

61. Funeral for Someone Who Battled Depression

Psalm 42 — “Why are you cast down, my soul?”

Mark 4:35–41 — Jesus calms the storm.

Theme: “Christ Is Present Even in the Darkest Storm.”

In moments when the heart feels overwhelmed, abandoned, or weary, the Lord does not turn away. Like the disciples in the storm-tossed boat, we may cry out in fear and confusion, yet Christ remains near. Even when inner darkness seems unbearable, His voice still speaks peace, hope, and life.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a lighthouse keeper lived alone on a rocky coast. During fierce storms, ships depended on the steady beam of his light. One winter night, exhausted and discouraged, the keeper wondered whether his work mattered at all. Yet the next morning he learned that several ships had safely reached the harbor because his light had continued to shine through the darkness.

Today we gather with heavy hearts to commend our beloved brother/sister to the mercy of God. Some struggles are visible to the world, while others remain hidden deep within the human heart. Depression can become a silent storm, leaving a person feeling isolated, exhausted, and overwhelmed. Yet the Gospel reminds us that Christ does not abandon those caught in the storm.

In today’s Gospel, the disciples cry out in fear as the waves threaten to sink their boat: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” Many people who suffer inward darkness have prayed similar words. But Jesus rises, speaks peace to the storm, and remains present even in fear and confusion.

As we now prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us bring before the Lord our own wounds, fears, failures, and moments when we doubted His presence, and ask for His mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You remain with us when fear overwhelms the heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You calm the storms that trouble our minds and souls:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You are the light that shines in every darkness:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