A grandmother's quiet faith can become a
pathway that leads generations home to God.

36. Funeral of a Saintly Grandfather

Psalm 128 or Sirach 44:1–15

Matthew 24:42–46 — The faithful servant.

Theme: “Blessed is the faithful servant who keeps watch with love.”

INTRODUCTION

Dear brothers and sisters, today we gather with sorrow, gratitude, and faith as we commend our beloved grandfather to the mercy of God. The Gospel speaks of the faithful servant who remains watchful and ready for the Master’s return. In many quiet and ordinary ways, our dear departed tried to live exactly that kind of faithful life — steady in duty, generous in love, and humble in service.

There is an old story of a grandfather who rose before sunrise every day. Before the house awoke, he would sit silently on the porch with his rosary in hand. One morning, his grandson asked him, “Grandpa, why do you pray every day when nothing seems to change?” The old man smiled and pointed to a lantern hanging nearby. “The lantern does not stop the night,” he said, “but it keeps the house ready for the morning.” Faithful people live like that. They quietly keep hope alive for others.

The readings today remind us that a good and faithful life leaves blessings that endure beyond death. Psalm 128 speaks of the man who fears the Lord and walks in His ways; Sirach praises those whose goodness is remembered generation after generation. We thank God for the witness of our dear grandfather — not because he was perfect, but because he tried to remain faithful in the little things entrusted to him.

As we now stand before the Lord, we also recognize our own need for mercy. At times we have failed to keep watch, failed to love, and failed to trust God fully. Therefore, let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call Your servants to remain faithful and watchful:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You strengthen families through lives of quiet love and sacrifice: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You prepare a place in the Father’s house for those who trust in You: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and through the faithful witness of His servants lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, You never fail to reward those who serve You faithfully and walk in the path of love.

As we commend our beloved grandfather into Your hands, comfort all who mourn him and strengthen us by the example of his steadfast faith, humble service, and enduring love for his family. Teach us to remain watchful for the coming of Your Son, so that one day we may rejoice together in the eternal home You have prepared for Your faithful servants.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A young boy once watched his grandfather repair an old wooden table. The boy asked, “Grandpa, why do you keep fixing old things instead of buying new ones?” The grandfather replied, “Because when you care for something long enough, it becomes part of your life.” Years later, after his grandfather had died, the boy would touch that same table and remember not the wood, but the patient hands that had shaped his life.

That is how faithful people leave their mark upon the world. Not always through great achievements, but through daily acts of care, responsibility, sacrifice, and love. The Gospel today speaks about the faithful servant — the one who stays ready, doing his duty faithfully when the master returns. Jesus praises not brilliance or fame, but fidelity.

Our dear grandfather belonged to that quiet school of holiness. He may not have preached sermons, but he preached through consistency. He taught through example. He loved through presence. Many of the strongest lessons in life are not spoken loudly; they are repeated patiently day after day.

There is a story of an elderly farmer who never missed Sunday Mass. One winter morning, the roads were muddy and dangerous. His neighbours asked why he would risk the journey at his age. He answered simply, “My soul also needs feeding.” Faithful people understand something important: love grows through perseverance. They continue showing up — for God, for family, and for others.

Psalms 128 paints the picture of a blessed life: one who fears the Lord, whose family gathers around the table in peace. Such blessings are not built in a single day. They are formed slowly

through years of work, forgiveness, prayer, patience, and sacrifice. Grandfathers especially carry hidden burdens that younger generations often discover only later. Many sacrifices are never spoken about; they are simply lived.

Sirach tells us: “Their name lives on generation after generation.” That does not mean people become perfect legends. It means goodness leaves echoes behind. A grandfather’s advice, his discipline, his laughter, his prayers, his concern for the family — all these continue shaping hearts long after his voice grows silent.

There is another story of a grandfather teaching his granddaughter how to plant a tree. The child complained, “But it will take many years before it gives shade.” The grandfather answered, “Some of the best things we do are meant for people we may never meet.” Faithful love always thinks beyond itself.

Today we mourn because love always grieves when separated. Yet Christian mourning is never hopeless mourning. The faithful servant in the Gospel is not abandoned by the master; he is welcomed and rewarded. Death is not the end of the story for those who walk with Christ. The Lord whom our grandfather served imperfectly but sincerely now comes to meet him with mercy.

And now another story. An old grandfather nearing death called his family to his bedside. He said very little. He simply held each hand for a moment and smiled. After he died, the family realized that his final lesson was the same lesson he had taught all his life: “Be present. Love one another. Stay faithful.” In the end, that is what remains.

Today we entrust our dear grandfather to God. We thank the Lord for the faithful servant he tried to be. And we pray that when our own earthly journey is complete, the Lord may also say to us: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in God who never abandons His faithful servants, let us place before Him our prayers for the Church, the world, and our beloved departed.

1. For the Church, that she may continue to be a faithful witness of hope and mercy in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For families, especially grandparents and elders, that their wisdom, sacrifices, and faith may be cherished and passed on to future generations, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For all who care quietly for others through daily sacrifices and hidden acts of love, that God may strengthen and reward them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all who mourn today, especially the family of our beloved departed, that Christ may console them with the promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For our departed grandfather, that the Lord may welcome him among the faithful servants in the eternal kingdom of heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of mercy and compassion, You know the faith and hopes of Your people. Hear the prayers we offer today and keep us faithful in Your love until we are gathered into Your eternal kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we place upon this altar the bread and wine, together with the memories, love, and gratitude we carry for our beloved grandfather, let us pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we offer in faith and gratitude for our beloved grandfather.

As he sought to serve You faithfully in this life,
may these sacred mysteries bring him cleansing, peace, and eternal joy in Your presence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You are the hope of those who trust in You
and the reward of all faithful servants.

In the midst of earthly labour and passing years,
You teach us that lives lived in love are never lost.
Through quiet acts of kindness, patient sacrifice, and steadfast faith,
You allow Your grace to shine in human hearts.

In Your mercy You gave our beloved grandfather the gift of family,
work, friendship, and faith.

And now, with hope in the Resurrection of Christ,
we entrust him to Your eternal care,

confident that death is not the end
but the doorway to the house prepared for Your faithful ones.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Faithful servants learn to trust not in themselves but in the loving care of the Father. With confidence in that same love, and united with all who have gone before us in faith, we now pray in the words Jesus taught us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and strengthen us to remain faithful in times of trial, patient in moments of suffering, and hopeful in the face of death.
Comfort all who mourn today, and keep alive within us the light of faith handed on by those who loved and guided us before us,
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the peace of those who trust in You and the eternal reward of all faithful servants.
In the midst of grief and loss, calm our hearts and deepen our faith in Your promises.
Help us to carry forward the legacy of love, fidelity, and kindness we have received from our beloved grandfather, and graciously grant peace in our days. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful lives rarely draw attention to themselves.
Like lamps quietly burning through the night, they guide others by steady light rather than loud words.
Today we thank God for the gift of a grandfather whose love, sacrifices, and faith became a blessing for many.
May the Eucharist we have shared strengthen us to live with the same quiet fidelity until we meet again in the house of the Father.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You nourish us with the hope of eternal life.
Strengthen us to walk faithfully in Your ways,
inspired by the example of our beloved grandfather,
and bring him into the everlasting joy prepared for Your servants.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation bless you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ, who promised eternal life to His faithful servants, receive our beloved departed into His kingdom of peace. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit guide you to live with steadfast faith, enduring love, and trust in the Resurrection. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in the Lord who rewards every faithful servant with eternal life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Holiness is often hidden in ordinary faithfulness.
The people who quietly love, serve, forgive, and persevere become the strongest witnesses of God's presence in the world.

37. Person Who Returned to Faith Before Death

Ez 18:21–28 — God does not desire the sinner's death.

Lk 15:4–7 — The lost sheep.

Theme: "The Shepherd Never Stops Searching."
God never tires of seeking the lost, welcoming the sinner, and rejoicing when even one heart returns to Him. Today we entrust our departed brother/sister to the mercy of the Good Shepherd who searches, finds, carries, forgives, and brings home.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a village clockmaker whose son had left home after many bitter arguments. For years the father wound the old clock in the hallway every evening at exactly the same hour, hoping one day his son might walk through the door again and hear its familiar sound. One winter night, long after everyone thought the son would never return, the father heard footsteps outside. The son stood there, ashamed and silent. The old man did not ask where he had been. He simply embraced him and said, "I kept the clock running because I never stopped waiting for you."

That story reflects something of the heart of God revealed in today's readings. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep behind to search for the one that is lost. In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel reminds us that God takes no pleasure in the death of the sinner, but rather desires that the sinner turn back and live.

Today we remember with gratitude that before death, our departed brother/sister turned again toward God. The final chapters of a life are often the most sacred. Human beings may remember failures and mistakes, but God looks with joy upon every sincere return,

every prayer whispered again after silence, every hand stretched out toward mercy.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us acknowledge our own need for the Shepherd who seeks us and carries us home. Let us ask pardon for our sins and open our hearts to the mercy of Christ.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You search for the lost and never cease calling them home: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You rejoice over one sinner who repents and returns to You: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You lead Your people through death into the Father's house: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who patiently seeks His wandering children and rejoices whenever they return to Him, forgive us our sins, heal what is broken within us, strengthen us in faith and hope, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy is greater than our weakness and whose love never ceases to search for the lost, look kindly upon Your servant whom You have called from this life. As he/she turned again toward You with trust and repentance, welcome him/her into the joy of Your kingdom, where every tear is wiped away and the faithful rejoice forever in Your presence. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A priest once told the story of visiting a dying man in hospital. The man had not entered a church for decades. When the priest arrived, the man pointed weakly to a dusty rosary lying in a drawer and whispered, "I kept it all these years... just in case God still wanted me." The priest replied softly, "God never stopped wanting you."

That is the heart of today's Gospel.

Jesus tells us about a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep behind to search for one that is lost. To us, that may seem unreasonable. Why risk everything for one sheep? But Jesus wants us to understand something about God: God does not count people the way the world counts people. To God, every single soul matters infinitely.

Many people carry a hidden fear that they may have wandered too far from God. Years pass. Habits form. Regrets accumulate. Prayer grows silent. Faith becomes distant. Yet today's readings proclaim a hope greater than human failure: God never stops searching.

The prophet Ezekiel says clearly: "Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked? Do I not rather rejoice when he turns from his evil way that he may live?" God is not waiting to condemn. He is waiting to embrace.

There is a story of a lighthouse keeper who noticed one stormy night that a small boat was drifting dangerously near the rocks. Again and again he swept the great light across the sea until finally the boat saw the shore and turned safely toward harbor. That is what grace often does in a human life. Sometimes very quietly, very patiently, God keeps sending light into the darkness until the soul finally turns home.

Today we remember that before death, our departed brother/sister responded once more to that light. Perhaps through prayer, reconciliation, suffering, silence, or the love of family, the heart opened again to God. And heaven rejoices whenever that happens.

The tragedy is not that people fall. All of us fall. The tragedy would be to believe we cannot return. Saint Peter denied Christ three times and yet became the rock of the Church. The good thief turned to Jesus with his final breath and heard the words, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

An elderly woman once said to her grandson, "God writes the final sentence of every life." Human beings often define others by their worst chapters. God does not. God looks at the final opening of the heart.

And perhaps this funeral is not only about the deceased. Perhaps Christ is speaking to us today as well. Some here may feel distant from prayer. Some may carry old wounds, guilt, anger, disappointment, or spiritual exhaustion. Today's Gospel reminds us that the Shepherd is still searching. No one is beyond His reach.

At the end of life, what matters most is not how far we wandered, but whether we allowed ourselves to be found.

A missionary once described seeing a shepherd carrying an exhausted sheep across his shoulders through rocky hills at sunset. Someone asked, "Why doesn't the sheep walk?" The shepherd answered, "Because it is too weak—but not too lost to carry."

That is our hope today. The Good Shepherd carries His children home.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered in faith and trusting in the mercy of the Good Shepherd who seeks every lost soul, let us bring our prayers before God our Father.

1. For the Church, that she may always be a place of welcome, reconciliation, and hope for sinners seeking to return to God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For our departed brother/sister, that the Lord who searched for him/her in life may now bring him/her safely into the eternal joy of heaven, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For those who feel far from God, burdened by guilt or disappointment, that they may rediscover the mercy and tenderness of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For families wounded by separation, misunderstanding, or regret, that forgiveness and healing may find a place in their hearts, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all of us gathered here, that this Eucharist may renew our trust in God's mercy and strengthen us to walk faithfully toward His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of mercy,

You never cease searching for Your children.

Hear the prayers we offer with confidence and bring us one day into the joy of Your heavenly kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in faith and hope to the God who welcomes home the lost and rejoices in every repentant heart, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, receive these gifts which we place upon Your altar for the salvation of Your servant.

As Your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them in mercy, so may this sacrifice bring forgiveness, peace, and eternal joy to our departed brother/sister.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For in Your great mercy You never abandon those who wander far from You, but continually call them back with patience and love. In Your Son, the Good Shepherd, You sought out the lost, healed the wounded, and rejoiced over every sinner who returned.

Even in the face of death, Your compassion remains victorious, for Christ has opened the gates of eternal life to all who place their trust in Him.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say the prayer of God's children, trusting in the Father who never ceases to welcome His sons and daughters home.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, and help us never to lose hope in Your mercy, for You are always ready to seek and restore the lost. As we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You sought out the lost and reconciled sinners through Your mercy; look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with Your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb, where the Good Shepherd gathers His flock into eternal peace.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Shepherd has spoken once more through Word and Sacrament. He reminds us today that no life is beyond redemption, no darkness beyond His light, no wandering beyond His reach. May we leave this Eucharist trusting not in our own perfection, but in the mercy of the One who never stops searching for us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of life and hope.
Strengthen our trust in Your mercy,
and grant that our departed brother/sister,
who turned again toward You in faith,
may rejoice forever in the company of the saints.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy,
who searches for the lost and rejoices in every returning child,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen your faith. Amen.

May Christ, the Good Shepherd,
lead our departed brother/sister into the peace of His kingdom
and keep you steadfast in hope. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with peace and confidence
in the promise of eternal life. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in the mercy of God and in the love of the Good
Shepherd who leads His people home.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“No one is too far gone for God’s mercy. The Shepherd never stops
searching, and it is never too late to turn toward home.”

38. Funeral During Easter Season

1 Cor 15:20–28 — Christ risen from the dead.

Jn 20:11–18 — Mary Magdalene at the tomb.

Theme: “The Risen Christ calls us by name and leads us from tears
to hope.”

INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters, during the Easter season the Church stands
before the empty tomb proclaiming that death does not have the final
word. Today, as we gather to commend our departed brother/sister
N. to God, we do so not in despair but in the light of the Resurrection
of Christ.

In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb weeping, carrying
the sorrow of loss and the confusion of absence. Yet in the midst of
her tears, the Risen Lord calls her by name, and everything changes.
Grief is transformed into hope; darkness gives way to Easter
morning.

Saint Paul reminds us in the second reading that Christ has been
raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
Because Christ lives, those who belong to Him are not lost. Their
lives are now entrusted to the victory of the Risen Lord.

As we bring before God our grief, our memories, our gratitude, and
even our human weaknesses, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate
these sacred mysteries by acknowledging our sins and asking the
mercy of the Lord who calls each of us by name.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You stood beside Mary Magdalene in her sorrow and turned her mourning into hope: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You conquered death and opened for us the gates of eternal life: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You call each of Your faithful ones by name into the joy of Your Kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen our hope in the Resurrection, comfort us in every sorrow, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son, risen from the dead,
called Mary Magdalene from grief into joy,
look with mercy upon Your servant N.,
whom You have called from this world.

Grant that, through the victory of Christ over death,
N. may share in the fullness of Easter life,
and may all of us who mourn today
be strengthened in faith and hope
until we too are gathered into Your eternal Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A little boy once stood at the cemetery after his grandmother's burial. Looking at the freshly covered grave, he quietly asked his mother, "If Grandma is with Jesus now, why are we crying?" His mother held his hand and answered, "Because love cries when it misses someone. But faith reminds us that love is never buried forever."

That is exactly where today's Gospel begins: with tears. Mary Magdalene stands outside the tomb weeping. She loved Jesus deeply, and now she believes she has lost Him forever. Her world has collapsed into silence and emptiness. Many of us know that feeling today. Death leaves an ache that words cannot easily heal.

But the most important moment in the Gospel happens quietly. Jesus simply says one word: "Mary." He calls her by name. And in that instant, sorrow becomes recognition, despair becomes faith, and death no longer seems victorious.

One hospital chaplain once told the story of an elderly dying man who no longer recognized anyone around him. His memory had faded almost completely. But when his daughter leaned close and softly called him by the childhood name only she used, his eyes opened with recognition and peace. Even when many things were forgotten, love still reached him through a familiar voice.

That is how God speaks. The Risen Christ does not deal with us as strangers or numbers. He knows every story, every wound, every hidden act of goodness, every fear, every hope. And when death comes, the Christian believes that the Lord still calls His people by name.

Saint Paul today gives us the reason for this hope: "Christ has been raised from the dead." Christianity is not built merely on memory or

admiration for Jesus. It is built on the victory of the Resurrection. Because Christ rose, death has changed forever. The grave is no longer a locked prison; it has become a doorway.

There is an old Easter tradition in some villages where church bells remain silent during Holy Week and ring out joyfully on Easter morning. One child once asked why the bells were suddenly so loud and joyful. The priest answered, "Because the world needed to hear that death lost." That is what the Church proclaims today at this funeral Mass. Death hurts. Separation is real. Tears are holy. Even Mary Magdalene cried before the empty tomb. But Easter tells us that tears are not the end of the story.

For N., life was not perfect, as none of ours are. Yet every human life carries moments of love, sacrifice, kindness, forgiveness, endurance, and faith. These are seeds of eternity planted by God Himself. Today we entrust N. completely into the merciful hands of the Risen Christ. And perhaps this funeral also invites each of us to hear our own name spoken by the Lord. In busy lives, we often live distracted, fearful, or spiritually asleep. Yet Christ continues to call us gently back to Himself — through prayer, through love, through forgiveness, through the Eucharist, through moments like this.

A man once visited the tomb of his friend every Easter morning. Someone asked him why he always came so early. He replied, "I come here to remind myself that one day this cemetery will become a meeting place, not a place of goodbye."

That is Christian hope. The Risen Lord who called Mary by name now calls N. into eternal life. And one day, by God's mercy, He will call each of us from the darkness of death into the endless light of His Resurrection.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the victory of Christ over death and confident that the Risen Lord hears those who call upon Him, let us offer our prayers to the Father.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to proclaim with courage and joy the hope of Christ's Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For all who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the Lord who comforted Mary Magdalene may strengthen them with peace and hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For our departed brother/sister N., that the Risen Christ may welcome him/her into the eternal joy of the heavenly Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For those who have drifted away from faith or struggle with fear and despair, that the light of Easter may renew their trust in God's mercy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all of us gathered here, that we may live each day with deeper faith, knowing that Christ calls each of us by name into eternal life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of mercy and God of all consolation, hear the prayers we place before You in faith. Through the Resurrection of Your Son, strengthen our hope and lead us into everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in the hope of the Resurrection and in trust in the Risen Lord who calls His people by name, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we offer
with faith in the victory of Your Son over death.
As the tears of Mary Magdalene were turned into Easter joy,
transform our sorrow into hope through this holy sacrifice,
and grant eternal peace to Your servant N.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the Resurrection of Your Son
You have changed the destiny of humanity.
When sorrow stood before the tomb,
You revealed the triumph of life;
when hearts were burdened by grief,
You spoke words of hope and peace.

Through Christ, the Good Shepherd,
You call each of Your children by name
and lead them beyond the darkness of death
into the radiance of eternal Easter joy.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray
with confidence to the Father who through the Resurrection gives life
that never ends.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in
our days, that, sustained by the hope of the Resurrection and by the
mercy that comes from You alone, we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the
coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You appeared to Your disciples after the Resurrection
bringing peace to hearts troubled by fear and sorrow.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who conquered death and calls His people into eternal
life. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Risen Christ who called Mary Magdalene by name still speaks to
every human heart. In this Eucharist, He reminds us that death is not
the end and love is not lost. Those who belong to Christ are held

forever in His living presence. May the hope of Easter remain alive within us until the day we are reunited in the Kingdom of heaven.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of eternal life.
Strengthen our faith in the Resurrection, comfort us in our sorrow,
and bring Your servant N. to the everlasting joy prepared for all
who hear the voice of the Risen Christ.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who by the Resurrection of His Son
has given us the hope of eternal life,
bless you and strengthen your faith.
Amen.

May Christ, who called Mary Magdalene by name
on Easter morning,
be close to you in every sorrow
and lead you into His peace.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
the giver of hope and courage, remain with you always
and guide you toward the joy of eternal life.
Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, carrying within your hearts the hope of
Easter and the certainty that the Risen Lord calls His faithful ones
into everlasting life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The voice that called Mary at the tomb is the same voice that calls
every believer beyond death into the joy of eternal life.”

39. Funeral During Advent / Christmas

Luke 2:22–35 — Simeon waiting in hope.

Isaiah 9:1–6 — The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Theme: “Christ is the Light who leads us through the darkness of grief into the hope of eternal life.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a family living near the sea during a violent winter storm. The electricity failed, the wind shook the windows, and darkness filled the house. In the midst of fear, the grandmother quietly lit a single candle and placed it in the centre of the room. The storm did not stop immediately, but that small flame changed everything. The family gathered around it, spoke softly, prayed together, and waited for dawn with hope instead of panic.

In Advent and Christmas, the Church speaks often about light shining in darkness. Isaiah tells us: “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*” Simeon, after years of waiting, finally held the Christ Child and recognized in Him the light promised by God for all nations.

Today we gather carrying the sorrow of death, yet we also come carrying the light of faith. Death brings shadows into every family, but Christ enters those shadows as Emmanuel — God with us. The Lord who came into our world in Bethlehem now comes to lead N. into the fullness of His eternal kingdom.

As we prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask pardon for our sins and pray that the light of Christ may shine within us more brightly.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You are the light that shines in the darkness:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You are the hope of all who wait upon the Lord:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You lead Your faithful ones into the joy of eternal life:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen our hearts in every darkness, keep alive within us the light of faith and hope, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
light of those who seek You
and hope of those who wait upon Your mercy,
in the coming of Your Son
You scattered the darkness of this world
and opened for us the path to eternal life.

As we commend N. to Your loving care,
comfort all who mourn with the promise of the Resurrection,
that walking in the light of Christ
we may one day rejoice together in Your heavenly kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A little boy once asked his mother why people place lights in windows during Christmas. She answered, "Because lights tell people they are welcome home." Years later, after losing his grandfather, the boy — now a grown man — remembered those words when he saw the candles around the church at the funeral Mass. And he whispered quietly, "Maybe heaven is God's way of leaving the light on for us."

That is exactly what today's readings proclaim.

Isaiah speaks to people who walked in darkness. They knew fear, uncertainty, grief, and suffering. Yet into their darkness came a promise: "*A great light has shone.*" God did not abandon them in the night. He came close.

The Gospel gives us Simeon, an old man who spent years waiting. Every day he entered the Temple with hope still alive in his heart. Many probably thought his waiting was foolish. Yet Simeon understood something important: those who wait with faith are never disappointed by God.

There is an old story of a lighthouse keeper who faithfully lit the lamp every evening along a dangerous coastline. One stormy night a sailor survived because that distant light guided his ship safely to shore. Later the sailor said, "I never met the keeper, but his light saved my life."

Many people become lights like that for others. Perhaps N. was such a light — through kindness, patience, prayer, generosity, quiet sacrifice, or faithful love. Often we never realize how much light one life brings until that life is gone.

Advent and Christmas remind us that God Himself entered human darkness. He came not into comfort but into a cold stable. He came among fragile people, grieving people, searching people. Christ knows our tears because He chose to live among them.

There is also a beautiful custom in some homes during Advent: one candle is lit each week until finally the whole room glows with light at Christmas. Faith often works the same way. One act of love. One prayer. One word of forgiveness. One moment of trust. Little by little, God pushes back the darkness.

Today we grieve because love always grieves when separated. Yet Simeon teaches us how to stand even in sorrow. After waiting his whole life, he held Christ and prayed: "*Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace.*" Simeon understood that life finds its completion not in earthly success but in finally seeing the face of God.

And so, we entrust N. to the Lord who is our light and salvation. Death is not the extinguishing of life's lamp; it is the dawn of a new morning in Christ.

There is a final story about travellers crossing a desert at night. Exhausted and afraid, they kept walking because far away they could see a faint light from a village. One traveller later said, "The light did not remove the darkness around us, but it gave us enough hope to continue."

That is what Christ does for us today. He does not ask us to pretend grief is easy. But He gives us light enough to keep walking, hope enough to keep believing, and love strong enough to lead us home.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Trusting in Christ, the light who shines in every darkness, let us bring our prayers before the Father.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to proclaim Christ as the true light and hope of every human heart, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For all who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the Lord may comfort them with His presence and strengthen them with the promise of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For those who live in loneliness, fear, or spiritual darkness, that the coming of Christ may renew their hope and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For N., whom we commend to God today, that having walked in the light of faith on earth, he/she may now rejoice in the eternal light of heaven, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For all of us gathered here, that we may become lights of compassion, faith, and kindness for one another, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of light and mercy,
hear the prayers we offer with confidence and hope.
Keep us faithful as we await the coming of Your kingdom,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours, offered in the light of Christ who leads us through every darkness, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts offered in faith and hope
as we commend N. into Your loving hands.
May this sacrifice strengthen us who mourn,
renew our trust in the coming of Your Son,
and lead us from the shadows of this world
into the radiance of Your eternal kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in the mystery of the Incarnation
You sent Your Son as the light of the world,
to guide those who walked in darkness
and to strengthen all who wait in hope.

In Him death is not the end,
but the doorway to the fullness of life.
Through His birth among us,
His death upon the Cross, and His glorious Resurrection,
He has opened for Your faithful people
the path to the eternal kingdom of light and peace.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With the trust of Simeon who waited in hope for the Savior, and trusting that Christ is the light who guides us through the darkness of death into eternal life, let us pray together in the words our Lord Himself has given us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, and in the midst of grief keep alive within us the hope that comes from Christ, the light who never fades, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You came among us as the Prince of Peace
and the light shining in darkness.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,
where Christ, the eternal light, leads His people into everlasting life.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The light of Christ does not disappear when night comes. It remains quietly burning within hearts that trust in Him. Today we commend N. into those loving hands that once welcomed Simeon in peace. May the Lord who came into our world at Bethlehem now welcome N. into the joy of eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the bread of eternal life.
Strengthen our hope in the risen Christ,
comfort us in our sorrow,
and guide us always in the path of Your light,
until we are reunited with all Your faithful ones in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
fill you with the light of hope in every sorrow. Amen.

May Christ, who came into the world as our Savior,
lead you safely through the darkness of this life. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in faith
until the day you rejoice in the eternal kingdom of light. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, carrying within your hearts the light of Christ and the hope of the Resurrection.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Even the smallest light is stronger than the deepest darkness when Christ is its flame.”

40. Funeral Focused on Christian Hope

Rev 21:1–5 — “He will wipe away every tear.”; **Jn 14:1–6**

Theme: “Christ prepares a home for us where every tear will be wiped away.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an elderly traveller who spent many years working far from home. As age weakened him, he often spoke of returning to the village where he was born. One evening, while looking at an old photograph of his childhood home, he quietly said, “The journey was long, but what gives me peace is knowing that someone is waiting for me there.” Those around him noticed that from that day onward, fear slowly gave way to serenity.

Today, in the midst of sorrow and farewell, the Word of God speaks to us of that same hope. Jesus tells His disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” He speaks not of an ending, but of a home prepared by the Father for His children. The Book of Revelation strengthens that promise with the vision of a new heaven and a new earth where every tear is wiped away and death shall be no more.

Christian hope does not deny grief. Even believers mourn because love always leaves an empty place behind. Yet our faith assures us that death does not have the final word. Christ, who passed through death into resurrection, walks before us and opens the way to eternal life.

As we gather around this altar, we entrust our beloved departed to the mercy of God. And acknowledging our own need for God’s compassion and forgiveness, let us now prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by calling to mind our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You prepare a place for Your faithful in the Father's house: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You wipe away the tears of those who trust in You: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You are the way, the truth, and the life leading us to eternal joy: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, comfort us in our sorrow, strengthen our hope in the promise of eternal life, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
source of all consolation and everlasting hope,
in Your Son Jesus Christ
You have revealed the path that leads to the Father's house
where every tear is wiped away.

As we mourn the passing of Your servant,
strengthen our faith amid grief,
calm troubled hearts with the promise of resurrection,
and help us live each day
with our eyes fixed on the eternal home You prepare for Your faithful
people.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A nurse who worked many years in palliative care once shared something remarkable. She said that near the end of life, many patients stop speaking about achievements, possessions, or regrets. Instead, they speak about people they love and about going home. Some even say with peace in their eyes, "I think someone is waiting for me." That simple thought transformed fear into calm.

Today's Gospel speaks directly to that deepest human longing. Jesus tells His disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." These words were spoken on the night before His own suffering and death. The disciples were afraid and confused because they sensed they were about to lose Him. Yet Jesus did not speak of despair. He spoke of a promise: "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places."

Christian hope begins there—not in denial of death, but in trust that Christ has gone ahead of us. Death is real and painful. Grief is real and painful. The empty chair at the table, the familiar voice now silent, the routines forever changed—these wounds are not imaginary. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Faith never asks us to pretend we are not hurting.

There is a story of a little girl whose mother died after a long illness. One night, she asked her grandmother, "Where is Mom now?" The grandmother pointed to the evening sky and said, "When you cannot see the sun, it does not mean the sun has disappeared. It is simply shining somewhere else." That child carried those words for the rest of her life.

The Book of Revelation gives us a similar image of hope. Saint John sees a new heaven and a new earth. He hears the voice of God

saying, "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Notice that Scripture does not say tears never existed. God does not ignore sorrow; He heals it. He receives human pain into divine compassion.

Sometimes we imagine heaven only as a distant future. But Christian hope also changes the way we live now. A person who trusts in eternal life learns to value mercy over bitterness, love over pride, forgiveness over resentment. If Christ is preparing a place for us, then our earthly lives become preparation for that eternal home.

A teacher once visited an old cathedral with her students. While they admired the stained-glass windows, one child asked, "What is a saint?" Before the teacher could answer, another child said, "A saint is someone the light shines through." That may be one of the most beautiful descriptions of Christian life. The saints are people who allow the light of Christ to shine through them.

And that is the invitation left to us today. We honour our departed not only with tears, but by carrying forward the faith, kindness, and love that reflected God's light in their life. Grief slowly becomes gratitude when we recognize that love is stronger than death.

A man once stood beside the grave of his father after the burial was complete. Before leaving, he quietly whispered, "Thank you for showing me the way home." Those words capture the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus says, "I am the way." He does not merely point toward eternal life; He Himself leads us there.

So today, even in sorrow, we hold onto hope. Christ has prepared a place for His faithful. The journey of earthly life is temporary, but the Father's house is eternal. And there, one day, every tear will be wiped away.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered in faith and strengthened by the promise of Christ, who prepares a place for His people, let us bring our prayers before our loving Father.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to proclaim Christ as the way, the truth, and the life to all who mourn and seek hope, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For all who grieve the loss of loved ones, that God may wipe away their tears and fill their hearts with the peace of His promises, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For those who are sick, lonely, or approaching death, that they may find comfort in knowing that Christ walks beside them, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For our departed brother/sister N., and for all the faithful departed, that they may dwell forever in the Father's house prepared for them from the beginning of the world, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For all of us gathered here, that our lives may reflect the light of Christ and lead others toward faith, mercy, and eternal hope, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Father of mercy and God of all consolation, hear the prayers we place before You in faith. Strengthen our hope in the resurrection and lead us one day into the eternal home prepared for Your faithful. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts we offer in hope and faith for our departed brother/sister and for our own salvation may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings placed upon Your altar
as signs of our faith and hope in the resurrection.
May this sacrifice bring comfort to grieving hearts,
strengthen us on our earthly journey,
and unite our departed brother/sister with Christ,
who has prepared an eternal dwelling for all who trust in Him.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For through Your Son Jesus Christ
You have given us the promise of a home that never fades.
When hearts are troubled by grief and loss,
His words bring peace: "Do not let your hearts be troubled."
In Him, death is not the end of life
but the doorway to the eternal dwelling You prepare for Your faithful
people.
In Christ, tears are transformed into hope, sorrow into expectation,
and earthly farewell into the promise of reunion in Your kingdom
where death shall be no more.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray
with confidence to the Father whose house awaits His faithful
children:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in
our days, that sustained by the hope of eternal life and trusting in
Your mercy, we may be freed from sin and safe from all distress, as
we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus
Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You comforted Your disciples with the promise of peace
and assured them of a place in the Father's house.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with Your
will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,
where Christ strengthens us with the hope of eternal life.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
You are the way that leads us home.
In this Eucharist You have strengthened us with the bread of eternal life and reminded us that death does not have the final word. Help us to live with trusting hearts until the day when You will wipe away every tear and gather us into the joy of the Father's house.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the bread of life and hope.
Comfort us in our sorrow,
keep alive within us the promise of resurrection,
and lead our departed brother/sister into the eternal dwelling
prepared by Christ for all who believe in Him.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation bless you in your sorrow and
strengthen your hearts in hope. Amen.

May Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life, lead you safely to
the Father's eternal house. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, giver of peace and comfort, remain with you and
sustain you always. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ, carrying within your hearts the hope that
the Lord prepares an eternal home for His faithful people.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Christian hope is not the absence of tears, but the certainty that
Christ will one day wipe them away.”

42. Funeral for a Widower

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 — “Two are better than one.”

Jn 14:1–3 — “I go to prepare a place for you.”

Theme: “The Lord who walks with the faithful in love and loss now welcomes His servant into the eternal home where no love is ever lost.”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a widow who lived alone after many years of marriage. Every evening, she would set two cups on the table before supper—one for herself and one for her late husband. When her granddaughter once asked why she still did that, the widow smiled gently and said, “Love does not end because someone is no longer seen. Real love learns how to wait.”

Today, in this Funeral Mass, we gather with that same mixture of love, loss, gratitude, and hope. We remember a woman who walked faithfully beside those entrusted to her, whose life reflected devotion, sacrifice, endurance, and quiet strength. Like Ruth in today’s first reading, she knew what it meant to remain faithful in love.

In the Gospel, Jesus meets a widow overcome with sorrow. Before she even asks, the Lord sees her pain and draws near with compassion. That same Christ is with us now. He understands the ache of separation, the silence left behind, and the tears we carry in our hearts.

As we commend our beloved sister to the Lord of mercy and life, let us first acknowledge our sins and ask God to heal whatever keeps us from fully trusting in His promise of eternal life.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You draw near to those who mourn and console the broken-hearted: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You bless faithful love and prepare an eternal home for Your people: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You conquered death and opened for us the gates of everlasting life: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who is rich in compassion and whose Son wept beside those who mourn, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in faith, comfort us in sorrow, and bring us one day to the joy of reunion in His kingdom, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose love remains faithful through every season of life
and whose mercy comforts all who grieve,
look kindly upon Your people gathered today
to commend our beloved sister into Your hands.

Grant that we who remember her devotion, generosity, and steadfast love may also learn to trust more deeply in Your promise that those who die in Christ shall live forever.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A traveller once visited a small village after a terrible flood. Many homes had been damaged, and families were trying to rebuild their lives. In the middle of the village stood an elderly widow serving food to workers from a tiny outdoor stove. Someone asked her, “You lost almost everything—why are you still helping others?” She answered quietly, “When sorrow enters your house, you discover how much people need kindness.”

That simple answer speaks beautifully about the Christian life—and perhaps about the life we remember today.

The readings today are filled with faithful love. In the Book of Ruth, we hear one of the most touching promises in all Scripture: “*Where you go, I will go; your people shall be my people.*” These are not merely romantic words. They are words of loyalty, sacrifice, companionship, and covenant. Ruth chose to remain beside Naomi not because life would be easy, but because love had made them family.

A widow understands the cost of faithful love. A widow knows what it means to continue walking after loss. A widow often carries memories that no one else fully sees—the years of sacrifice, the worries hidden from children, the quiet prayers whispered at night, the countless acts of care done without recognition.

There is a story told of an elderly woman who was asked what she missed most about her husband after fifty years of marriage. People expected her to say the big things—the celebrations, the holidays, the milestones. Instead, she said, “I miss having someone to tell the small things to.” That answer touches the heart because love is often built not on grand gestures but on daily faithfulness.

That is what makes today both painful and beautiful. Painful because separation hurts. Beautiful because faithful love leaves traces that death cannot erase.

In the Gospel, Jesus encounters another widow at the town of Nain. She has lost not only her husband but now her only son. The Gospel says something extraordinary: “*When the Lord saw her, He was moved with pity.*” Before performing any miracle, Jesus first notices her sorrow.

This matters deeply for us today. Christianity does not pretend grief is weakness. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Our faith allows tears because love itself produces tears.

There is an old custom in some places where, after a funeral, the family leaves a light burning in the home through the night. The light symbolizes two truths: first, that the love of the departed remains in the hearts of those who continue living; and second, that Christ Himself is the eternal light no darkness can overcome.

Today we remember not only a death but a life—a life woven with care, sacrifice, resilience, and faith. Perhaps she held her family together in difficult moments. Perhaps she carried burdens silently. Perhaps she became a source of wisdom, comfort, or prayer for others after experiencing her own losses.

Widows often teach the world a hidden holiness: the holiness of endurance. They teach us how to continue loving even when the heart has been wounded.

And this is where the Gospel becomes hope. Jesus does not leave the widow of Nain alone in despair. He approaches her. He touches what others feared to touch. He restores life where everyone else saw only finality.

That same Lord stands before us now.

Death speaks with a loud voice, but Christ speaks the final word.

For those who belong to Him, love is not destroyed—it is transformed. The bonds forged in faith are not erased by the grave. The Lord who accompanied her through earthly life now leads her into eternal life.

A little boy once stood beside his grandmother's grave after the burial. Looking confused, he asked his father, "If Grandma is in heaven, why are we crying?" His father replied, "Because heaven has gained her, but we still miss her."

That is the tension of Christian funerals. We grieve because love is real. But we hope because Christ is risen.

And so today we entrust our beloved sister to the God who knows every sacrifice she made, every tear she shed, every prayer she whispered, and every act of love she offered.

May the Lord who consoled the widow of Nain now console all who mourn her.

May the Lord who sustained Ruth in faithful love now reward His servant with eternal joy.

And may the Lord who conquered death welcome her into the house prepared for her from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the compassion of Christ who comforts those who mourn and promises eternal life to the faithful, let us bring our prayers before the Father.

1. For the Church throughout the world, that she may continue to be a sign of hope and consolation to all who grieve, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For widows, widowers, and all who live with loneliness or loss, that they may find strength in God's love and support in their communities, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For our departed sister, that the Lord who blessed her earthly journey may now welcome her into eternal peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For family and friends who mourn today, that Christ may heal their sorrow and fill their hearts with the hope of resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all of us gathered here, that remembering the witness of faithful love may inspire us to live with greater compassion, fidelity, and trust in God, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of mercy and compassion, You know the sorrow and hopes of Your people. Hear the prayers we offer with faith and strengthen us with the promise of eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with love and hope as we commend our beloved sister to the Lord, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings placed upon Your altar
as signs of our faith in the victory of Christ over death.
As Your Son showed compassion to the widow who mourned,
so now comfort Your people
and welcome our departed sister into the eternal banquet of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in Your wisdom You created us in love,
and through the death and resurrection of Your Son
You opened for us the way to eternal life.

In moments of sorrow, You do not abandon Your people,
but walk beside them with tenderness and mercy.
You know the pain of those who mourn,
the loneliness of loss, and the longing of hearts that seek reunion.

In the faithful love shared throughout earthly life,
You give us a glimpse of Your own enduring love,
a love stronger than suffering and even death itself.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
who gathers His children into one eternal home.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and gently sustain all who mourn with the comfort of Your presence.
Strengthen us in faith when grief weighs heavily upon our hearts,
and keep alive within us the hope
that those who have loved You faithfully
shall live forever in Your kingdom,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You brought comfort to the sorrowing
and peace to troubled hearts.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who carries our sorrows and leads His faithful into eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love leaves holy footprints in the lives it touches. Though death separates us for a time, Christ assures us that those who live in Him are never lost. May this Eucharist strengthen our hope until the day we are reunited in the kingdom where every tear is wiped away and faithful love finds its eternal fulfillment.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through this holy Sacrament
You have strengthened us with the Bread of Life.
May the hope born from this Eucharist
sustain us in moments of grief
and remind us that those who sleep in Christ
are held forever in Your love.
Grant eternal rest to our departed sister
and bring us all one day to the joy of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation bless you in your sorrow and
strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ, who showed compassion to the widow of Nain, walk
beside you and grant peace to your hearts. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit keep alive within you the light of faith until the
day of eternal reunion. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord who is faithful in love will never
abandon His people.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Faithful love never disappears in God’s hands; it is carried beyond
death into eternal life.”

43. Funeral for Divorced or Separated Person

Psalm 34 or Isaiah 41:10 — “Do not fear, I am with you.”

Matthew 11:28–30 — “Come to me all who labour...”

Theme: “The Lord remains close to the wounded heart and offers rest, dignity, and peace to all who carry hidden burdens.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an old tree standing alone in a field after a violent storm. Many branches had been broken, and its trunk carried deep scars. People thought the tree would soon die. Yet when spring came, small green leaves began to appear again. Though marked by suffering, the tree was still alive, still rooted, still reaching toward the light.

Many lives also carry wounds that others may never fully see. Separation, loneliness, disappointment, and the quiet struggles of relationships can leave deep marks on the heart. Yet today the Word of God reminds us that the Lord does not abandon those who are weary. He says, “Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” God sees not only the pain people carried, but also the courage with which they continued walking through life.

The Psalm assures us that “The Lord is close to the broken-hearted.” Even in moments when human relationships become fragile, God’s love remains faithful. His mercy is greater than our failures, and His compassion deeper than our wounds.

As we gather to commend our departed brother/sister to the Lord, we also bring before God our own tired hearts, our regrets, our failures in love, and our need for healing. Trusting in the mercy of Christ who

carries our burdens, let us now acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you draw near to the broken-hearted and bring healing to those who suffer: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you invite the weary and burdened to find rest in your compassionate heart: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you remain faithful even when human love falls short and fails: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, heal every wounded heart, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
comfort of the weary and refuge of the wounded,
you never turn away those who call upon you in their sorrow.
Look kindly upon your servants gathered here today
as we commend our departed brother/sister to your loving mercy.

Grant that, through the gentle yoke of Christ,
we may find strength in our burdens,
peace in our trials, and hope in the promise of eternal rest.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A traveller once stopped at a roadside inn after carrying a heavy backpack for many miles. Exhausted, he entered quietly and sat near the fire. The innkeeper noticed that even while sitting, the traveller still held the heavy bag tightly on his shoulders. The innkeeper smiled gently and said, "You can put it down now. You are safe here."

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks almost those same words to every tired soul: "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Those words are especially powerful at a funeral because death reminds us how heavy life can sometimes become.

Some burdens are visible. Others are hidden deeply in the heart. Relationships can bring joy, but they can also bring pain, disappointment, loneliness, and misunderstanding. Separation or divorce often leaves wounds not only between two people but within families and within the human spirit itself. Many carry silent grief for years while still trying to continue daily life with dignity and courage.

Yet the beautiful truth of today's readings is this: God never defines a person only by the broken chapters of life. God sees the whole journey. He sees the love that was given, the sacrifices made quietly, the tears shed in private, the attempts to begin again, and the perseverance to keep moving forward.

There is a story of a woman who repaired broken pottery using fine threads of gold. Someone asked her why she spent so much time restoring damaged pieces instead of throwing them away. She answered, "Because what has been broken can still become beautiful." That is how God looks at human lives. The Lord does not discard wounded people. He restores, heals, and cherishes them.

Psalm 34 tells us, "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted." Notice that it does not say God stands far away judging the wounded. No — He comes closer. Christ Himself knew rejection, betrayal, abandonment, and sorrow. On the Cross He carried every human pain into the heart of God.

Perhaps that is why Jesus speaks so tenderly in today's Gospel. His yoke is easy not because life becomes simple, but because He carries the weight with us. Faith does not erase suffering instantly, but it assures us that no suffering is carried alone.

I once heard about a man whose marriage had ended painfully many years earlier. Near the end of his life, he told a friend, "The hardest part was believing that God still loved me." Yet later he discovered that God had never left him at all. Through prayer, friendships, family, and quiet acts of kindness, he slowly found peace again. Sometimes healing comes not dramatically, but gently — one day at a time.

Today we entrust our departed brother/sister into those merciful hands of Christ. We do not gather pretending that life was perfect. We gather believing that God's mercy is greater than every human weakness and that His compassion reaches places where no human being can fully reach.

And so we pray with hope. The same Lord who invited the weary to come to Him on earth now invites our departed loved one into eternal rest.

There is an old story of a harbor where ships entered after long and difficult voyages. Storms had battered them, sails were torn, and wood was scarred by years at sea. Yet when they reached the harbor, the people did not criticize the damage. They simply welcomed the ships home.

Today we believe that God welcomes home every weary soul that turns toward Him. And in that eternal harbor, every burden is finally laid down, every wound healed, and every restless heart finds peace.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the mercy of God who is close to the broken-hearted and who invites the weary to find rest in Him, let us bring our prayers before the Lord with confidence and hope.

1. **For the Church throughout the world:**
that she may always be a place of mercy, healing, and welcome for those who carry wounds in their hearts and burdens in their lives, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
2. **For families and relationships marked by separation, conflict, or sorrow:**
that the compassion of Christ may bring reconciliation where possible, healing where there is pain, and peace where hearts remain troubled, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
3. **For all who live with loneliness, disappointment, or hidden grief:**
that they may know they are never abandoned by God and may find strength through faith, friendship, and loving support, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
4. **For our departed brother/sister N.:**
that the Lord Jesus, who welcomed the weary and burdened, may receive him/her into the eternal peace of His heavenly

kingdom, where every wound is healed and every burden laid down, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. **For all of us gathered here in sorrow and remembrance:**
that God may comfort our hearts, strengthen our hope in the Resurrection, and help us walk through life with faith, courage, and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of mercy and compassion,
you are near to all who call upon you in their need.
Hear the prayers we offer today
for our departed brother/sister
and for all who suffer burdens of heart and spirit.
Grant us healing, peace, and the hope of eternal life
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and in hope of eternal rest for our departed brother/sister, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive with kindness the offerings we place upon your altar
for our departed brother/sister.
As your Son welcomed the weary and gave strength to the burdened, grant that these sacred mysteries
may bring comfort to those who mourn
and peace to the soul of your servant.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For in the midst of human weakness and sorrow,
you never abandon your children.
You draw near to the broken-hearted,
strengthen those burdened by grief,
and offer rest to all who seek you with trust.

In your Son Jesus Christ,
you revealed a love stronger than failure,
a mercy deeper than human wounds,
and a peace the world cannot give.
Through His Death and Resurrection,
the weary find hope
and the faithful discover that life is changed, not ended.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray
to the Father who heals wounded hearts and welcomes His children
into everlasting peace.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
peace in our hearts,
peace within our families,
and peace for all who carry hidden burdens.

By the help of your mercy,
keep us free from sin
and protect us from all anxiety and despair,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your Apostles:
"Peace I leave you, my peace I give you."

Look with compassion upon all who are wounded in heart,
all who struggle with broken relationships, sorrow, or loneliness.
Do not look on our sins,
but on the faith and hope of your people,
and graciously grant us your peace —
a peace the world cannot give.

Strengthen us in unity, healing, and love,
and lead us gently into the peace of your kingdom,
where you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who carries our burdens and heals the broken-hearted.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord does not forget the wounded, the weary, or the sorrowful.
In Christ, every burden finds rest, every tear is noticed, and every
faithful soul is held in divine mercy.
May the peace we have received today remain in our hearts and
strengthen us with hope.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we humbly ask you, O Lord,
that you may grant eternal peace to our departed brother/sister
and comfort to all who mourn.
May the gentle love of Christ heal what is wounded within us
and lead us safely toward the joy of your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
heal every sorrow in your hearts
and strengthen you with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

May Christ,
who invites the weary to find rest in Him,
grant peace to the departed
and comfort to all who mourn. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord remains close to the broken-
hearted and leads the weary into eternal rest.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“God does not measure a life only by its wounds, but by the love,
courage, and hope carried through them. In Christ, every burdened
heart can find rest.”

44. Funeral for Someone Who Lost a Child Earlier in Life

2 Cor 1:3–7 — God comforts us in our afflictions.

Jn 19:25–27 — Mary beneath the Cross.

Theme: “Comforted in Our Sorrows, We Become a Presence of Hope for Others.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a woman in a small village lost her only son in an accident. For months she avoided gatherings and celebrations because every joyful moment reminded her of the empty chair in her home. One evening, during a storm, a neighbour knocked on her door seeking help for a sick child. Though burdened by her own grief, she quietly went and stayed with the frightened family through the night. Later she said, “I could not take away their pain, but perhaps because I had suffered, I knew how not to leave them alone.”

In today’s Gospel, we stand beside Mary beneath the Cross. Mary knows the agony of losing a child. She cannot stop the suffering of Jesus, yet she remains present. Her love does not run away from pain. And Saint Paul reminds us that the God who consoles us in our afflictions also enables us to console others.

Today, as we gather to pray for our departed brother/sister N., we remember not only the sorrows carried through life, especially the pain of losing a child, but also the quiet strength that often grew from that wound — compassion, understanding, patience, and tenderness toward others who suffered.

As we come before the Lord, we acknowledge the moments when grief closed our hearts, when pain made us lose hope, or when we

failed to notice the suffering of others. Let us ask God for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you stood beside those who mourned and wiped away their tears: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you gave your grieving Mother to be the mother of all who suffer: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you console us in our afflictions and lead us into eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who is near to the broken-hearted and gentle toward all who carry hidden grief, forgive us our sins, heal the wounds we still carry within us, strengthen us with the comfort of his love, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, Father of all consolation and tenderness,
you gave us your Son upon the Cross
and placed beside him the faithful Mother who remained in love even
in sorrow. Look kindly upon your servant N.,
who carried the pain of loss during earthly life,
and now grant him/her the fullness of your peace and joy.

Comfort all who mourn today,
strengthen us with hope in the Resurrection,
and teach us to become signs of compassion for one another.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A grandfather once carried a small photograph in his wallet for more than forty years. It was faded and worn from being unfolded countless times. One day his grandson asked, "Why do you still keep this old picture?" The old man smiled gently and replied, "Because love does not end when someone is gone. It simply learns a new way to remain."

That is the mystery standing before us today.

In the Gospel, Mary stands beneath the Cross. She watches her Son suffer and die. No words can fully describe such pain. Yet the Gospel does not show Mary collapsing into despair or running away. She remains present. Sometimes love can do nothing except stay — and that itself becomes holy.

Many people who have lost a child say that life is never quite the same again. There is an ache that quietly remains in the heart. Yet often those same people become deeply compassionate. Having known sorrow, they become gentler with others. Saint Paul speaks exactly about this: "God comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may comfort others."

There is a story of a nurse working in a children's hospital. Parents noticed that she always seemed especially patient with frightened mothers and fathers. Years later they discovered that she herself had lost a child many years before. Her own wound had become the place from which kindness flowed. Suffering had not made her bitter; it had made her merciful.

That is one of the hidden graces of grief. Pain can either close the heart or deepen it. And many times in life, N. chose compassion over bitterness, understanding over anger, tenderness over withdrawal.

There is another story of a man who planted a tree shortly after his daughter died. Every year he cared for it faithfully. At first people thought it was only a memorial. But eventually children from the neighbourhood began playing under its shade. Birds nested in its branches. Travellers rested beneath it in summer. The man later said, "I planted it because of my sorrow, but it became life for others."

This is what Christian hope does. The Cross is never the end. God can bring life even from wounds. Mary beneath the Cross could not yet see Easter morning, but Easter was already on its way.

Today we entrust N. into the hands of the God of all consolation. We believe that every tear is known to him, every sorrow remembered, every act of quiet love treasured forever. And we pray that the love N. carried through suffering will now be fulfilled in the eternal peace of God.

A woman once visited an elderly mother who had lost her son decades earlier. Before leaving, she asked, "After all these years, do you still miss him?" The mother answered softly, "Every day. But now when I think of him, I no longer only remember the day I lost him. I remember the gift that he was."

That is where faith slowly leads us — from only mourning what was taken away to giving thanks for the love that was given. And love, in God, is never lost.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

God the Father is close to the broken-hearted and rich in compassion toward all who mourn. Trusting in his mercy and consoled by the hope of the Resurrection, let us bring before him our prayers for N., for all who suffer, and for the needs of the world.

1. For the Church:

that she may remain beside those who grieve with the tenderness of Mary beneath the Cross, bringing comfort, hope, and the light of Christ to wounded hearts. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For all parents and families who mourn the loss of a child:

that God may strengthen them in moments of loneliness, surround them with loving companions, and gently heal their sorrow with the promise of eternal life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For those whose suffering has made them compassionate toward others:

that the Lord may bless all caregivers, counsellors, nurses, friends, and quiet companions who bring comfort through their presence and kindness. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For our departed brother/sister N.:

that the God of all consolation may receive him/her into the peace of heaven, where every tear is wiped away and love endures forever. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For all of us gathered here today:

that through the sorrows and losses of life we may grow in patience, tenderness, and faith, becoming signs of hope and compassion to one another. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of mercy and consolation,
you know every sorrow carried within the human heart.
Receive the prayers we offer with trust and faith.
Comfort all who mourn, strengthen us in hope,
and bring your servant N. into the joy and peace of your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts of bread and wine,
offered in memory of Christ who remained faithful even in suffering,
may become for us a sign of consolation, hope, and eternal life,
and that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings
which we place before you with hearts marked by sorrow yet
strengthened by hope.
As your Son transformed suffering through the mystery of the Cross,
grant that your servant N.
may now share fully in the joy of the Resurrection.
May these sacred mysteries also deepen within us
the compassion and tenderness that grow from lives touched by
grief. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For in your mercy you never abandon those who walk through
sorrow. You stood beside Mary beneath the Cross of your Son,
revealing that love remains faithful even in suffering.

Through Christ you console the grieving,
strengthen the weary,

and turn wounds into sources of compassion for others.
Even in death you give us hope,
for the Resurrection of your Son assures us
that love is stronger than the grave
and that every tear will one day be wiped away.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray to the Father
who comforts his children in every sorrow
and gathers all his sons and daughters into one eternal home.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.

Comfort those who grieve, strengthen hearts wounded by loss,
and keep us steadfast in faith through the trials of this life,
until we are gathered with all your faithful ones
in the peace of your heavenly kingdom,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you consoled the sorrowful and brought hope
to those who stood beneath the shadow of the Cross.
Remain close to all who mourn today,
and make your Church a living sign of compassion
and hope for the grieving.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who carries our sorrows and leads us into eternal life.
Happy are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love remembers.
Love waits.
Love remains faithful even through tears.

Today Christ has come to us as bread for the journey and strength
for the grieving heart.
In him, no sorrow is wasted and no love is ever lost.
The God who carried Mary through Calvary now carries us also,
gently leading us toward the dawn of Resurrection.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and strengthened us with the hope of eternal communion.
Grant that your servant N.,
who knew both love and sorrow in this life,
may now rejoice forever in your presence.
And teach us, who remain on our earthly journey,
to bring comfort, patience, and compassion to one another.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ,
who stood beside the grieving and conquered death through his
Resurrection,
grant peace to N. and to all who mourn. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
whose gentle presence heals wounded hearts,
remain with you now and always. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that the Lord walks beside those who mourn
and that love, purified in God, lives forever.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Those who have suffered deeply often learn how to love gently. In
God’s hands, even our wounds can become places where hope and
compassion grow.”

45. Funeral for a Teacher

Dan 12:1–3 — “The wise shall shine brightly.”

Mt 5:13–16 — “You are the light of the world.”

Theme: “A Light That Continues to Shine”

The Christian teacher does more than pass on knowledge; he or she awakens hope, shapes conscience, and lights the path for others. In today’s readings, Jesus calls His disciples “the light of the world,” while Daniel promises that “the wise shall shine brightly.” We gather to thank God for a teacher whose life became a lamp for many and whose light now finds its fulfilment in Christ, the eternal Light.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a former student visited his old school after decades away. The buildings had changed, the classrooms looked smaller, and many faces were unfamiliar. Yet when he met his elderly teacher, emotion filled his eyes and he said, “Sir, I do not remember every lesson you taught me, but I remember how you made me believe that my life mattered.” A true teacher leaves more than information; a true teacher leaves light.

Today we gather with gratitude and sorrow as we commend our beloved brother/sister to God. Through years of teaching, guiding, correcting, encouraging, and patiently accompanying others, this servant of God became a light for many young minds and hearts. Like the lamp in the Gospel, that light was not hidden, but placed where others could see and walk more safely.

The prophet Daniel tells us that “the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament.” Christian wisdom is not measured by degrees or achievements alone, but by lives touched with kindness,

truth, patience, and faith. The influence of a good teacher often continues long after words are forgotten.

As we now prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries, we acknowledge the moments when we failed to be light for others, when impatience, selfishness, or indifference dimmed the brightness God placed within us. Let us ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the Light that no darkness can overcome:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to shine before others through lives of goodness and truth: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful servants into the eternal radiance of your Kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, bring healing to hearts burdened by grief, strengthen us to walk as children of the light, and lead our departed brother/sister, and one day all of us, into the everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of all wisdom and truth, you called your servant to guide others with patience, kindness, and understanding. As he/she reflected the light of Christ through a life of teaching and service, grant that he/she may now rejoice in the eternal radiance of your presence.

Comfort all who mourn today,
and help us to become lights for one another
through lives of faith, compassion, and hope.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A retired teacher once received a letter from a former student. It read: “You probably do not remember me, but when I was ready to leave school because I thought I was worthless, you stayed behind after class and told me, ‘Never believe that your life has no purpose.’ Those words saved me.” The teacher later admitted that he had completely forgotten the conversation. Yet for the student, those words became light in a dark moment.

That is the mystery of a teacher’s vocation. Teachers rarely see the full harvest of the seeds they plant. Much of their work happens quietly — in corrections made gently, encouragement given patiently, and hope spoken at the right moment. Years pass, and suddenly their influence appears in the lives of others.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus says: “You are the light of the world.” Notice that Jesus does not say, “You must become light,” but “You are light.” Light is meant to shine, guide, warm, and reveal. A teacher does precisely this. Every classroom becomes a place where darkness can be pushed back — the darkness of ignorance, fear, discouragement, or confusion.

There is a story of a village where each evening one woman would walk through the streets lighting lanterns before nightfall. Some mocked her, saying, “One lantern cannot remove all darkness.” She

simply replied, “No, but it can help someone find the road home.” That is what Christian service often looks like. We may not change the whole world, but we can help someone walk safely through it.

The prophet Daniel tells us today: “The wise shall shine brightly.” Wisdom in the eyes of God is not merely intelligence. Wisdom is goodness lived faithfully. Wisdom is the patience to teach the same lesson again without humiliating the learner. Wisdom is believing in someone before they believe in themselves.

Perhaps many here can remember a teacher who changed their life. Maybe it was through a single sentence, a word of encouragement, or an act of kindness. Great teachers often never realise the depth of their impact. Like candles, they spend themselves so others may see more clearly.

A young boy once asked his teacher why candles lose nothing by lighting another candle. The teacher smiled and said, “Because light grows when it is shared.” That is deeply Christian. Faith, hope, wisdom, and love are never diminished when given away; they multiply.

Today we grieve because a familiar light has gone from our sight. Classrooms may now stand empty, chairs unused, voices silent. Yet Christ reminds us that death does not extinguish the light of a faithful life. The light simply returns to its source.

And so we place our trust in the Lord who is eternal Light. We thank God for every lesson taught, every life encouraged, every burden carried patiently, every hidden sacrifice made in love. And we pray that the One who called this faithful servant to shine on earth may now welcome him/her into the everlasting brightness of heaven.

I end with another story. During a power outage, a grandmother lit a single candle in her home. Her grandson complained, “This tiny flame cannot possibly light the whole house.” But slowly the darkness retreated from room to room. The grandmother said softly, “Never underestimate even a small light.” Today we remember such a light among us — and we entrust that light to God, in whom no brightness is ever lost.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

My dear brothers and sisters,
gathered in faith and gratitude for the life of our departed brother/sister, let us now bring our prayers before God, the source of all wisdom and eternal light. Trusting in His mercy and love, we pray for the Church, for the world, for all who teach and guide others, and for those who mourn today.

1. For the Church:

that the Church may continue to be a light in the world, guiding people with the truth of the Gospel and forming hearts in wisdom, compassion, and faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For teachers, educators, and all who guide the young:

that they may never grow weary in their vocation, but continue to encourage, inspire, and lead others with patience, integrity, and hope, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For students and all whose lives were touched by our departed brother/sister:

that the lessons of kindness, wisdom, and faith received through his/her life may continue to bear fruit for many years to come, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For all who mourn today:

that Christ, the eternal Light, may comfort grieving hearts, strengthen families and friends in their sorrow, and fill them with the hope of the Resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For our departed brother/sister:

that God, who called him/her to enlighten minds and hearts through faithful service, may now welcome him/her into the everlasting brightness of heaven, where the wise shine forever in His presence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom and eternal light,
you never forget the good done in your name.

Hear the prayers we offer today
for your servant and for all who mourn.

Help us to walk as children of the light until we are gathered together in the joy of your heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with gratitude for a life spent in service, guidance, and faithful witness, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings
which we bring in faith and hope for your departed servant.

As he/she sought to enlighten minds and hearts
through patient teaching and generous care,
may these sacred mysteries

lead him/her into the eternal light of Christ.

Grant also that we who remain may continue to shine with compassion, wisdom, and faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you are the source of all wisdom and the giver of every good gift.
In your love you call men and women
to guide, teach, and form others
so that truth may overcome ignorance and hope may conquer fear.
In the life of your servant,
you gave many the gift of encouragement,
understanding, and patient guidance.
Through quiet acts of goodness and faithful dedication,
the light of Christ shone before others.

Even in death, Lord,
you do not abandon those who trusted in you,
for Christ has conquered the darkness of the grave
and opened for us the way to eternal life.
And so, with Angels and Saints,
and with all who now shine in your heavenly Kingdom,
we proclaim your glory as we sing: Holy, Holy, Holy ...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray
with confidence to the Father who leads His children from darkness
into light.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,

we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we mourn in hope and trust in your promise of eternal life.
May your light sustain those who grieve,
strengthen all who continue the work of teaching and service,
and keep us faithful in wisdom, love, and compassion,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
May your peace comfort grieving hearts,
strengthen all who dedicate themselves to guiding others,
and help us become instruments of your light
and compassion in the world.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
the Light of the world who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

A teacher's voice may fall silent, yet the lessons of love, patience,
and kindness continue to echo in countless lives. In this Eucharist,
Christ reminds us that no act of goodness is ever lost. The light
shared in faith continues to shine beyond death itself.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these holy mysteries
you have strengthened us with the Bread of Life
and renewed our hope in the Resurrection.

Grant that your departed servant,
who sought to guide others in wisdom and truth,
may now rejoice in the fullness of eternal light.

Comfort us in our sorrow
and help us to walk faithfully as children of the light
until we meet again in your heavenly Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all wisdom
strengthen you in faith and console you in sorrow. Amen.

May Christ, the eternal Light,
guide your paths and keep hope alive within you. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
help you to carry forward the light of goodness received through the
life of your departed loved one. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the light of Christ shines even in the
darkness, and carry into the world the goodness and wisdom you
have received.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“A good teacher lights many lamps; though the lamp is gone from our
sight, its light continues to guide others.”

46. Funeral for a Farmer

Ps 126 — “Those who sow in tears...”

Jn 12:23–28 — “Unless a grain of wheat falls...”

Theme: “The Seed Sown in Faith Will Rise in Glory.”

*The life of a farmer mirrors the mystery spoken by Christ: the grain
must fall into the earth before it bears fruit. Through seasons of
labour, waiting, loss, and harvest, the farmer learns trust in God’s
providence. Today we commend our brother/sister to the Lord of the
harvest, believing that every act of goodness sown in love will bloom
into eternal life.*

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story of a farmer who, after months of drought, still
walked every morning to his fields carrying a small bag of seed. A
neighbour laughed and asked, “Why sow when the ground is hard as
stone?” The farmer answered quietly, “Because if the rain comes
tomorrow, I must be ready today.” He understood that farming is an
act of hope.

Today, as we gather for this Funeral Mass, we remember a life
shaped by that same hope: early mornings, patient labour, trust in
seasons beyond human control, and perseverance through hardship.
Farming teaches lessons that cannot be learned in books — that
growth is hidden, that waiting is necessary, and that life always
depends on God.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat falling into the
earth and dying in order to bear much fruit. Our beloved departed
understood this mystery through daily life: seed buried in darkness

eventually becoming bread upon the table. So too, the life entrusted to God is never lost.

And yet, like fields marked by storms and drought, every human life carries weakness and sin. Therefore, trusting in the mercy of the Lord who gives new life to every seed planted in faith, let us acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the sower of every seed of goodness and hope:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you bring life from what seems buried and lost:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you gather your people into the everlasting harvest of heaven: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who in his mercy causes the seeds of faith and love to bear fruit beyond the limits of death, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in hope, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, Lord of the harvest and giver of every good gift, you taught us through your Son that the grain of wheat must fall to the earth and die to bear abundant fruit.

As we mourn your servant today, strengthen our faith in the Resurrection, comfort us in our sorrow, and help us to trust in your providence through every season of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A travelling priest once stopped beside a field where an elderly farmer was carefully planting seeds by hand. The priest asked, "How do you keep sowing year after year without losing heart?" The farmer smiled and replied, "Father, every harvest begins with burying something." Those simple words capture the heart of today's Gospel.

Jesus says: *"Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."* To people unfamiliar with farming, those words may sound strange. But every farmer understands them immediately. A seed must disappear into darkness before life emerges. What seems like loss becomes growth.

Our departed brother/sister lived close to this mystery. Farmers know that life is built on patience. You cannot rush rain. You cannot command the sun. You cannot force a seed to grow. Farming teaches humility before God. Perhaps that is why people who work the land often possess quiet wisdom.

There is another story of a farmer who lost an entire crop after unexpected floods. A friend asked him how he managed to begin again the following season. He answered, "The earth has disappointed me before, but God never has." That faith is remarkable. It is faith learned through years of watching life return after winter.

Psalm 126 says: *"Those who sow in tears will reap with joy."* Every farmer understands tears mixed with sowing: drought, failed crops,

debt, exhaustion, uncertainty. Yet they sow anyway. Hope is stronger than fear. In many ways, the Christian life is exactly the same. We continue loving, serving, forgiving, and believing even through sorrow because we trust that God brings harvest from faithfulness.

Perhaps the greatest harvest our departed leaves behind is not found in fields or property, but in people: family nurtured, neighbours helped, meals shared, kindness quietly given, responsibilities faithfully carried. Farmers rarely seek applause. Much of their work is unseen. Yet entire communities live because of their labour.

I once heard of a child who asked his grandfather, “Why do you still plant trees when you know you may never sit under their shade?” The grandfather replied, “Because someone planted trees for me.” That is love. That is legacy. And that is how goodness continues from one generation to another.

Today we grieve because someone deeply loved is no longer physically among us. Death feels like winter — cold, silent, empty. But Christ tells us that winter is not the final season. The seed buried in the earth is not destroyed; it is transformed.

And this is our Christian hope today: that the Lord who watched over every season of this earthly life now welcomes his servant into the eternal harvest where no drought, storm, or suffering can ever return.

A farmer once stood at sunset overlooking his fields after harvest. Someone asked him, “How do you know all your hard work was worth it?” He looked across the land and simply said, “Because life came from what was placed into God’s hands.” Today, with tears yet with faith, we place our beloved into God’s hands, trusting that eternal life will rise from what has been sown in faith.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered in faith before the Lord of the harvest, and trusting that every seed sown in love bears fruit in eternal life, let us now bring our prayers before God, who never abandons his people in any season of life.

1. For the Church throughout the world:

that she may continue to sow the seeds of faith, hope, and compassion in every nation, and lead all people toward the everlasting harvest of God’s kingdom. **Lord, hear us.**

2. For farmers, labourers, and all who work the land:

that God may bless their efforts, protect them in times of hardship, and reward their faithful labour with safety, dignity, and peace. **Lord, hear us.**

3. For our departed brother/sister N.:

that the Lord who watched over every season of his/her earthly life may now gather him/her into the eternal fields of heaven, where sorrow and death are no more. **Lord, hear us.**

4. For all who mourn today:

that Christ, the grain of wheat who died and rose again, may comfort grieving hearts with the promise that life entrusted to God is never lost. **Lord, hear us.**

5. For ourselves and for all gathered here:

that, like faithful farmers who sow in hope, we may persevere in goodness, trust God through every season of life, and one day rejoice in the harvest of eternal life. **Lord, hear us.**

Lord God, source of every harvest and giver of eternal life, hear the prayers we place before you today. Strengthen our faith in the

Resurrection, comfort us in our sorrow, and keep us steadfast in hope until the day we are gathered into your heavenly kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, fruits of the earth and work of human hands, offered in memory of our beloved departed, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings placed upon your altar as signs of our gratitude and hope. As grain once scattered upon the earth becomes bread that gives life, may your servant, who laboured faithfully through the seasons of this world, be gathered now into the joy of your eternal kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

In him, the mystery of human life is revealed through the image of the grain of wheat that falls to the earth and dies only to rise again in abundance.

Through the labour of farmers and all who work the land, you continually remind us that life springs forth from what is entrusted to your care.

In seasons of planting and harvest, in times of drought and plenty, you remain faithful to your people. And when earthly labour is ended, you call your servants into the everlasting harvest of heaven, where sorrow and death are no more.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Gathering our prayers into one, and trusting in God who gives growth to every seed sown in faith, let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we mourn in faith and hold firmly to the hope of the Resurrection. May the Lord of the harvest comfort those who grieve, strengthen all who labour with hope, and gather your servant into the

eternal fields of heaven, where every tear is wiped away
and the faithful rejoice forever in your presence,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the source of peace for every weary heart
and the hope of all who labour and wait in faith.
Look kindly upon your people gathered in sorrow today.
Calm every troubled spirit, heal the pain of loss,
and unite us in the assurance that those who are planted with you in
death shall rise with you in glory.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,
where Christ nourishes us with the bread of eternal life.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The farmer sows without seeing the full harvest immediately.
So too, faith often walks in trust rather than certainty.
Today we place our sorrow, our gratitude, and our beloved departed
into God's hands, believing that nothing sown in love is ever lost
before him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the bread of life.

May this sacrament deepen our trust in your promises
and assure us that those who sleep in Christ
will rise with him in glory.
Comfort all who mourn and bring your servant into the fullness of
eternal joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who gives growth to every seed planted in faith,
strengthen your hearts in hope
and grant peace to all who mourn. Amen.

May Christ,
who died and rose again
like the grain of wheat that bears abundant fruit,
lead your beloved departed into eternal life. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord of the harvest
has gathered his servant into eternal life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

A farmer plants seeds and waits in hope, trusting that hidden life is
already at work beneath the soil. Christ asks us to live with the same
faith. What is placed into God's hands is never lost; in his time, it will
bear fruit that lasts forever.

47. Funeral for a Musician / Choir Member

Ps 150 or Col 3:12–17 — Sing psalms and hymns.

Lk 19:37–40 — Praise of God.

Theme: “A Life that Sang God’s Praise”

Today we gather to thank God for a person whose life became a song of praise. Through music, voice, prayer, and presence, N. helped others lift their hearts to God. Even in sorrow, the Church continues to sing with hope, trusting that the music of faith does not end in death but finds its fulfilment in the eternal hymn of heaven.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a village choir whose organist died suddenly before Easter. The choir gathered in silence, unsure whether they could continue singing. Then an elderly woman quietly began the opening hymn alone. One by one, trembling voices joined her until the whole church was singing again. After Mass someone asked her why she had begun despite her tears. She answered, “Because the song was never ours alone—it belongs to God.”

Today we gather with sorrow, but also with gratitude, because N.’s life helped many people discover that sacred truth. Through music, song, prayer, and faithful service, N. encouraged hearts to praise God and brought comfort, unity, and hope to this community.

The readings remind us that praise is not only for joyful days. Even in grief, the people in the Gospel continue praising God, and Saint Paul urges believers to sing psalms and hymns with gratitude in their hearts. Faith teaches us that every song offered to God becomes part of heaven’s eternal worship.

As we stand before God with our grief, our memories, and our hope, let us first acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you place a new song of hope within hearts burdened by sorrow: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you gather your people into harmony through faith, love, and forgiveness: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lead the faithful into the everlasting song of heaven: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, comfort us with the hope of the Resurrection, strengthen us in faith and charity, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
source of all beauty and harmony,
you call your people to praise you
with grateful hearts and joyful song.
As we remember your servant N.,
who served you through music and prayer,
comfort those who mourn
and strengthen our hope in the eternal hymn of heaven.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A choir director once told his singers that the most important notes in any hymn are not always the loudest ones. He said the notes that matter most are often the quiet voices hidden underneath, because they hold the harmony together. Many people never notice them, yet without them the whole song feels empty. That is often true of life itself.

N. may have stood before microphones, sung in choirs, played instruments, or helped lead worship, but the deepest music of N.'s life was not performance—it was faithfulness. Music in the Church is never simply entertainment. Sacred music lifts tired hearts, comforts grieving souls, and helps people pray when words alone are not enough.

In today's Gospel, the crowd praises God with loud voices as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Some Pharisees want the people silenced, but Jesus replies, "If they keep silent, the stones will cry out." Praise cannot be buried because praise rises from gratitude. A believing heart eventually sings. That is why music has always held a sacred place in Christian life. A hymn can carry hope into a hospital room. A psalm can steady a grieving family. A familiar refrain can awaken faith in someone who has almost forgotten how to pray.

I once visited a nursing home where an elderly woman no longer recognized her own children. Conversation had become almost impossible. Yet when someone began singing "Amazing Grace," her lips moved with every word. Memory had faded, but faith hidden in song remained alive. Music had carried prayer deeper than the mind could reach.

Perhaps many here experienced something similar through N. Maybe it was a funeral hymn sung gently during grief, a Christmas

Mass filled with joy, or an ordinary Sunday where a familiar melody suddenly lifted the spirit. Such moments matter more than we realize. They become echoes of God's presence.

Saint Paul tells us today: "Sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts." Gratitude is the true music God desires. N.'s ministry was never only about notes or melodies; it was about helping people pray, helping people hope, helping people remember that God is near.

And yet today there is silence. The chair is empty. The familiar voice is absent. The hands that once turned pages, guided rhythms, or played instruments are still. Grief feels like unfinished music. But Christian faith tells us that death is not the end of the song.

The Book of Revelation speaks of heaven filled with praise before the throne of God. Every earthly hymn is only a rehearsal for that eternal worship. What begins here in faith reaches fulfillment there in glory.

There is another story about a young violin student who once performed poorly during a concert. Discouraged, she lowered her instrument and began to cry. But from backstage her teacher quietly continued the melody on his own violin until she found the courage to join again. Years later she said, "I learned that day that even when my music failed, the song itself continued." That is our hope today.

Our human voices falter. Our earthly songs end. Our hearts break in grief. Yet God's song of life continues beyond death itself. And we trust that N. now hears the fullness of that eternal harmony—the music of heaven where every tear is wiped away and every faithful song finds its completion in God.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered in faith and sustained by hope in the Resurrection, let us bring our prayers before God, who hears the songs of the faithful and welcomes every sincere prayer offered from the heart.

1. For the Church throughout the world:

that she may continue to proclaim the Gospel with joy and raise voices of praise that strengthen those who are weary, grieving, or searching for hope. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For musicians, choir members, and all who serve through sacred music:

that their gifts may continue to draw people closer to God and deepen the prayer and unity of Christian communities.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For N., whom we remember today:

that the Lord who gave N. the gift of music and service may now welcome him/her into the eternal hymn of heaven, where the saints rejoice forever in God's presence. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For all who mourn the loss of N.:

that family members, friends, fellow choir members, and this community may find comfort in cherished memories, strength in faith, and peace in the promise of eternal life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For ourselves gathered here today:

that inspired by N.'s example of faithful service and praise, we may live with grateful hearts, encourage one another in love, and one day join in the everlasting worship of heaven. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of beauty, harmony, and everlasting life,
you created us to praise you with grateful hearts.

Hear the prayers we offer today for your servant N.
and for all who mourn.

Strengthen our faith, deepen our hope,
and lead us one day into the eternal song of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, and the lives we offer with grateful hearts, remembering the faith and service of N., may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings of bread and wine,
signs of our thanksgiving and hope.

As music united your servant N. with this community in prayer,
may these sacred mysteries unite us more deeply with Christ,
who conquered death and opened for us the joy of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you created the human heart

to rejoice in your goodness

and to proclaim your glory with songs of praise.

In every generation you call men and women
to lift their voices in faith, bringing comfort to the sorrowful
and hope to your pilgrim people.

In your mercy, you blessed your servant N.

with gifts that helped others pray and praise you.

And now, even in grief, you remind us that earthly songs give way to the eternal hymn of heaven,
where your faithful rejoice forever in your presence.
And so, with the Angels and Saints,
we too proclaim your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray together as God's family,
trusting that the Father who hears every prayer and every song
will lead his servant N. into eternal peace.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.

Comfort those who mourn the loss of N.;
heal hearts made heavy by grief,
and strengthen us with the hope
that the songs of faith begun on earth
continue in the joy of your heavenly kingdom,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you brought harmony to troubled hearts
and filled your people with songs of hope.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who gathers his people into the joy of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Music often says what words cannot.
Today our hearts hold gratitude,
sorrow, love, and hope all at once.
Yet Christ has met us here in this Eucharist,
the deepest song of God's love for his people.

May we remember that every hymn sung in faith,
every quiet prayer, and every act of loving service
becomes part of God's eternal praise.
And may N. now rest in that everlasting harmony
where sorrow is ended and joy has no end.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the Bread of Life.
Comfort us in our sorrow
and deepen our trust in your promise of eternal joy.
May the memory of N.'s faithful service
inspire us to live with grateful hearts
until we join the saints in the everlasting hymn of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
fill your hearts with peace and hope.

May Christ,
who is the song of eternal life,
lead N. into the joy of heaven.

And may the Holy Spirit
strengthen you in faith, love, and gratitude
all the days of your life.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that the love we shared with N.
and the songs of faith offered in this life
are now gathered into the eternal praise of heaven.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Those who sing for God never truly fall silent, for their song
continues in the hearts they lifted and in the heaven they now
behold.”

48. Funeral for a Missionary

2 Tim 4:1–8 — “I have finished the race.”

Mt 28:16–20 — “Go and make disciples.”

Theme: “Faithfully Sent, Joyfully Finished”

The Christian missionary is one who hears Christ’s command, “Go and make disciples,” and spends life carrying the Gospel across distances, cultures, struggles, and sacrifices. In the end, like Saint Paul, the missionary can say with peace and gratitude: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” Today we celebrate not only a life that travelled far, but a faith that remained faithful to the end.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a missionary priest was travelling through a remote village after days of difficult journeying. He arrived tired, dusty, and hungry. An elderly woman welcomed him into her humble hut and offered him the only food she had. Before he left, she said quietly, “Father, thank you for bringing us the words of Jesus. We waited many years for someone to come.” That missionary later wrote in his diary: “In that moment I understood that mission is not about greatness; it is simply about arriving where Christ is needed.”

Today, as we gather for this Funeral Mass, we remember a disciple who tried to arrive where Christ was needed — through service, sacrifice, perseverance, and faith. The Gospel reminds us of Christ’s command to His disciples: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” The reading from Saint Paul echoes the peace of one who has completed the mission entrusted to him: “I have finished the race.”

The life of a missionary is rarely easy. It is often marked by loneliness, uncertainty, hidden sacrifices, and quiet acts of love that

only God fully sees. Yet missionaries continue because they trust that Christ walks ahead of them and remains with them always.

As we commend our beloved departed to the mercy of God, let us also acknowledge our own failures to live the Gospel courageously and ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call your disciples to go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you strengthen the weary and remain with your servants in every trial: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you welcome faithful servants into the joy of your Kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God,
who calls His servants to labour in His vineyard
and sustains them with the hope of eternal life,
have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son commanded His disciples
to proclaim the Gospel to all nations,
grant that your servant,
who spent life in faithful mission and witness,
may now rejoice in the eternal reward
prepared for those who persevere in faith and love.

Strengthen us also, O Lord,
to continue the work of the Gospel with courage and hope,
until we too come to the fullness of your Kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A missionary bishop once told the story of arriving in a distant land where he did not know the language. During his first weeks there, he felt discouraged and ineffective. One evening, while visiting a poor family, he noticed a small wooden cross hanging on the wall of their home. The father of the family pointed to it and said in broken words, "We do not understand all your words yet, but we know why you came. You came because Jesus loves us."

That is the heart of mission.

The Gospel today gives us Christ's final command before His Ascension: "Go and make disciples of all nations." Christianity was never meant to remain locked behind church walls. Faith is always sent outward. A missionary is someone who allows Christ's love to travel through his voice, hands, sacrifices, and presence.

Saint Paul, in today's reading, speaks with remarkable peace: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Those words are not words of pride. They are words of surrender and trust. Paul knew hardships: imprisonment, rejection, dangers, loneliness, exhaustion. Yet he continued because he believed the Gospel was worth giving one's life for.

There is a story of a missionary doctor who worked for decades in a war-torn region. Someone once asked him, “Why stay where life is so difficult?” He answered, “Because the people here deserve to know they are not forgotten by God.” Missionaries remind the world that no one is abandoned.

Our departed brother/sister tried to live that same spirit. Mission is not only travelling to distant countries. Mission is every act that carries Christ to another person — a word of encouragement, a hidden sacrifice, patient listening, forgiveness, faithful prayer, or steadfast service during difficult times. The true missionary leaves traces of hope wherever he or she goes.

Another missionary once carried a lantern every night through a village without electricity. Children would follow him because his lantern gave light in the darkness. Years later, one of those children became a priest and said, “I followed the light before I understood the message.” That is often how mission works. People encounter Christ first through kindness, compassion, and faithful presence.

Today we grieve because someone we loved is no longer physically among us. Yet Christian mourning is always joined with hope. The missionary journey does not end in death. Christ, who sent His disciples into the world, now welcomes His faithful servant home.

And perhaps the final story belongs to heaven itself. An old missionary nearing death was once asked what he hoped to hear when he met God. He smiled and replied, “I hope He simply says: ‘You came when I called.’” Today we entrust our beloved departed to the mercy of the Lord, trusting that Christ who called him/her in life now receives him/her into eternal peace.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

My dear brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord who calls His servants to labour in His vineyard and rewards every act of faithful love, let us now place before Him our prayers for the Church, the world, and our beloved departed.

1. For the Church throughout the world:

that she may continue courageously to proclaim the Gospel to every nation and become a living sign of Christ’s compassion, mercy, and hope. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For missionaries and all who serve the Gospel in difficult places:

that the Lord may strengthen them in moments of loneliness, protect them in danger, and fill them with the joy that comes from faithful service. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For those who feel forgotten, abandoned, or far from God:

that through the witness of Christian love they may discover that Christ walks beside them and never leaves them alone.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For our departed brother/sister N.:

that having spent life trying to bring Christ to others, he/she may now hear the Lord’s words, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” and enter into the peace of the heavenly Kingdom.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For all of us gathered here in grief and hope:

that strengthened by the example of this faithful disciple, we may continue the mission of Christ through lives of prayer, kindness, sacrifice, and steadfast faith. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God our Father, you sent your Son into the world
to bring light and salvation to all people.
Hear the prayers we offer with faith and hope,
and welcome your faithful servant into everlasting peace.
Grant that we too may persevere in the work of the Gospel
until we share the joy of your heavenly Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brethren, that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for a life
spent in the service of the Gospel and in hope of the eternal
Kingdom, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts placed upon your altar
as we commend your servant to your loving mercy.
May this sacrifice proclaim once more
the Gospel faithfully carried throughout life,
and may Christ, whom your servant sought to serve in others,
grant eternal rest and everlasting joy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your wisdom you call men and women
to proclaim the Good News of salvation
to every nation and people.

You strengthen them in moments of weakness,
guide them through hardship and sacrifice,
and sustain them with the promise
that Christ remains with His disciples always.

In your mercy you now welcome your faithful servant,
who sought to carry the light of the Gospel to others.
And though death brings sorrow to those who mourn,
the promise of the Resurrection assures us
that faithful labour in your vineyard will receive its eternal reward.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer
that unites every disciple and missionary throughout the world:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
Strengthen us, as you strengthened your faithful servants
who carried the Gospel through trials and uncertainties.
Keep alive within us the courage to follow Christ faithfully,
to bring hope where there is despair,
and to trust that no labour done in love is ever lost before you,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you sent your disciples into the world
to proclaim peace, mercy, and hope.
Look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
You who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who strengthens His people for the journey of faith
and leads His faithful servants into eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The mission of Christ never ends at the grave.
Those who spend life carrying His love to others
are gathered at last into the eternal embrace
of the One who sent them.
Today we pray not only in sorrow,
but in gratitude for a life
that tried to bring light, hope, and faith to the world.
May we continue the mission with the same courage and trust.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
May your servant, who sought to lead others to Christ,
now share fully in the heavenly banquet of eternal joy.

And grant that we, strengthened by this Eucharist,
may continue faithfully in the mission of the Gospel
until we are gathered into your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation strengthen you in your sorrow
and fill your hearts with the hope of the Resurrection. Amen.

May Christ, who called His disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all
nations, welcome His faithful servant into eternal peace. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that the faithful servant of God
has finished the race and now rests in the eternal love of Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The true missionary is not remembered mainly for the places visited,
but for the love of Christ carried into the lives of others. Faithfulness
to God's call, even in hidden sacrifices, becomes a light that
continues to shine long after life on earth has ended.

49. Funeral for a Seminarian

Jer 1:4–9 — “Before I formed you...”;

Jn 1:35–39 — “Come and see.”

Theme: “Called by Name: Come and See the Lord.”

INTRODUCTION

A young seminarian once visited an elderly priest in a rural parish. On the priest’s desk lay an old breviary held together with tape and worn at the edges. The seminarian asked, “Father, why don’t you buy a new one?” The old priest smiled and replied, “Because every page reminds me that God never stopped calling me.” The seminarian sat quietly, realizing that vocation is not merely about becoming a priest; it is about learning, day after day, to answer the voice of God.

Today we gather in sorrow, yet also in faith, as we commend our dear brother to the Lord. His journey in the seminary was a journey of listening — listening to the gentle invitation of Christ: “Come and see.” Though his earthly formation ended sooner than expected, the call of God upon his life was real, precious, and sacred.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds us that God knows us even before we are formed in the womb. No life is accidental; no calling is meaningless. Even when life seems unfinished in human eyes, God completes every story within His eternal love. Our brother’s life remains a testimony that the Lord still calls young hearts to walk with Him.

As we now stand before the mercy of God, we also recognize our own moments of hesitation, fear, and unfaithfulness in responding to His call. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call each person by name and invite us to follow You: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You strengthen those who are afraid and place Your word upon their lips: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You prepare an eternal dwelling for all who seek You with sincere hearts: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
strengthen us whenever we grow weary in answering His call,
heal every fear and doubt within us,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who call Your servants to walk in the footsteps of Your Son,
grant that we who mourn our brother today
may trust in Your loving providence and eternal wisdom.
As he once sought to follow Christ with a generous heart,
may he now behold forever the face of the Lord whom he desired to serve.

Strengthen us also in our own vocation of faith,
that we may answer Your call with courage and hope.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A boy once stood outside a seminary chapel after Mass, staring at the large crucifix above the altar. An elderly brother noticed him and asked, "What are you looking at so carefully?" The boy answered, "I think Jesus is asking me something." The brother smiled gently and replied, "Then don't be afraid to listen." Years later, that boy entered the seminary.

Every vocation begins with a voice and an invitation. In today's Gospel, Jesus simply says, "Come and see." He does not give a full explanation. He does not promise an easy road. He only invites. The disciples followed because something in the voice of Jesus awakened hope within them.

Our dear brother heard that invitation too. Like many seminarians, he began not with certainty but with a desire — a desire to know Christ more deeply. Seminary formation is not merely academic training; it is the slow shaping of the heart. It is learning to pray when prayer feels dry, to serve quietly without recognition, and to trust God even when the future is unclear.

There is a story of a seminarian who struggled greatly during his studies. One day he told his spiritual director, "I am afraid I may never become worthy enough." The priest answered, "God does not call the worthy; He makes worthy those He calls." Those words changed his life. Jeremiah himself felt inadequate: "I am too young." Yet God answered, "Do not be afraid... I am with you."

Perhaps many of us also know what it means to feel unfinished. We make plans, but life changes suddenly. We hope for many years ahead, but sometimes the journey is shorter than expected. A seminarian's death feels especially painful because we see dreams

interrupted and possibilities unrealized. Yet in God's eyes, no sincere offering is ever incomplete.

An old stained-glass worker once explained why tiny broken pieces of coloured glass were never discarded. He said, "Even the smallest fragment catches the light." So too, every prayer, every act of generosity, every effort to follow Christ catches the light of eternity. Our brother's life, though brief, reflected something beautiful of God's grace.

Today the Lord who once said to him, "Come and see," now says, "Come home." The journey of vocation does not end in the seminary, nor even in death; it reaches fulfillment in the presence of God.

And so we pray not only for our departed brother but also for ourselves. May we never ignore the quiet voice of God in our hearts. May we learn to trust Him even when we do not understand the path ahead.

There is a final story about a monk who was dying. A young novice asked him, "Father, after all these years, what have you learned?" The monk smiled faintly and whispered, "That every step toward God was worth taking." That is our hope today for our dear brother — that every step he took toward Christ has now led him into eternal life. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

My dear brothers and sisters,
God calls each of us by name and never abandons those who seek Him with sincere hearts. Trusting in His mercy and love, let us now offer our prayers for our departed brother, for the Church, and for the whole world.

1. For the Church:

That the Church may continue to encourage and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and that young people may respond generously to Christ's invitation, "Come and see."

Let us pray to the Lord.

2. For seminarians and all discerning their vocation:

That those preparing for priesthood may grow in holiness, perseverance, wisdom, and joy, trusting that God strengthens those whom He calls. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

3. For our departed brother:

That the Lord who called him to follow Christ on earth may now welcome him into the eternal joy of His heavenly kingdom and grant him peace among the saints. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

4. For grieving family members, friends, and the seminary community:

That God may comfort all who mourn today, heal hearts burdened by sorrow, and strengthen them with the hope of the Resurrection.

Let us pray to the Lord.

5. For ourselves:

That we may never ignore the quiet voice of God in our hearts, but faithfully follow Him in love, service, and trust throughout our lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father,

You know each of us before we are formed and lovingly guide every step of our journey. Hear the prayers we place before You today with faith and hope. Grant eternal rest to our departed brother, and help us remain faithful to Your call until we come at last into Your presence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in faith and hope for our departed brother who sought to follow the Lord's call,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings which we place upon Your altar for our departed brother.
As he once desired to serve Christ faithfully on earth,
grant that he may now rejoice in the heavenly liturgy of eternal life.
May these sacred mysteries strengthen our faith
and deepen our trust in Your unfailing call.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For You call each person by name
and guide every life with wisdom and love.
In Your Son, Jesus Christ, You invite us to "come and see,"
to walk the path of discipleship,
and to trust in the promise of eternal life.

Even when human plans remain unfinished,
Your grace is never incomplete.
You receive with tenderness all who sought You with sincere hearts,

and You bring to fulfillment
the good work You began within them.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer of all God's children,
trusting that the Father who calls us by name
will also lead us safely into His eternal kingdom.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we mourn our departed brother and place our hope in Your mercy.
Strengthen us whenever we struggle to follow Your call,
guide the young who seek Your will,
and lead all the faithful departed into the joy of Your presence,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You called Your disciples to walk beside You
and filled their hearts with Your peace.
Look with compassion upon all who mourn today.
Calm troubled hearts, strengthen wavering faith,

and help us trust that those who seek You sincerely
are never lost in Your sight.

Grant us the peace and unity of Your kingdom
where You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who calls us to follow Him in faith and hope.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The call of God is never wasted.
Even when a life seems unfinished to us,
God sees every hidden prayer, every generous response,
every quiet act of discipleship.
Today we entrust our brother into the hands of the Good Shepherd,
confident that the One who called him on earth
now welcomes him into eternal peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of eternal life.
Comfort us in our sorrow
and strengthen our hope in the Resurrection.
May our departed brother,
who desired to follow Christ faithfully,
now share forever in the joy of Your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God who called Jeremiah before he was born strengthen your faith and comfort your hearts.

Amen.

May Christ, who invites all people to “come and see,” lead you always in the path of hope and discipleship.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in answering God’s call with courage and peace.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
trusting that the Lord never forgets those whom He has called.
And may our departed brother rest in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“God does not measure a life by its length, but by the love and faith with which His call is answered.”

50. Funeral for a Religious Sister

Rev 19:1,5–9 — The wedding feast of the Lamb.

Mt 25:1–13 — The wise virgins.

Theme: “Keeping the Lamp Burning for the Bridegroom”

The life of a Religious Sister is a life of watchful love — faithfully waiting for Christ the Bridegroom with the lamp of faith, prayer, and service burning brightly until the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, in a convent chapel during a power outage, the sisters gathered in darkness for evening prayer. One elderly sister quietly walked to the sanctuary carrying a single oil lamp. As she placed it near the tabernacle, the entire chapel slowly filled with gentle light. Later, one novice said, “Mother, that little lamp changed the whole room.” The old sister smiled and replied, “That is what a consecrated life is meant to do.”

Today we gather in faith and gratitude for Sister N., whose life became such a lamp. Through prayer, sacrifice, hidden acts of love, fidelity to her vows, and service to God’s people, she kept her heart awake for the coming of the Lord.

In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the wise virgins who were prepared when the Bridegroom arrived. In the Book of Revelation, we hear the joyful proclamation of the wedding feast of the Lamb. These readings remind us that religious life is ultimately a love story — a lifelong “yes” to Christ that finds its fulfillment in eternal communion with Him.

As we remember Sister N., we also recognize the moments when our own lamps have grown dim through sin, indifference, or lack of

trust. Therefore, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by acknowledging our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you call your faithful servants to keep watch for your coming: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you nourish your people with the oil of grace and steadfast love: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lead the faithful into the eternal wedding feast of heaven: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, strengthen the light of faith within us,
keep our hearts watchful for the coming of Christ the Bridegroom,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose faithful servant Sister N.
consecrated her life to Christ with undivided love,
grant that, having kept her lamp burning through prayer and charity,
she may now rejoice at the eternal wedding feast of your Son.
Help us also to persevere faithfully in our vocation
until the day we are welcomed into your kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A young sister once asked an elderly nun, “After so many years in religious life, have you ever become tired of praying?” The old nun answered gently, “Sometimes I became tired, but I never became tired of the One to whom I was praying.” That simple answer reveals the heart of consecrated life.

Today’s Gospel speaks of wise virgins waiting for the Bridegroom. They were not merely waiting; they were prepared. They carried oil for their lamps. The lamp represents faith, but the oil represents something deeper — perseverance, fidelity, love, sacrifice, prayer, and hope. These cannot be borrowed at the last moment. They are gathered slowly through years of faithful living.

Sister N. lived that quiet preparation. Religious life is often hidden from the world. The world notices achievements and applause, but God notices fidelity. He sees the sister who rises early for prayer, who comforts the lonely, teaches children patiently, tends the sick gently, forgives silently, and continues loving even when unrecognized.

There is a story of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. A journalist once watched her clean the wounds of a dying man and said, “I would not do that for a million dollars.” Mother Teresa replied, “Neither would I. I do it for Jesus.” That is the mystery of vocation. Consecrated life is not sustained by duty alone, but by love for Christ.

The Book of Revelation today lifts our eyes toward heaven: “Blessed are those called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” Every Eucharist is a foretaste of that heavenly banquet. Throughout her life, Sister N. prepared for this meeting with Christ. Every vow renewed, every rosary prayed, every act of service became oil for the lamp.

There is another story told about a convent during wartime. The sisters had little food and almost no resources, yet every evening they still lit a candle before the Blessed Sacrament. Someone asked why they wasted precious wax. The superior answered, "As long as that light burns, hope remains alive." Sister N.'s life was such a light — a witness that hope survives even in suffering.

And yet, the Gospel also speaks to us who remain behind. The wise virgins could not share their oil at the final moment because each soul must personally respond to God's invitation. Faith cannot be inherited automatically. We too are called to keep our lamps burning — through prayer, mercy, forgiveness, and perseverance.

A nurse in a Catholic hospice once spoke about a dying religious sister. In her final hours, the sister seemed restless. Then suddenly she opened her eyes, smiled peacefully, and whispered, "The Bridegroom is here." Moments later, she died. Whether those were truly her final words matters less than the faith behind them. For a faithful disciple, death is not the end of love; it is the moment the door opens to the wedding feast prepared from all eternity.

Today we entrust Sister N. to the mercy of God with confidence and hope. The lamp she carried in faith on earth now passes into the everlasting light of Christ. May the Lord who called her in love now welcome her to the eternal banquet where every tear is wiped away and every faithful servant rejoices forever in the presence of the Bridegroom.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in Christ the Bridegroom, who calls his faithful servants to the eternal wedding feast, let us offer our prayers for Sister N., for the Church, and for all who await the fullness of God's kingdom.

1. For the Church throughout the world:

that she may continue to be a radiant light of faith and hope, guiding God's people to remain watchful and prepared for the coming of the Lord, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For Religious Sisters and all consecrated men and women:

that they may remain faithful in prayer, joyful in service, and steadfast in love, keeping their lamps burning brightly before Christ the Bridegroom, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For Sister N.:

that the Lord whom she served with undivided love may now welcome her into the eternal wedding feast of heaven, where every faithful servant rejoices in everlasting peace, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For all who mourn the death of Sister N.:

that Christ, the light who shines in the darkness, may comfort their sorrow, strengthen their faith in the Resurrection, and fill their hearts with hope, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For all of us gathered here today:

that through prayer, mercy, perseverance, and faithful love, we may keep our own lamps burning brightly until the day we meet Christ face to face, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

you call your faithful servants to watchfulness and love as they await the coming of your Son. Hear the prayers we bring before you today, and grant that Sister N. may rejoice forever in the light of your presence. Keep us faithful in our vocation until we are gathered into the eternal banquet of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for the faithful life and loving service of Sister N., may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we offer
as we commend Sister N. to your loving mercy.
May the sacrifice of Christ, whom she followed faithfully in
consecrated life, bring her into the joy of the heavenly banquet,
and renew within us the grace to keep our lamps burning in faith and
love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your wisdom you call men and women
to follow Christ with undivided hearts,
becoming signs of the kingdom that is to come.
In the faithful witness of Sister N.,
you revealed the beauty of a life dedicated to prayer, charity, and
hope.

You taught her to wait with joyful expectation for the coming of the
Bridegroom, and you sustained her lamp with the oil of grace through
the years of her vocation.

Now you invite her to the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb,
where your saints rejoice forever in the light of your glory.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray for the coming of God's kingdom,
where all faithful servants shall rejoice at the eternal banquet of
heaven:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we keep watch with faithful hearts for the coming of Christ the
Bridegroom,
trusting in the light of his promise and the joy of his eternal kingdom,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you called your faithful servants
to live as signs of your love and kingdom in the world.
Look with compassion upon all who mourn today.
Calm troubled hearts, strengthen our faith in the Resurrection,
and grant that the peace promised at your heavenly banquet
may remain always with us.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb,
where Sister N. now hopes to rejoice forever with Christ the
Bridegroom.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

A lamp does not speak, yet it gives light.
So too the life of Sister N. quietly reflected Christ through prayer,
fidelity, and loving service.
The Eucharist we have shared today strengthens us to continue our
own journey of faith until the day we are welcomed into the eternal
wedding feast of heaven.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Grant that Sister N.,
who faithfully followed Christ in consecrated love,
may now share fully in the joy of the heavenly banquet.
May we who remain on earth
walk faithfully with lamps burning brightly
until we too are called into your eternal presence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Bridegroom who calls his faithful servants to eternal joy,
strengthen your faith and console your hearts.

May he keep your lamps burning brightly with hope and love
until the day you enter the heavenly banquet.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord who called Sister N. in love
has welcomed her into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

A faithful life keeps its lamp burning not by great achievements, but
by daily love, prayer, and perseverance until the Bridegroom comes.

51. Funeral for a Religious Brother

Phil 2:1–11 — Christ emptied himself.

Jn 13:1–15 — Washing of the feet.

Theme: “Greatness in God’s Kingdom Is Found in Humble Service.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a Religious Brother who worked for many years in a large school. He never preached retreats, never wrote books, and never held an important office. Every morning before dawn, he quietly swept the corridors, prepared the chapel, and repaired broken desks before the students arrived. One former student later said: “I never remember hearing him speak much about God, but I learned what God was like by watching him.”

Today’s Gospel shows Jesus kneeling before His disciples to wash their feet. The Lord of heaven takes the place of a servant. In the reading from Philipians, Saint Paul reminds us that Christ “emptied Himself,” choosing humility, obedience, and love. The Religious Brother whom we commend to God today tried to walk this same path — not seeking recognition, but seeking faithfulness.

The vocation of a Religious Brother is often hidden from the world. Yet hidden lives of service become powerful signs of the Gospel. Through prayer, simplicity, fraternity, and humble labour, Religious Brothers reveal the face of Christ who came “not to be served, but to serve.”

As we gather around this altar, we also acknowledge the moments when we have failed to love humbly, failed to serve generously, or sought honour instead of compassion. Let us therefore prepare

ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by asking God for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You knelt to wash the feet of Your disciples and taught us the way of humble service: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You emptied Yourself and became obedient even unto death: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You call us to love one another as You have loved us: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our pride, selfishness, and failures in love,
strengthen us to follow Christ in humble service,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son showed the fullness of love
by humbly serving His disciples, grant that Your servant N.,
who followed Christ in the life of a Religious Brother,
may now share forever in the joy of the heavenly kingdom.

Teach us also to walk in humility,
to serve one another with generous hearts,
and to recognize Christ in the ordinary duties of daily life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A visitor once arrived at a monastery and noticed an elderly Religious Brother carefully polishing the shoes of all the community members before dawn. The visitor said, “Brother, after so many years, why are you still doing such simple work?” The old Brother smiled and replied, “Because love shines best in small things.”

That simple answer captures the heart of today’s Gospel.

On the night before He died, Jesus did something shocking. The Master knelt before His disciples and washed their feet. In the culture of that time, washing feet was work reserved for servants. Yet Jesus deliberately chose the lowest place. Then He told them: “I have given you an example.”

The reading from Philippians deepens this mystery. Saint Paul says Christ “emptied Himself.” The Son of God did not cling to status or privilege. He became a servant. He embraced humility. And because of that humility, God exalted Him.

The vocation of a Religious Brother reflects this hidden and humble Christ. Often Religious Brothers work quietly behind the scenes: teaching children, preparing meals, caring for the sick, repairing buildings, praying faithfully, encouraging the lonely, welcoming strangers. Their ministry is usually not dramatic, but deeply evangelical.

There is another story about a Brother working in a hospital during an epidemic. One frightened patient asked him, “Brother, are you not afraid of getting sick?” The Brother answered gently, “Of course I am afraid. But love must be greater than fear.” That is the kind of discipleship Jesus speaks about today.

Humble service is not weakness. It takes strength to love consistently in unnoticed ways. It takes holiness to continue serving

when nobody applauds. Christ Himself chose this path.

Perhaps one of the greatest temptations in life is the desire to be important, recognized, admired. Yet Jesus measures greatness differently. In His kingdom, greatness is found in kneeling beside another person in love.

A teacher once asked children in a classroom, “What is humility?” One little child answered, “Humility is when you help somebody without needing everyone to know.” That child understood the Gospel well.

Today we thank God for the witness of N. We remember not only what he did, but how he lived — in fraternity, simplicity, prayer, and service. Like many Religious Brothers, much of his goodness may never be fully known publicly. But God sees every hidden act of love. And that is our hope today: the Christ who once knelt to wash feet now welcomes His faithful servant into eternal life.

There is a final story of a dying Religious Brother. Shortly before his death, a young novice asked him, “Brother, after all these years, what have you learned?” The old man whispered, “In the end, only love remains.”

That is the lesson of today’s Gospel.

That is the meaning of Christian discipleship.

And that is the promise we entrust N. to today — that the servant-hearted Christ now receives him into everlasting peace.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

My dear brothers and sisters,

Jesus taught us that true greatness is found in humble service.

Trusting in the mercy of God, who sees every hidden act of love, let

us now bring our prayers before Him for our departed brother N., for the Church, and for the needs of the world.

1. For the Church:

That the Church throughout the world may faithfully reflect Christ the Servant, showing humility, compassion, and loving care especially to the poor, the forgotten, and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For Religious Brothers and all consecrated men and women:

That through lives of prayer, fraternity, and generous service, they may continue to reveal the hidden goodness of Christ and inspire others to follow the Gospel with courage and simplicity, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For our departed brother N.:

That the Lord Jesus, whom he served faithfully in humble and quiet ways, may now welcome him into the eternal joy of the heavenly kingdom and reward every hidden act of love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all who care for others in unnoticed ways:

For teachers, workers, caregivers, volunteers, hospital staff, and all who serve quietly without recognition, that God may strengthen them with peace, joy, and perseverance, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For all of us gathered here today:

That inspired by the example of Christ and the witness of N., we may grow in humility, kindness, and selfless love, learning to serve one another generously each day, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of mercy and love,

Your Son taught us that whatever is done in love is never lost. Hear the prayers we offer with faith and trust. Welcome Your servant N. into the peace of Your kingdom, and help us to follow Christ in humble and faithful service until we too are gathered into eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in memory of Christ
who came to serve and not to be served,
and in thanksgiving for the faithful life of N.,
may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept these gifts we place upon Your altar
as we remember Your Son,
who revealed perfect love through humble service.
May this sacrifice bring peace and mercy to Your servant N.,
and inspire us to follow Christ with generous and selfless hearts.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in Your Son Jesus Christ
You revealed that true greatness is found in humble love and service.
Though He was Lord of all, He knelt before His disciples,
washed their feet, and taught us the way of self-giving charity.
In the life of Your servant N., You gave Your Church a witness
to this quiet and faithful discipleship.
Through prayer, fraternity, and humble labour,
he reflected the hidden goodness of Christ.
And so, with the Angels and Saints,
we praise You, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer of God's children,
asking for hearts that know how to love, forgive, and serve:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
Teach us to follow the humble path of Your Son,
to serve one another with compassion and simplicity,
and to live each day in faithful love,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You washed the feet of Your disciples
and taught us that peace is born from humble love and service.

Free us from pride and division,
make us instruments of reconciliation and compassion,
and graciously grant peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who humbled Himself to bring us salvation.
Happy are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The hands of Christ once washed the feet of His disciples.
The hands of Christ were stretched upon the Cross in love.
And now the same Christ receives His faithful servant into eternal
rest. May we learn that holiness is often hidden in ordinary acts of
kindness, patient service, faithful prayer, and quiet love.
For in the end, only love remains.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
May Your servant N., who sought to follow Christ in humble service,
now rejoice forever in Your heavenly kingdom.
And may we who remain
be strengthened to walk in charity, humility, and faithful discipleship.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all compassion
strengthen you in faith and hope.

May Christ Jesus,
who came among us as servant and Lord,
teach you to live in humble love.

And may the Holy Spirit
guide you in lives of generosity, peace, and faithful service.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
glorifying the Lord by lives of humble service and love.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“True greatness is not found in power or recognition, but in humble love that quietly serves others in the spirit of Christ.”

52. Funeral for a Bishop or Priest

1 Peter 5:1–4 — Tend the flock of God.

Jn 17:11b–19 — Priestly prayer of Jesus.

Theme: “The Good Shepherd Who Kept Watch Over the Flock.”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a village church whose priest would walk through the town every evening before sunset. He would stop at homes, greet children by name, listen to the worries of the elderly, and quietly pray beside those who were sick. One evening someone asked him, “Father, why do you keep doing this every day?” He smiled and answered, “A shepherd must know where the flock is before night falls.” Years later, after his death, the people said they never felt alone because they always knew their shepherd was near.

Today we gather with gratitude for N., bishop/priest, who tried to live that same spirit of shepherding. The readings remind us that ministry is not about power or honour, but about care, sacrifice, and faithful service. Saint Peter urges pastors to “tend the flock of God,” and in the Gospel Jesus prays lovingly for those entrusted to him.

Even in moments of weakness and limitation, Christ continues to work through human hands and hearts. The priestly life is a life poured out in prayer, service, forgiveness, and compassion. Today we commend our brother to the eternal Shepherd whom he served throughout his life.

As we begin these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for mercy, trusting that the Good Shepherd never abandons his people.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you called your servants to tend your flock with love and humility: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you prayed that those entrusted to you might remain faithful in truth and holiness: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the eternal Shepherd who leads your people into everlasting life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen us to serve one another with faithful hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
shepherd and guide of your people,
who called your servant N.
to serve your Church as bishop/priest and steward of your mysteries,
grant that he who faithfully tended your flock on earth
may now rejoice forever in the company of Christ, the eternal
Shepherd.

May we who remain be strengthened
to live lives of charity, prayer, and faithful service.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A retired priest once told a young seminarian, “People may forget your sermons, but they will never forget whether you stayed with

them in their suffering.” That young man later said those words shaped his entire priesthood. He understood that ministry was not first about eloquence or achievement, but about presence.

That is exactly the image we receive today in the Scriptures. Saint Peter tells pastors to “tend the flock of God” willingly and generously, not for status, not for gain, but by becoming examples to the flock. And in the Gospel, Jesus prays lovingly for his disciples, protecting them and consecrating them in truth.

A priest or bishop stands between heaven and earth in a unique way. He baptizes children into the family of God, blesses marriages, reconciles sinners, comforts the grieving, and stands beside the dying. Much of that work is unseen. Many moments happen quietly—in hospital rooms, confessionals, rectories, and chapels long after others have gone home.

There is a story of a priest who was called late one winter night to visit a dying man during a snowstorm. Someone asked him afterward, “Was it worth risking the journey for one person?” The priest replied, “To the Good Shepherd, one sheep is never just one sheep.” That is the heart of priestly ministry.

N. tried to live that calling. Like every human being, he carried weaknesses and limitations, but he also carried people in prayer, in sacrifice, and in love. The priesthood is not lived perfectly; it is lived faithfully. Day after day, year after year, the shepherd keeps walking with the flock.

Jesus in today’s Gospel does something deeply moving: he prays for his own. Before his suffering and death, he entrusts his disciples to the Father’s care. Imagine that. Even in the shadow of the cross,

Christ's concern is for those he loves. Every true priest learns to imitate that self-giving love.

There is another story told about an old bishop nearing death. A visitor thanked him for building schools and churches. The bishop quietly answered, "I only hope I helped people believe that God never stopped loving them." In the end, that is the mission of every shepherd.

Today we entrust N. to the mercy of Christ, the eternal High Priest. The hands that blessed others now rest in God's hands. The voice that proclaimed the Gospel now joins the heavenly liturgy. The shepherd who tried to guide others toward Christ now prays face to face before the Lord whom he served.

And perhaps the most beautiful image is this: after a lifetime spent calling others home to God, the shepherd himself finally hears the voice of the Master saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant... come and share your master's joy."

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in Christ the eternal Shepherd, who never abandons his flock, let us offer our prayers to the Father for N. and for the needs of the Church and the world.

For the Church throughout the world:

that bishops, priests, and all who shepherd God's people may serve with humility, compassion, and fidelity to the Gospel, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For our departed brother N.:

that the Good Shepherd whom he served faithfully in life may now welcome him into the eternal joy of heaven and grant him peace

among the saints, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For priests and bishops who continue Christ's ministry today:

that they may be strengthened in times of weariness, remain faithful in prayer and service, and bring hope to those entrusted to their care, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For all who mourn the death of N.:

for family members, brother priests, parishioners, friends, and all whose lives were touched by his ministry, that they may be comforted by the promise of the Resurrection, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For ourselves gathered in faith:

that inspired by the example of N., we may walk closely with Christ, serve one another with generous hearts, and one day share in the eternal kingdom of God, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Father of mercy and love,
you sent your Son to be the Shepherd of your people.
Hear the prayers we place before you today
as we commend your servant N. into your hands.
Grant us faith, hope, and perseverance
until we too are gathered into your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in gratitude for the faithful ministry of N.,
who served the Lord's people as shepherd and servant,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts we offer
as we commend your servant N. to your mercy.
May the sacrifice he celebrated throughout his priestly ministry
now bring him the fullness of redemption and peace.
Strengthen your Church on earth to continue walking faithfully under
the care of Christ, the eternal Shepherd.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your wisdom and love
you care for your people through faithful shepherds
who serve in the name of Christ, your Son.
In every generation you call servants
to preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacred mysteries,
and strengthen your people in faith and hope.

In your servant N. you gave your Church a shepherd
who sought to guide your people with prayer, compassion, and
faithful service.

And now that his earthly ministry has ended,
you welcome him into the eternal joy
prepared for those who serve you with generous hearts.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Gathered as one family in Christ,
and remembering N., who throughout his priestly ministry taught
God's people to trust in the Father's love and to pray with
confidence, let us now offer the prayer that Jesus himself gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,
as we remember your servant N.,
who spent his life leading your people in prayer and hope.
Comfort all who mourn his passing,
strengthen your Church with faithful shepherds,
and guide us safely along the path that leads to eternal life,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
gathered today to pray for your servant N.,
who dedicated his life to reconciling hearts,
healing divisions, and leading your people in charity and truth.

Graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
Today we receive the Lord
whom N. served at the altar throughout his life.
May Christ, the eternal Shepherd,
lead him now into the banquet of eternal joy.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

A shepherd spends his life leading others forward, often without
drawing attention to himself. In the Eucharist, Christ the Good
Shepherd continues to nourish and guide his people.

Today we pray in gratitude for N., who broke the Word of God for
others and shared the Bread of Life with countless faithful. May the
Lord whom he served now welcome him into the eternal liturgy of
heaven, where every tear is wiped away and every faithful servant
finds rest.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through this holy sacrament
we have shared in the memorial of Christ's love and sacrifice.

May your servant N.,
who faithfully celebrated these sacred mysteries on earth,
rejoice forever in the fullness of your kingdom.

Renew your people in faith and charity, and help us to follow Christ,
the eternal Shepherd and High Priest.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
the eternal Shepherd of souls,
welcome his servant N. into everlasting peace. Amen.

May God comfort all who mourn
and strengthen them with the hope of the Resurrection. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
trusting in Christ the Good Shepherd,
who calls his faithful servants into the joy of his kingdom.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

"A faithful shepherd does not simply lead people toward God; he
reminds them, day after day, that God walks beside them."

53. Funeral for Someone Who Loved the Poor

Is 58:6–11 — True fasting and charity.

Mt 25:31–46

Theme: “Whatever You Did for the Least of These”

Today we celebrate a life that reflected the compassionate heart of Christ — a life that recognized the dignity of the poor, the forgotten, and the suffering. In serving others with generosity and mercy, N. sought to serve Christ himself. The Scriptures remind us that true holiness is not found merely in words or rituals, but in love made visible through concrete acts of compassion.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a woman who lived in a crowded city apartment. Every evening she cooked a little extra food and quietly left it near the stairwell for anyone who might be hungry. For years she never knew who took the meal. One winter evening she found a small note tucked beside the empty plate: “*You may not know my name, but because of you, I survived another day.*” She wept, realizing that even unnoticed kindness can become a light in another person’s darkness.

The Gospel today speaks of the final judgment, where the King says: “*Whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*” The Lord does not ask how powerful we were, how wealthy we became, or how admired we appeared. He asks whether we fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, and comforted the suffering.

We gather today remembering how N. tried to live that Gospel in daily life. Acts of charity may sometimes have seemed small or ordinary, yet in God’s eyes they carried eternal value. Love offered to the poor becomes a treasure stored in heaven.

As we begin this Eucharist, we also acknowledge the times we failed to recognize Christ in others — the moments when we turned away from someone in need, withheld compassion, or closed our hearts. Let us ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you came to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken-hearted. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you taught us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for you.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light that shines through every act of mercy and compassion. **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, heal every hardness of heart, teach us to recognize Christ in the poor and suffering, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son taught us that love for the poor and forgotten reveals the presence of your Kingdom, grant that your servant N., who sought to serve Christ in others, may now rejoice forever in the banquet of eternal life.

Teach us also to walk in compassion, generosity, and mercy, so that one day we may hear your voice saying:

“Come, blessed of my Father.”

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A journalist once visited a shelter run by elderly volunteers. He noticed one old man washing the feet of a homeless stranger whose shoes had nearly fallen apart. The journalist asked him, “Why do you do this every day?” The man smiled gently and replied, “Because one day, when I meet God, I do not want Him to be a stranger to me.”

That simple answer captures the heart of today’s Gospel.

Jesus describes the final judgment in surprisingly ordinary terms: feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, welcoming the stranger. The King does not speak about extraordinary miracles or public achievements. Instead, eternity turns upon love. Not sentimental love, but practical love — compassion that acts.

The prophet Isaiah says much the same thing: “*Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed, clothe the naked.*” True worship of God is inseparable from mercy toward others. Faith becomes real when it touches human suffering.

Many years ago, a teacher noticed a young boy coming to school exhausted and distracted. Instead of punishing him, she quietly discovered that his family had no electricity and very little food. Each morning she began leaving sandwiches and fruit on his desk before class began. She never announced it. Decades later, that boy became a doctor and said, “Someone fed me when I was invisible.” Small acts can shape eternity.

That is why the Church today remembers not only the passing of N., but also the love N. tried to share. Those who care for the poor often do so quietly. They may never appear in headlines. Yet heaven notices every hidden kindness.

Another story is told of a parish volunteer who spent years bringing soup to elderly people who lived alone. One Christmas Eve she apologized because the meal was simple. An old widower took her hand and said, “You brought more than soup. You brought proof that God still remembers me.” Compassion tells people they are not forgotten.

And perhaps that is the deepest meaning of Christian charity: not merely giving things, but restoring dignity. Jesus identifies himself with the hungry, the sick, and the abandoned because God never abandons human suffering. Christ stands beside the wounded of the world.

Still, the Gospel challenges all of us. It asks whether we notice those around us who are lonely, struggling, grieving, or overlooked. Sometimes poverty is not only material. Some hunger for encouragement, friendship, forgiveness, or hope.

There is a final story about a little girl walking with her father through city streets. She saw a man sitting alone in the cold. She asked, “Dad, what can we do?” The father admitted he had little money. The child walked over anyway, handed the man her small scarf, and simply said, “I hope you feel warmer now.” Years later, the father said that moment taught him more about God than many sermons.

In the end, we are remembered not by what we possessed, but by how we loved.

Today we entrust N. to the mercy of God. We pray that the Lord who was served in the poor will now welcome N. into eternal joy, saying: “*Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*” Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered in faith and hope, let us bring our prayers before God, whose Son taught us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for him. Trusting in the mercy of the Father, we pray for the Church, the world, and for our departed brother/sister N.

1. For the Church:

That the Church throughout the world may continue to be a living sign of Christ's compassion by defending the dignity of the poor, comforting the suffering, and serving those who are forgotten.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For leaders of nations and communities:

That they may work for justice, protect the vulnerable, and ensure that the hungry, homeless, sick, and abandoned are treated with dignity and care. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For all who serve the poor and suffering:

That volunteers, caregivers, charity workers, and all who quietly perform works of mercy may be strengthened by God and never lose heart in doing good. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For all who mourn the death of N.:

That the Lord may comfort family members, friends, and all who grieve today, and fill their hearts with the hope of the Resurrection and the peace that comes from Christ. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For our departed brother/sister N.:

That the Lord who was lovingly served in the poor and needy may now welcome N. into the eternal Kingdom prepared for those who lived lives of mercy and compassion. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of mercy and compassion, you never forget the poor or those who place their trust in you. Hear the prayers we offer today for ourselves and for your servant N. May we live lives of generous love and one day rejoice forever in your heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in memory of Christ
who became poor for our sake
and in thanksgiving for every work of mercy,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts of bread and wine,
signs of your Son's love poured out for the world.
As we remember N.
and the kindness shared with those in need,
transform our hearts through this sacrifice,
so that we may serve you faithfully
in the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your Son Jesus Christ
you revealed the dignity of every human person

and showed us that love for the poor
opens the way to your Kingdom.

In every act of mercy,
every hidden kindness, every generous heart,
your grace continues to shine in our world.
Today we thank you for the life of your servant N.,
for every comforting word spoken,
every helping hand extended, and every burden quietly shared.
And now, trusting in the promise of the Resurrection,
we commend N. to your eternal care,
certain that those who served Christ on earth
shall rejoice forever in his presence.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the saints,
we proclaim your glory, as without end we acclaim:
Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer that unites rich and poor, strong and weak,
as one family before our heavenly Father:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
Teach us to recognize your Son
in those who hunger, suffer, or feel forgotten,
and strengthen us to live lives of compassion and mercy,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you showed us that love of neighbour
is the path to true peace.
Look not on our sins,
but on the faith and charity of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who comes to us in humility and love,
present among the poor and the forgotten.
Blessed are those called
to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love never disappears.
Every act of mercy offered in Christ's name
continues to echo in eternity.
Today we remember not only the loss we feel,
but also the hope we carry:
that the Lord who fed the hungry
and welcomed the outcast
now welcomes N.
into the joy of his heavenly Kingdom.

May we leave this Eucharist
ready to recognize Christ
in every person we meet.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy sacrament you have nourished us
with the Bread of Life.

Strengthen our faith in the Resurrection and deepen within us
the spirit of compassion and generosity shown by your Son.
May your servant N., who sought to serve Christ in the poor,
share now in the eternal banquet of heaven,
and may we continue the work of mercy on earth
until we are gathered together in your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all compassion comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you in hope.

May Christ Jesus, who is present in the poor and suffering,
lead you always in the ways of mercy and love.

And may the Holy Spirit make your hearts generous and faithful
until the day we are reunited in the peace of God's eternal Kingdom.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord
by lives of compassion, mercy, and love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

At the end of life, we may discover that the greatest things we ever
did were the simple acts of kindness we almost forgot.

54. Funeral for a Quiet Humble Person

Micah 6:6–8 — Walk humbly with your God.

Mt 11:25–30 — “Learn from me, for I am meek.”

Theme: “Walking Humbly with God: The Quiet Strength of Meekness”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an old gardener who worked for many years in a monastery. He never preached a sermon, never held an important title, and hardly anyone outside the monastery knew his name. Yet every morning before dawn he quietly watered the plants, repaired broken fences, and left flowers near the chapel altar. When he died, the monks discovered that almost every person in the village had, at some point, been helped by him in silence. One monk said, “He spoke little about God, but he walked with God every day.”

Today's readings speak of that quiet holiness. Through the prophet Micah, God tells us what truly pleases Him: not grand displays, but “to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God.” In the Gospel, Jesus reveals His own heart: “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.”

We gather today not simply to mourn, but to give thanks for a life that reflected this gentle way of Christ — a life perhaps unnoticed by the world, yet deeply precious before God. Humility does not make noise, but it leaves lasting footprints in the hearts of others.

As we stand before the Lord who knows every hidden act of goodness, let us acknowledge our sins and ask forgiveness for the times we failed to walk humbly, love generously, and carry one another's burdens.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are gentle and humble of heart, yet we often choose pride and self-importance: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you invite the weary to find rest in you, yet we have sometimes failed to comfort and encourage others:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you walked quietly among the poor and forgotten, yet we have overlooked simple acts of love and kindness:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, heal every wound caused by pride and selfishness, teach us to walk humbly in his presence and lovingly beside one another, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you revealed in your Son
the beauty of meekness and humble love.
Teach us, amid the passing things of this world,
to walk quietly in your ways,
to carry one another's burdens with compassion,
and to trust in your gentle mercy.
As we commend your servant to your loving care,
strengthen our hope in the promise of eternal rest and peace.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once asked her students to write down the names of the most important people in history. The children mentioned kings, presidents, inventors, and famous leaders. Then she asked a second question: "Who are the people who have helped you most in your life?" Suddenly the answers changed — a grandmother, a neighbour, a quiet friend, a school janitor, a parent. The teacher smiled and said, "The people who make the greatest difference are often the ones the world notices least."

That is exactly the kind of holiness Jesus speaks about in today's Gospel. "Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart." The world often admires power, success, and attention. But Jesus admires humility, gentleness, and quiet faithfulness.

The prophet Micah simplifies religion into three beautiful actions: "Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with your God." Notice he says *walk humbly*. Humility is not weakness. It is strength without pride. It is goodness without needing applause.

There is a story about a nurse in a hospital who worked the night shift for thirty years. Most patients never remembered her name. But one doctor said that when families were afraid or grieving, she would sit beside them quietly, hold a hand, bring water, or simply listen. Long after people forgot the doctor's medical explanations, they remembered her kindness. Quiet goodness has eternal value.

That is the way of Christ. Jesus himself lived most of his earthly life in hiddenness — in a small village, working as a carpenter, unnoticed by society. Yet through that hidden life, salvation entered the world.

A humble person does not try to stand above others. Instead, they make others feel valued. A quiet person often sees what louder people miss — the lonely, the hurting, the forgotten.

There is another story of an elderly man who attended Mass every morning. He never read publicly, never joined committees, never spoke much. After his death, people discovered he had quietly paid school fees for struggling children for many years. Nobody knew because he never wanted recognition. That is the kind of humility God treasures.

At funerals we are reminded that titles, achievements, and possessions eventually fade. But love remains. Kindness remains. Gentle words remain. The silent sacrifices we make for one another remain before God forever.

Jesus says today, “My yoke is easy and my burden light.” Those words do not mean life is free from suffering. Rather, they mean that when we walk with Christ in humility, we do not carry life alone. The humble heart trusts God enough to surrender burdens into His hands.

And perhaps that is the final lesson we receive today. In a noisy world, God still works powerfully through quiet people. The gentle heart changes lives in ways statistics never measure and history books never record.

A village once planted a tree in memory of a quiet woman who had spent her life serving others. Years later, travellers rested under its shade, children played beneath its branches, and birds built nests there. Most people passing by never knew her name, but they benefited from the life she had planted. That is the beauty of humble goodness. Even after death, its shade continues to comfort others.

May the Lord now welcome his servant into that eternal peace promised to the meek and humble of heart. And may we learn, day by day, to walk humbly with our God until we meet again in His kingdom.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Gathered in faith and hope, let us bring our prayers before God, who looks not at worldly greatness but at hearts that are humble, gentle, and full of love. Trusting in his mercy, we pray:

1. For the Church:

That the Church throughout the world may reflect the meekness and compassion of Christ, serving others with humility and quiet generosity, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For leaders and all who hold authority:

That they may govern with wisdom, justice, and humility, always remembering the dignity of the poor, the forgotten, and the weak, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For those who mourn and carry heavy burdens:

That Christ, who is gentle and humble of heart, may comfort the grieving, strengthen the weary, and grant peace to troubled hearts, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For all who quietly serve others each day:

That those whose goodness often goes unnoticed — caregivers, workers, volunteers, family members, and faithful friends — may be blessed and encouraged by God, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For our departed brother/sister N.:

That the Lord may welcome him/her into the eternal kingdom of peace and rest, rewarding every hidden act of kindness and every humble step walked in faith, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving and merciful God,
you know every quiet sacrifice and every hidden act of love.
Hear the prayers we place before you today,
and teach us to walk humbly in your presence
all the days of our lives.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts,
offered in gratitude for a life of quiet faith and humble love,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings
which we place upon your altar with trust and hope.
As your Son revealed the beauty of humility and gentleness,
may this sacrifice strengthen us
to serve you faithfully in simple acts of love.
Grant eternal rest to your servant
who sought to walk humbly in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you delight not in human greatness or earthly glory,
but in hearts that are gentle, humble, and faithful.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you showed us the path of meekness and compassion,
teaching us to carry one another's burdens
and to walk quietly in your love.

In every hidden act of kindness, in every silent sacrifice,
and in every humble life offered in service,
your grace continues to shine in the world.

And so, with the Angels and Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus taught us that true greatness is found in humble and trusting hearts. As children of the same loving Father, and remembering the quiet faith and gentle spirit of our departed loved one, let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by your mercy, we may walk humbly before you,
free from pride, fear, and despair, as we support one another with gentle and faithful hearts, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.

May your gentle peace calm every troubled heart
and strengthen us to live with humility and compassion.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who is gentle and humble of heart,
who carries our burdens and leads us into eternal rest.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The world often remembers the loud and powerful, but God remembers the gentle and faithful. A humble life may seem small in the eyes of society, yet in the kingdom of God it becomes a quiet light that continues to shine long after death. Today we entrust our loved one to the Lord whose heart is meek and humble, trusting that every hidden act of goodness is now gathered into eternal peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy Communion
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Teach us to follow the humble path of your Son,
to serve one another with gentleness,

and to place our trust in you alone.

May your servant, who walked quietly in faith and love,
now rejoice in the eternal peace of your kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who delights in humble and loving hearts,
grant you peace in your sorrow and hope in your mourning. Amen.

May Christ Jesus,
meek and humble of heart,
carry your burdens and lead you into the comfort of eternal life.
Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit
strengthen you to walk humbly with God
and lovingly with one another all the days of your life. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord never forgets the quiet works of love done in his name.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Humility is not thinking less of ourselves, but walking so closely with God that our lives quietly become a blessing to others.”

55. Funeral for a Person with Disabilities

Is 35:1–10 — “Then the lame shall leap.”

Mk 10:46–52 — Healing of Bartimaeus.

Theme: “Jesus Sees Beyond Limitation and Leads Us into Wholeness.”

The readings proclaim a God who does not define people by weakness, disability, or limitation, but by dignity, faith, and belovedness. Bartimaeus, though blind, sees Jesus more clearly than many others. Isaiah promises a day when every wound will be healed and every sorrow transformed into joy. Today we entrust N. to the Lord who sees with compassion, heals with love, and leads his children into eternal wholeness.

INTRODUCTION

A teacher once asked her students to describe the strongest person they knew. Some spoke about athletes, soldiers, or famous leaders. But one child quietly spoke about his older sister who used a wheelchair. “She smiles every day,” he said, “even when things are hard. She makes everyone else brave.” The room became silent because everyone realized that true strength is often hidden in quiet perseverance.

In today’s Gospel, Bartimaeus sat by the roadside while others ignored him. Many saw only a blind beggar. Jesus, however, saw a person with dignity, faith, and hope. He stopped, called him forward, listened to him, and restored him. The Lord always sees beyond human limitation.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a beautiful promise: the weak will be strengthened, the lame will leap, the fearful will rejoice, and sorrow

will flee away. God’s final word over human life is never suffering, but restoration and joy.

As we gather to commend N. to God’s loving mercy, we also acknowledge the times we failed to see others with compassion, patience, and dignity. Let us now ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you stopped for those whom others overlooked:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you brought hope and dignity to the suffering:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful people from weakness into eternal joy: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who looks with tenderness upon every human weakness, forgive us our sins, heal what is broken within us, strengthen us in faith and hope, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son showed compassion to the suffering
and revealed the dignity of every human person,
grant that we who mourn N. today
may trust in your promise of eternal healing and peace.
Strengthen us with the hope
that all weakness will one day be transformed by your glory,
and help us to walk faithfully in the way of love and compassion.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A little boy once visited his grandfather in a nursing home. The old man could no longer walk or speak clearly, and many people simply passed by his room. But the boy would run to him every visit, hold his hand, and smile. One day someone asked the child, “Why do you spend so much time with him when he cannot even talk to you?” The boy answered, “Because when he looks at me, I know I matter.”

That is exactly what happens in today’s Gospel. Bartimaeus was invisible to many people. The crowd saw a blind beggar sitting by the road. Some even tried to silence him. But Jesus stopped. In a world rushing past weakness and suffering, Jesus paused. He called Bartimaeus forward. Before healing him, Jesus asked a beautiful question: “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus restored not only his sight but also his dignity.

This Gospel reminds us that a person’s value is never measured by physical ability, productivity, or independence. Human dignity comes from being loved by God.

Many families who care for persons with disabilities discover this truth deeply. Life may become slower, more demanding, and sometimes painful, but it also becomes richer in compassion, patience, tenderness, and love. Often those whom society calls “limited” teach others how to love without conditions.

There is a story about a Special Olympics race where several children were running toward the finish line. One child stumbled and fell. Instead of continuing to win the race, the others stopped, turned

back, helped the child up, and together they crossed the finish line. The crowd stood in tears and applause. For a moment everyone understood what humanity should look like. Success is not leaving the weak behind; it is learning to walk together.

Isaiah’s vision speaks directly to this hope: “Then the lame shall leap like a deer.” God promises that suffering and limitation do not have the final word. In eternal life, all that burdens the human person will be transformed. The tears of earth will become joy in the presence of God.

N.’s life, too, was more than any struggle or limitation. There were moments of courage, moments of dependence on others, moments of joy, and moments when simple acts of kindness became signs of grace. Those who lived closely with N. know that love often grows strongest where life is most fragile.

There is another story of a sculptor carving a block of stone. Someone asked him, “How do you know what is inside?” He replied, “I do not create the beauty; I simply remove what hides it.” God sees in every human person a beauty that illness, weakness, or disability can never erase. And in eternal life, God completes the masterpiece.

Today our grief is real, but so is our hope. Jesus who called Bartimaeus now calls N. by name into the fullness of life. The Lord who once restored sight now grants eternal vision. The Lord who welcomed the overlooked now welcomes his servant into everlasting peace.

And perhaps one day, when all earthly weakness has passed away, we too shall see clearly that every human life — especially the vulnerable life — was always a sacred reflection of God himself.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord Jesus who stopped for Bartimaeus, listened to his cry, and revealed the dignity of every human person, let us now bring our prayers before God our compassionate Father.

1. For the Church:

that the Church may always reflect the compassionate heart of Christ by welcoming, protecting, and honouring persons with disabilities and all who suffer, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For families, caregivers, and all who accompany the vulnerable:

that God may strengthen them with patience, tenderness, and hope, and reward their loving service with peace and joy, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For our world:

that societies may learn to see beyond limitation and recognize the dignity, gifts, and humanity of every person, especially those who are overlooked or forgotten, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all who live with illness, disability, loneliness, or emotional suffering:

that Christ the healer may comfort them, strengthen them in faith, and surround them with understanding and love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For N. and for all the faithful departed:

that the Lord who promised that “the lame shall leap” may now welcome N. into eternal wholeness, where every weakness is

transformed into joy and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of mercy and compassion,
you see the beauty and dignity of every human life.
Hear the prayers we place before you today
and strengthen us with the hope of resurrection and eternal healing.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in hope and trust in the God who heals and restores all things, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts which we offer
for the salvation of your servant N.

As your Son showed compassion to the weak and suffering,
grant that through this sacrifice
N. may enter the joy of your heavenly kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away and every burden is lifted.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For in your Son Jesus Christ
you revealed your love for every human person.
He stopped for the forgotten, welcomed the weak,
and gave hope to those who suffered.

In healing Bartimaeus, he showed us that no human limitation can separate us from your compassion.
And when sorrow, illness, and frailty burden our lives,
you strengthen us with the promise
that one day all creation will be renewed, the lame shall leap for joy,
the blind shall see your glory, and death itself shall be no more.
Therefore, with the Angels and Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With trust in the Father who sees the dignity of every one of his children and leads us toward eternal wholeness, let us pray in the words Jesus himself taught us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and graciously grant peace in our days,
that, sustained by your mercy,
we may be freed from despair and strengthened in hope.
Help us to recognize the dignity and beauty of every human life,
especially in moments of weakness, suffering, and dependence,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you brought comfort to the suffering
and peace to those burdened by life's struggles.
Look kindly upon us in our grief,
heal our wounded hearts,
and grant that we may live with patience, compassion, and hope.

Teach us to walk gently with one another
and never to overlook those who long for understanding and love,
who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
who welcomes the weary, heals the broken-hearted,
and leads his people into everlasting life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus did not pass Bartimaeus by.
He stopped, listened, called him near, and healed him.
That same Lord now receives N. with tenderness and mercy.

In God's kingdom, weakness is not despised, suffering is not forgotten, and every tear is transformed by love. May we leave this celebration carrying a deeper reverence for every human life and a stronger hope in the resurrection promised by Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the hope of eternal life.
Grant that your servant N.,
who shared in the struggles of human weakness,
may now rejoice in perfect peace and wholeness before you.
And help us who remain
to live with greater compassion, patience, and faith.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all compassion
heal your sorrow and strengthen your hearts.
Amen.

May Christ, who welcomed the suffering and overlooked,
lead N. into the joy of eternal life.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit fill you with peace, hope, and enduring love.
Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord who called Bartimaeus by name
now calls N. into everlasting light and joy.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

True vision is not merely seeing with the eyes, but seeing every
person with the compassionate heart of Christ. In God's love, no life
is insignificant, no weakness is wasted, and no one is forgotten.

56. Funeral for Someone Bedridden for Years

Romans 8:18–23 — Present suffering and future glory.

Mark 2:1–12 — Paralytic lowered through the roof.

Theme: “Carried in Suffering, Raised in Hope.”

The long years of illness and helplessness were not meaningless burdens, but a journey in which Christ remained close, carrying the suffering person through the love, patience, and faithfulness of others. Today we commend our departed brother/sister into the hands of the Lord who transforms suffering into glory and weakness into new life.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a nurse in a rehabilitation centre noticed something remarkable. One elderly patient, unable to move freely and confined to bed for years, would greet every visitor with the same gentle words: “Thank you for coming; your presence gives me strength.” Though physically weak, that person became a source of courage and peace to everyone around. Those who came to comfort left comforted themselves.

In today's Gospel, we hear of the paralytic who could not come to Jesus on his own. Others carried him, lowered him through the roof, and placed him before the Lord. Jesus not only healed his body but restored his dignity and hope. The story reminds us that no suffering person walks alone when faith and love surround them.

Saint Paul in the Letter to the Romans speaks honestly about suffering, yet he points beyond it toward future glory. The pains of this world are not the final word. God prepares a fullness of life where every weakness will be transformed and every tear wiped away.

Today, as we gather in prayer for our departed brother/sister, we remember not only years of suffering, but also years of patience, endurance, love, and quiet faith. Trusting in God's mercy and acknowledging our own need for healing and forgiveness, let us now call to mind our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you carried the burdens of the sick and suffering with compassion: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you give hope to those who endure pain and weakness: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you promise eternal glory to those who trust in you: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sees every hidden suffering, every act of patient endurance, and every work of loving care, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in hope, heal what is wounded within us, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

God, source of strength for the weary and hope for all who suffer, you accompanied your servant through years of weakness and pain with the grace of your presence and the care of loving hearts.

Grant that we who mourn today may be comforted by the promise of resurrection and strengthened by faith in your Son, who transformed suffering into the path of glory.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A traveller once visited a monastery known for caring for the chronically ill. He noticed an elderly monk feeding a bedridden man with extraordinary patience and tenderness. Afterward, the traveller said, "I could never do that for all the money in the world." The monk quietly replied, "Neither could I. I do it for love."

That simple reply opens the meaning of today's Gospel and of the life we remember today.

In the Gospel, the paralytic could not reach Jesus by himself. Others carried him. When the crowd blocked the entrance, they climbed onto the roof, opened it, and lowered him before the Lord. The most beautiful line in the story may be this: "*When Jesus saw their faith...*" Not only the faith of the sick man, but also the faith of those who carried him.

Years of being bedridden can easily appear only as limitation, helplessness, and suffering. But families who care for the sick know another story. They know the hidden heroism of daily love: lifting, feeding, cleaning, comforting, waiting through sleepless nights, repeating the same acts of care again and again. Much of that love is unseen by the world, yet never unseen by God.

There is a story of a daughter who cared for her bedridden mother for almost ten years. One day someone asked her, "How do you keep going?" She answered, "Every morning I remind myself that my mother once carried me before I could walk. Now it is my turn to

carry her.” That is exactly what happened in today’s Gospel. Love carries those who cannot walk alone.

Saint Paul tells us in the second reading that “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed.” Paul does not deny suffering. Christianity never pretends pain is easy. Jesus himself knew weakness, wounds, abandonment, and the cross. But the Christian faith proclaims that suffering does not have the final word. Resurrection does.

There is another story of a man confined to bed after an accident. For years he could do almost nothing physically. Yet people constantly visited him because they said they always left with greater peace. One visitor finally asked him, “How can you encourage others when you suffer so much?” The man smiled and said, “Pain closed many doors in my life, but it opened the door of the heart.”

Often those who suffer quietly become teachers of patience, gentleness, gratitude, and faith. They remind us that human dignity does not depend on productivity, strength, or independence. Every life remains precious because every person is loved by God.

The paralytic in the Gospel experienced two healings. Before Jesus healed his body, he said, “Your sins are forgiven.” Why? Because the deepest healing Christ brings is reconciliation, peace, and restored communion with God. Physical suffering may remain for a time, but the soul can still be filled with grace, hope, and inner freedom.

Today we entrust our departed brother/sister to that same compassionate Lord. The years of illness are now over. The limitations of the body have given way to the freedom of eternal life. The hands that once needed support are now held forever by God.

A final story. In one hospice room, shortly before death, a patient whispered to his family, “Thank you for carrying me all these years. Soon God will carry me home.” Those words beautifully summarize Christian hope. We carry one another in love on earth, until at last God carries us into eternal life.

And that is our faith today: suffering is temporary, love is eternal, and Christ never abandons those who place their trust in him.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

My dear brothers and sisters, trusting in the compassion of Christ who carried the burdens of the suffering and promised eternal life to those who believe in him, let us now offer our prayers to God our loving Father.

1. For the Church:

That the Church may continue to be a place of compassion, where the sick, the elderly, and the suffering are treated with dignity, tenderness, and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For caregivers and families:

That all who lovingly care for the sick and bedridden may be strengthened in patience, renewed in courage, and rewarded for their hidden acts of sacrifice and love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For those who suffer long illnesses:

That those confined by sickness, pain, loneliness, or weakness may experience the closeness of Christ and the comforting support of compassionate people around them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For our departed brother/sister N.:

That the Lord who accompanied him/her through years of suffering may now welcome him/her into the freedom, peace, and joy of eternal life, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For all of us gathered here in faith:

That we may learn to carry one another with love, to remain faithful in times of suffering, and to live in the hope of the resurrection promised by Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of mercy and compassion,
you know the burdens we carry
and the sorrows hidden within our hearts.

Hear the prayers we offer today
for your servant and for all who suffer.

Strengthen us with the hope of the resurrection
and keep us faithful in love
until the day you gather us into your eternal kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts,
offered in gratitude for the faithful life
and patient endurance of our departed brother/sister,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings placed upon your altar
as signs of our faith and hope.
As your Son welcomed the sick and burdened with compassion,

so may he now welcome your servant into the peace of his kingdom.
May these sacred mysteries strengthen all who cared with love,
served with patience, and remained faithful through suffering.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your mercy you remain close to those who suffer,
giving strength to the weary, hope to the discouraged,
and peace to those burdened by pain.

In your Son Jesus Christ,
you revealed a love that touches the wounded,
raises the fallen,
and promises eternal life to all who trust in you.
Through his death and resurrection,
the sufferings of this world are transformed
into the hope of glory that never ends.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father who carries his children
through suffering into eternal life:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress.

Comfort especially those who continue to care for the sick, the weak,
and the lonely, and strengthen them with patient and generous
hearts, so that in serving others they may never lose hope in your
saving love, as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your
will. Bring peace also to all who suffer long illnesses, to their families
and caregivers, and fill weary hearts with the quiet strength of your
presence. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the
world. He is the Lord who strengthens the weak, comforts the
suffering, and leads his faithful into everlasting life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you stayed close to our departed brother/sister
through years of weakness and suffering.
Remain close also to us in our grief.
Teach us to carry one another with patience and love,
until the day when all pain will cease
and every tear will be wiped away in your kingdom of peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through this holy sacrament
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and renewed our hope in the resurrection.
May your servant, freed now from every earthly burden,
rejoice forever in your presence, and may we who remain
learn to serve one another with compassion, patience, and faith.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

May Christ, who showed compassion to the sick and suffering,
grant peace to our departed brother/sister
and bless all who cared with faithful love. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit give you courage in times of weakness
and fill your hearts with trust in the promise of resurrection. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that Christ walks with the suffering, strengthens those who love and serve others, and leads the faithful into the joy of eternal life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The years of suffering were not wasted years.

Love carried the burden, faith sustained the journey, and Christ remained present throughout.

What human weakness could not overcome, God's grace has now transformed into eternal peace and glory.

57. Funeral for Someone Who Died After Great Patience

James 5:7–11 — Patience like Job.

Lk 21:5–19 — “By your perseverance you will save your lives.”

Theme: “Blessed are those who persevere in patience, for the Lord is near.”

Today's liturgy reflects on the quiet strength of patient endurance. In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples that perseverance will save their lives. Saint James points to Job, who remained faithful through suffering and was finally shown the compassion and mercy of the Lord. We gather to commend our departed brother/sister to God, remembering a life marked not only by suffering, but by steadfast patience, trust, and hope.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an elderly gardener who planted a small tree beside his home. Every day he watered it faithfully, though for years it hardly seemed to grow. Neighbours laughed and asked why he bothered with something that showed so little progress. The old man simply replied, “Roots grow before branches do.” Years later, that tree became the strongest and most sheltering tree in the entire village.

Many lives are like that hidden growth. Patience is rarely dramatic. It is often quiet, unnoticed, and sometimes misunderstood. Yet patient endurance shapes the soul deeply before God. The person we commend today lived through trials, limitations, waiting, disappointments, or pain with remarkable perseverance. Like Job, they continued walking forward one day at a time.

Jesus, in today's Gospel, does not promise His disciples an easy road. Instead, He tells them: “By your perseverance you will save

your lives.” Christian hope is not built upon avoiding suffering, but upon trusting that God remains faithful through it. Patience becomes a form of courage, and endurance becomes an act of faith.

As we gather around this altar, we acknowledge that all of us grow weary at times and struggle to trust God in difficult seasons. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us begin by asking the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You strengthened the weary and gave hope to those who persevered in faith: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You taught us that patient endurance leads us to life: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You welcome into Your kingdom all who trusted in You through suffering and trial: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who is rich in mercy and compassionate toward all who persevere in faith, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in every trial, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son taught us to remain faithful through every trial and whose mercy sustained Job in his suffering, grant that we who mourn today may learn to trust in Your loving providence and persevere in hope through the changing seasons of life. May our departed brother/sister, who sought You with patient faith, now find rest and joy in Your eternal kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A traveller once came upon a woman weaving a large tapestry. From underneath, he could see only tangled knots and loose threads. He remarked that the work seemed confused and without beauty. The woman invited him upstairs to look from above. There, he suddenly saw a magnificent pattern woven together with harmony and purpose. What seemed meaningless from below made sense from above.

Many moments in life feel like looking at the underside of the tapestry. Suffering, waiting, sickness, disappointments, and long years of struggle can appear tangled and without explanation. Yet today’s readings invite us to trust that God sees the whole design.

Saint James speaks about patience like that of Job. Job endured loss, pain, confusion, and silence. Yet he continued to place his life in God’s hands. Patience in the Bible is not passive resignation. It is faithful endurance. It is waking each day and continuing to trust God even when answers do not come quickly.

There is another story about a lighthouse keeper during a fierce storm. Every few hours he climbed the dangerous stairs to keep the light burning for ships at sea. Someone once asked him whether he was afraid. He answered, “The storm matters less than the light going out.” That is perseverance: protecting the light of faith even when storms rage around us.

The person whose life we remember today carried that kind of perseverance. Perhaps not loudly or dramatically, but steadily.

Through suffering, limitations, waiting, or personal burdens, they continued onward. Such patience often becomes a hidden witness that strengthens everyone around them.

Jesus in today's Gospel speaks startling words: "By your perseverance you will save your lives." He does not deny that life contains hardship. Instead, He assures His disciples that faithfulness through hardship leads to life. The Christian does not walk alone through suffering. Christ Himself walked the road of rejection, pain, abandonment, and death before entering resurrection.

An old farmer once planted seeds during a season of drought. Others mocked him because no rain seemed to come. Yet he said, "If I stop planting, I stop believing." Weeks later the rains arrived, and the fields bloomed. Patience is often an act of hope before results can be seen.

Today we commend our departed brother/sister into the hands of the God who sees the completed tapestry, who calms every storm, and who brings harvest after long waiting. We believe that the patience carried through this earthly life is now fulfilled in eternal peace.

And perhaps we ourselves are invited today to become more patient—with God, with others, and with our own journey. For the Lord who sustained Job and strengthened His disciples continues to walk beside us.

There is a final story of a monk who spent years carving a wooden crucifix. Near the end of his life someone asked him why he worked so slowly. The monk replied, "I was not only carving the cross; the cross was carving me." In much the same way, the long trials of life shape the human heart. Today we trust that every moment of faithful endurance has now opened the door to the eternal embrace of God.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord who strengthens those who persevere in faith and who never abandons His people in times of trial, let us now bring before Him our prayers for the Church, for the world, for all who suffer, and for our departed brother/sister.

1. For the Church throughout the world:

that she may continue to be a light of hope for all who are weary, suffering, or discouraged, and faithfully proclaim Christ's promise of eternal life. **Lord, hear us.**

2. For all who carry heavy crosses with patience:

for the sick, the elderly, the lonely, and those enduring long periods of hardship or uncertainty, that God may strengthen them with courage, peace, and perseverance. **Lord, hear us.**

3. For families, caregivers, and all who quietly support others in difficult times:

that their compassion, sacrifice, and faithful presence may be blessed and renewed by the Lord. **Lord, hear us.**

4. For all of us gathered here in grief:

that in moments when life seems confusing or burdensome, we may trust that God is still weaving His loving purpose through every trial and sorrow. **Lord, hear us.**

5. For our departed brother/sister N.:

that having persevered through the struggles of this earthly life with patience and faith, he/she may now enter the eternal peace, joy, and rest prepared by Christ for His faithful servants.

Lord, hear us.

God of mercy and compassion,
You sustained Job in his trials
and strengthened Your Son to endure the Cross for our salvation.
Hear the prayers we offer today with humble trust,
and teach us to persevere faithfully through every season of life,
until we are gathered together in Your eternal kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in memory of one who sought to persevere faithfully through life's trials, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings we place upon Your altar as signs of our faith and hope.
As You strengthened Your servant Job in suffering and sustained Your people through every trial, grant that these sacred mysteries may bring comfort to those who mourn and eternal peace to our departed brother/sister.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For You never abandon those who place their trust in You.
In times of sorrow, You are their consolation;
in moments of weakness, You become their strength;
and through every trial, You teach Your people perseverance and

hope. In Your Son Jesus Christ, You showed us that suffering does not have the final word. Through His Cross and Resurrection, the darkness of death has been transformed into the promise of eternal life. And so, with hearts strengthened by this hope, we join the Angels and Saints in proclaiming Your glory, as we sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray with confidence to the Father who strengthens His children with patience and hope through every trial.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we trust in Your faithful love during the trials and uncertainties of life, and learn to persevere with hearts fixed on Your eternal promises, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You told Your disciples not to be afraid in times of trial and promised to remain with those who persevere in faith. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Strengthen all who carry heavy burdens, and teach us to become patient companions to one another along life's difficult road. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who strengthens the weary and leads the faithful into
eternal life.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Patience often leaves no monument behind.
Its victories are quiet and hidden within the soul.
Yet before God, every burden carried with faith,
every silent prayer,
every difficult day endured with hope,
becomes precious and eternal.

Today we entrust our departed loved one
to the Lord who sees every unseen struggle
and who now grants eternal rest
to those who persevered in His love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of life and hope.
Strengthen us to persevere faithfully through the trials of this earthly
journey,
and welcome our departed brother/sister
into the joy and peace of Your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all patience and consolation
strengthen you in every sorrow and sustain you in hope.
Amen.

May Christ, who remained faithful through suffering and entered into
glory,
lead your departed loved one into eternal peace.
Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the Lord walks beside His people through
every trial, and that faithful perseverance leads to eternal life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Patience is not simply waiting;
it is trusting that God is still at work even when the meaning is not yet
clear.

“By your perseverance you will save your lives.”

58. Funeral for Someone Known for Forgiveness

Col 3:12–15 — Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Mt 18:21–35 — The unforgiving servant.

Theme: “Forgiven by Christ, We Learn to Forgive.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of two brothers who had not spoken to each other for many years because of a painful misunderstanding. Pride hardened their hearts, and every family gathering became a silent battlefield. One day, the older brother became seriously ill. Before anyone asked him to do so, the younger brother quietly walked into the hospital room, held his brother’s hand, and simply said, “We have lost enough years already.” Tears replaced bitterness, and peace returned before death arrived.

The Gospel today reminds Peter that forgiveness cannot be measured or limited. Jesus teaches that those who have received mercy from God are called to extend that same mercy to others. Saint Paul urges the Christian community to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, patience, and forgiveness, because love is the bond that holds everything together in perfect harmony.

Today we commend our departed brother/sister N. to the Lord, remembering especially the spirit of forgiveness that marked his/her life. Forgiveness does not erase wounds instantly, nor does it deny pain, but it opens the heart to healing, freedom, and peace. A forgiving heart reflects the very heart of Christ.

As we gather before the mercy of God, we also recognize the times when we have carried resentment, refused reconciliation, or failed to

forgive others and ourselves. Therefore, let us now ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you revealed the Father’s mercy to sinners and outcasts:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you taught us to forgive not seven times but seventy-seven times: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, from the Cross you prayed for those who crucified you:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who is rich in mercy and slow to anger, forgive us our sins, heal every wound of bitterness within us, strengthen us to walk in reconciliation and peace, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose beloved Son taught us
that mercy and forgiveness reveal the greatness of your kingdom,
look kindly upon your servant N.,
who sought to live with a compassionate and forgiving heart.

Grant that, freed from every sin and burden,
he/she may dwell forever in your peace,
and may we who remain here
learn to forgive one another more generously
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once noticed two young girls refusing to speak to each other after a painful argument. Days passed, and both remained stubbornly silent. One afternoon the teacher wrote these words on the board: "Holding anger is like carrying a heavy stone in your pocket—you feel the weight more than the other person." Quietly, one of the girls walked over to the other and whispered, "Can we begin again?" What pride could not accomplish, humility and forgiveness achieved in a moment.

The readings today speak to us about the freedom that comes through forgiveness. Peter asks Jesus a practical question: "How often must I forgive?" Perhaps Peter thought he was already being generous by suggesting seven times. But Jesus shatters all calculations: "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Forgiveness in the Christian life is not mathematics; it is mercy without keeping count.

The parable of the unforgiving servant is striking because the servant himself had first received extraordinary mercy. A debt impossible to repay was completely cancelled. Yet the same servant could not forgive a much smaller debt owed to him. Jesus wants us to understand something important: those who truly know they have been forgiven by God cannot remain hard-hearted toward others.

There is another story about an elderly woman who faithfully visited her husband in a nursing home every day, even after he no longer recognized her because of illness. Someone once asked her, "Why do you still go every day when he doesn't even know who you are?" She answered, "Because I still know who he is." That is the power of faithful love. Forgiveness remembers not only the wound but also the dignity of the person.

Saint Paul, in the Letter to the Colossians, gives us a beautiful description of Christian living: "Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." Forgiveness is not weakness. In fact, it often requires more courage than revenge. Revenge keeps wounds open; forgiveness allows healing to begin.

Many families carry silent hurts for years: words spoken in anger, misunderstandings, betrayals, disappointments. Sometimes people wait too long to reconcile, believing there will always be another opportunity. Funerals often remind us how fragile life truly is. Death silences many voices, but love still speaks powerfully.

A priest once told of two brothers who had not spoken for decades because of an inheritance dispute. At the funeral of their mother, they stood on opposite sides of the church. During the Sign of Peace, one brother hesitated, then slowly crossed the aisle and embraced the other. Years of bitterness melted in a single moment. Their mother's final gift to them became reconciliation.

As we remember N. today, we thank God for every act of kindness, patience, reconciliation, and mercy shown throughout life. No human life is perfect, but every act of forgiveness leaves behind a trace of God's grace in the world. Forgiving others does not mean forgetting pain overnight; it means refusing to let anger have the final word.

And perhaps that is what Christ asks of each of us today: Is there someone we need to forgive? Is there someone from whom we need to seek forgiveness? The greatest tribute we can offer our departed loved one may not only be flowers or tears, but hearts willing to reconcile.

There is a final story of a man who carried deep resentment against his father for many years. Near the end of his own life, he finally

visited his father's grave and said aloud, "I release you, and I ask you to release me." He later said that for the first time in decades, he felt peace. Forgiveness did not change the past, but it changed the future of his heart.

Today Christ reminds us that mercy is stronger than resentment, love stronger than anger, and forgiveness stronger than death itself. And that is why we entrust N. into the hands of the God whose mercy never ends.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the mercy of God, who forgives us through Christ and calls us to live in reconciliation and peace, let us now offer our prayers for the Church, the world, and our departed brother/sister N.

1. For the Church:

That the Church throughout the world may always be a sign of God's mercy, teaching hearts to forgive, reconcile, and heal divisions among peoples and families, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For families and communities divided by hurt or misunderstanding:

That those burdened by anger, resentment, or long-standing conflicts may find the courage to seek peace and the grace to begin again in love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For all who suffer because of broken relationships:

That Christ, who forgave from the Cross, may comfort wounded hearts, soften hardened spirits, and bring healing where bitterness and pain remain, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For our departed brother/sister N.:

That the Lord, whose mercy is without measure, may forgive every sin, reward every act of kindness and reconciliation shown in life, and welcome him/her into eternal peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For all of us gathered here today:

That this Eucharist may strengthen us to become instruments of forgiveness, compassion, and unity, and help us never to delay reconciliation with one another, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

you sent your Son to reconcile the world to yourself through love and forgiveness. Hear the prayers we place before you today, and teach us to live as people of peace and mercy. Welcome your servant N. into the joy of your eternal kingdom, where every tear is wiped away and love never ends. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in memory of N. and in thanksgiving for the mercy and reconciliation God has shown us through Christ, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings we place before your altar for your servant N. As your Son reconciled the world to you through the sacrifice of the Cross, grant that all who share in this Eucharist may become instruments of forgiveness and peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in your great mercy
you never abandon those who turn to you with repentant hearts.
Through your Son Jesus Christ,
you taught us that forgiveness restores what sin has wounded
and reconciliation renews the bonds of love among your people.

In him we have learned
that mercy is greater than resentment,
that peace is stronger than division,
and that your compassion reaches beyond the limits of death itself.

Today, as we commend your servant N. into your loving hands,
we trust that the one who sought to forgive others
will now rejoice forever in the fullness of your mercy.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to
pray for the grace to forgive as we ourselves have been forgiven:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
Heal the divisions within families, reconcile wounded hearts,
and teach us to let mercy triumph over anger and resentment,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.

Teach us to become instruments of reconciliation in a wounded
world, and help us to forgive others with the same mercy we seek
from you.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the
world and calls us into the peace of his kingdom. Blessed are those
called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Mercy is never wasted.

Every act of forgiveness, every word of reconciliation, every refusal to hate leaves a mark of grace upon the world.

Today Christ has nourished us with the Bread of Life so that we may become people of compassionate hearts and healing hands.

May N. now rest in the eternal peace of the God whose mercy never ends.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, through these sacred mysteries

we have received the grace of your Son,
who reconciles us to you and to one another.

Grant that your servant N., for whom we have prayed today,
may rejoice forever in your heavenly kingdom,
and help us who remain

to walk always in the path of mercy, forgiveness, and peace.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy who forgives sins and heals wounded hearts strengthen you in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

May Christ Jesus, who taught us to forgive without counting the cost, grant you peace and reconciliation. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit make you instruments of compassion and unity in your families and communities. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in the mercy of God, cherishing the memory of N., and bringing reconciliation and forgiveness wherever Christ sends you.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Forgiveness does not change the past, but it allows God’s grace to heal the future.”

59. Funeral for Someone Reconciled with Family Before Death

2 Cor 5:17–21 — Ministry of reconciliation.

Lk 15:11–32 — The prodigal son.

Theme: “Coming Home Through Reconciliation”

In Christ, hearts divided are healed, relationships are restored, and the Father welcomes His children home with mercy and peace.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story of two brothers who had not spoken for many years after a painful misunderstanding. Pride kept both silent. One day, the younger brother heard that the elder had become seriously ill. Unsure of what to say, he simply entered the room, sat beside the bed, and whispered, “I did not want us to end this way.” The elder brother took his hand and replied, “Neither did I.” No long speeches were needed. Peace returned before death came.

Today’s readings speak deeply about reconciliation. Saint Paul reminds us that God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation. In the Gospel, Jesus presents the father who runs toward his returning son, not with anger, but with compassion and embrace.

We gather today remembering that before death, reconciliation brought healing within the family of our departed brother/sister. That grace became a sign of God’s own mercy — a reminder that no wound is beyond healing when hearts are opened to forgiveness.

As we stand before the Lord, we also remember the times we delayed forgiveness, held onto resentment, or failed to seek peace. Let us ask God for mercy and healing as we begin these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You welcome sinners with compassion and restore broken hearts: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You reconcile us to the Father through Your Cross and Resurrection: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You call us to forgive one another and live in peace: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who desires not division but reconciliation among His children, forgive us our sins, heal the wounds within our hearts, restore us in His peace, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose mercy restores what sin has wounded
and whose love gathers Your children into one family,
grant that we who celebrate these sacred mysteries
may learn to forgive as You forgive
and to walk always in the peace of Christ.
As You welcomed Your servant N. into Your mercy,
bring him/her into the joy of Your eternal home.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A man once carried a deep hurt against his father for almost thirty years. Though they lived in the same town, they never visited one another. When the father became very ill, the son hesitated for days before finally entering the hospital room. He expected anger, perhaps blame. Instead, the old man simply said, "I prayed every day that you would come." The son later said that in that moment, years of bitterness melted away. Reconciliation did not erase the past, but it changed the ending.

That story helps us enter today's Gospel — the parable of the prodigal son. We often focus on the son who left home, wasted everything, and finally returned. But the heart of the story is really the father. The father waits. The father watches. The father runs. Before the son can finish his confession, he is embraced. Mercy reaches him before judgment does.

The reconciliation that took place before the death of our departed brother/sister becomes a living reflection of that Gospel. Human relationships can become strained through misunderstandings, pride, painful words, or years of silence. Yet one conversation, one gesture, one embrace can become the doorway through which grace enters.

There is another story of two sisters who had argued over family property for years. At their mother's funeral, they stood at opposite ends of the church. During the sign of peace, one sister unexpectedly walked across the aisle and held out her hand. The other began to cry. Sometimes healing begins with one small step.

Saint Paul tells us today: "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ." Christianity is not merely about private prayer; it is about

restored relationships. Christ tears down walls — between humanity and God, and between one person and another.

Many people die wishing they had forgiven sooner, spoken sooner, loved sooner. Reconciliation is one of God's greatest gifts because it frees both the giver and the receiver. The reconciled heart dies in peace.

A priest once recalled visiting an elderly woman who was nearing death. She said quietly, "Father, I can die peacefully now because yesterday my son came home." The son had been away from the family for many years. Her greatest comfort was not wealth or success, but restored relationship.

Today, as we pray for our departed brother/sister, we also hear a call directed toward ourselves. Is there someone waiting for our forgiveness? Someone from whom we need to seek pardon? The Gospel reminds us that it is never too late to come home to one another — and to God.

And so we entrust our departed brother/sister into the embrace of the Heavenly Father, believing that the God who rejoices whenever His children return home will now welcome this beloved soul into the fullness of eternal peace.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the mercy of God who reconciles the world to Himself through Christ, let us bring before Him our prayers for our departed brother/sister N., for grieving families, and for all who long for healing and peace.

1. For the Church:

That the Church may always be a sign of reconciliation in the world,

helping those divided by hatred, resentment, and misunderstanding to find healing through the mercy of Christ. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2. For families burdened by conflict:

That those who are separated by painful words, old wounds, or years of silence may find the courage to forgive, seek peace, and be reunited in love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For our departed brother/sister N.:

That having experienced reconciliation and peace before death, he/she may now be welcomed into the eternal embrace of the Heavenly Father and rejoice among the saints.

Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all who are nearing death:

That they may receive the grace of repentance, the comfort of loving relationships restored, and the peace that comes from knowing God's mercy. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For all of us gathered here:

That this Eucharist may move our hearts to forgive without delay, to seek reconciliation where needed, and to live as instruments of Christ's peace in our homes and communities.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of mercy and compassion,
You never cease to call Your children home.
Hear the prayers we offer with faith and hope,
and teach us to walk always in the path of reconciliation and peace.
Welcome Your servant N. into the joy of Your eternal kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away and love endures forever.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice of reconciliation and peace, offered with trusting hearts for our departed brother/sister N., may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we place upon Your altar
as signs of our faith and hope.
May this sacrifice, born from the mystery of Christ's reconciling love,
bring peace to our hearts
and eternal joy to Your servant N.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For through Your Son Jesus Christ,
You revealed Yourself as the Father of mercy,
always ready to welcome back those who return to You with
repentant hearts.
In Him, division is overcome,
wounds are healed,
and reconciliation becomes the path to peace.

In the life of Your servant N.,
You granted the grace of restored relationships before death,
allowing forgiveness to triumph over hurt

and love to overcome distance.

In this, we see a reflection of Your own divine compassion, which never tires of calling Your children home.

And so, with the Angels and Saints, we praise You, as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray with confidence to the Father who welcomes His children home:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of Your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we strive to live in reconciliation, forgiveness, and unity with one another.

May healed relationships become signs of Your kingdom already present among us, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You said to Your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of Your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with Your will.

Teach us to seek reconciliation quickly, to forgive generously, and to become instruments of healing within our families and communities.

Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who takes away the sins of the world
and reconciles us to the Father.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The father in the Gospel did not close the door on his returning son. He ran toward him with joy. Today we trust that God, whose mercy is greater than every human failure, has opened the eternal doors of His house to our departed brother/sister. May we leave this Eucharist carrying hearts more willing to forgive, reconcile, and love without delay.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy sacrament
You have nourished us with the Bread of life and peace.
Strengthen within us the grace of reconciliation
so that we may live as one family in Christ.
Grant eternal rest and joy to Your servant N.,
whom You have called from this world into Your loving presence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy,
who reconciled the world to Himself through His Son,
heal every wound within your hearts and strengthen you in peace.
Amen.

May Christ, who welcomed sinners and restored the broken,
teach you to forgive generously and love faithfully.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit guide you always in the way of unity, hope, and
compassion,
and bring you one day to the eternal home of the Father.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by lives marked with reconciliation,
forgiveness, and love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Reconciliation does not change the past, but it changes the future.
The Father’s house is always open to those willing to return home.”

60. Funeral for Someone Who Suffered Loneliness

Psalm 27 — “Though father and mother forsake me...”

Jn 14:18 — “I will not leave you orphaned.”

Theme: “Never Abandoned: Christ Walks with the Lonely.”

INTRODUCTION

There are forms of suffering that the world easily notices—sickness, poverty, weakness. But loneliness is often a hidden cross. A person may live among many people and yet carry deep silence within the heart. Today, as we gather for this funeral Mass, we remember not only the life of our departed brother/sister, but also the promise of Christ who says: *“I will not leave you orphaned.”* The Lord sees every forgotten tear, every quiet longing, and every moment when the heart waits for companionship.

An elderly man once sat alone each evening at a railway station. One day a young volunteer asked him why he came there daily. The man replied, “I do not wait for a train. I wait to hear voices. Silence at home is too heavy.” The volunteer began spending a few minutes with him each evening. Years later, after the old man died, the volunteer said, “I thought I was giving him company, but he taught me how deeply every human heart longs to be remembered.”

The Scriptures today speak tenderly to that human longing. The Psalmist says: *“Though father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.”* And Jesus assures His disciples that no one who belongs to Him is ever truly abandoned. Even when human companionship fails, Christ remains near. Death itself cannot separate us from His presence.

As we begin this Eucharist, we also remember the times when we failed to notice the lonely, neglected the forgotten, or closed

ourselves to those seeking comfort. Let us ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You drew near to those who felt abandoned and alone:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You promised that You would never leave Your people orphaned: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You prepare an eternal home where no heart will ever be lonely again: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sees every hidden sorrow and gathers the lonely into His loving embrace, forgive us our sins, heal the wounds we carry within us, strengthen us with the hope of eternal companionship in Christ, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, You never abandon those who seek You and You remain close to the lonely and sorrowful, look with mercy upon Your servants gathered here today. Comfort us with the promise of Your Son, who assures us that we are never left orphaned, and grant that our departed brother/sister may dwell forever in the joy of Your heavenly home. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOMILY

A teacher once noticed a boy sitting alone every lunchtime at school. Day after day he remained by himself while the others laughed and played together. One afternoon the teacher quietly sat beside him and simply asked, "How are you today?" The boy burst into tears and said, "Nobody has asked me that in a very long time." Sometimes the deepest loneliness is not the absence of crowds, but the absence of being truly seen.

Today's Gospel is only one sentence long, but it carries immense comfort: "*I will not leave you orphaned.*" Jesus spoke these words to disciples who were already afraid of losing Him. He knew what loneliness felt like. He Himself would experience betrayal, abandonment, and isolation during His Passion. Yet He promised that even when human presence fades, divine love remains.

Loneliness has become one of the quiet sufferings of our world. Many people are surrounded by technology, noise, and activity, yet inwardly feel forgotten. Some experience loneliness after losing a spouse, after children move away, after illness confines them, or after friendships slowly disappear. Others carry loneliness silently even within families.

There is a story of a widow who lived in an apartment building for many years. After her death, neighbours discovered dozens of birthday cards neatly arranged in a drawer. Most had been signed by the same cashier from a nearby grocery store. Later the cashier explained, "She always came through my line because I was the only one who spoke to her for more than a minute." Small acts of presence can become sacred acts of love.

The Psalm today speaks honestly about human disappointment: *“Though father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.”*

The Bible never pretends loneliness does not exist. Instead, Scripture reveals a God who enters it. Throughout salvation history, God continually seeks those who feel isolated: Hagar in the desert, Elijah under the broom tree, Peter after his failure, Mary Magdalene weeping near the tomb. Again and again, God comes near.

Perhaps our departed brother/sister knew moments of loneliness deeply. But today our faith tells us that Christ did not leave him/her alone. The Lord who promised companionship in life now receives him/her into eternal communion where no silence wounds, no separation hurts, and no heart waits forgotten.

There is also a message for us who remain behind. We cannot heal every sorrow, but we can become signs of God’s presence. A visit, a phone call, an invitation, a listening ear—these can become sacraments of hope. The opposite of loneliness is not merely company; it is love that notices another person.

A nurse once recalled caring for a dying patient who repeatedly whispered, “Don’t let me die alone.” The nurse held his hand through the night. After he passed away peacefully, she said, “I realized that sometimes the greatest gift is simply staying.” That is exactly what Christ does for us. He stays.

And so today, even in grief, we hold onto the promise of Jesus: *“I will not leave you orphaned.”* Our departed loved one now rests in the presence of the One who never abandons His children. May we also become people who notice the lonely, welcome the forgotten, and remain beside one another in love.

A little girl once drew a picture of heaven for her grandmother. In the drawing everyone stood close together holding hands beneath a great light. When asked why she drew it that way, she answered, “Because nobody is alone there.” That is the hope we celebrate today. In Christ, no one is forgotten, and no one is ever truly alone.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Brothers and sisters, trusting in the Lord who never abandons His children and who remains close to every lonely and sorrowful heart, let us bring before Him our prayers for the Church, the world, and our departed brother/sister.

1. For the Church:

That the Church may become a true home for the lonely, the forgotten, and the grieving, offering compassion, friendship, and the comforting presence of Christ to all who suffer in silence.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For all who suffer loneliness and isolation:

That the elderly, the abandoned, the widowed, the sick, and all who feel unseen or unloved may find strength in God’s promise: “I will not leave you orphaned.” **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3. For families, communities, and society:

That we may learn to notice those who are neglected or forgotten, becoming people who listen, welcome, and remain beside one another in love and compassion. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4. For those who care for the lonely:

That caregivers, nurses, volunteers, neighbours, priests, and all who offer companionship to others may be blessed and strengthened in their ministry of presence and kindness. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5. For our departed brother/sister N.:

That Christ, who remained faithful through every sorrow and silence of life, may now welcome him/her into the eternal communion of heaven, where no one is forgotten and all dwell forever in perfect love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,
You know every hidden sorrow and every longing of the human heart. Hear the prayers we place before You today and keep us always close to Your Son, who promised never to leave us orphaned. Grant eternal rest to our departed brother/sister and bring us one day into the joy of Your heavenly kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Praying that Christ, who never abandons His people, may receive both our gifts and our departed brother/sister into the eternal fellowship of heaven, let us offer this sacrifice with humble hearts, that our sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings placed upon Your altar as signs of our faith and hope.
May this holy sacrifice bring comfort to those who mourn, strength to hearts burdened by loneliness, and eternal peace to Your departed servant, who trusted in Your abiding presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For You never abandon Your children in moments of sorrow or isolation.
When human strength fails and earthly companionship fades, Your Son remains close to us, speaking words of hope and life.

In Him, the lonely find a friend,
the forgotten are remembered,
and those who mourn discover consolation.
By His Death and Resurrection,
He opened for us the way to the eternal home
where Your children will dwell together in joy forever.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of Your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus taught us that we are never abandoned children, but beloved sons and daughters of the Father. Trusting in that love which gathers us into one family, we now pray together in the words our Saviour gave us.

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we comfort one another with the compassion You have shown us
and remain close to those who suffer in loneliness or grief,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You said to Your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your
will.
Remain close to all who feel abandoned or forgotten,
and make us instruments of Your comforting presence in the world.
Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
In this sacred banquet Christ gathers His people into one
communion of love and promises eternal companionship in His
kingdom. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
You entered the loneliness of humanity
so that no one would ever walk alone again.
Remain near to us in our grief,
comfort hearts that ache with absence,
and lead our departed brother/sister
into the everlasting joy of Your heavenly home,
where all Your children are united forever in love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by the Body and Blood of Your Son,
we ask You, merciful Father,
to strengthen us with the assurance of Your presence.
May this sacrament console us in sorrow,
teach us to care for those who are lonely,
and bring our departed brother/sister
into the eternal fellowship of Your saints.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God who never abandons His children
comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you with the hope of eternal life. Amen.

May Christ, who promised, "I will not leave you orphaned,"
walk beside you always and fill your hearts with His peace. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit make you signs of compassion and
companionship to all who feel forgotten or alone. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, carrying the compassion of Christ to those who feel alone, and trusting that our departed brother/sister now rests forever in the loving presence of God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Loneliness may touch the human heart, but no one who belongs to Christ is ever abandoned.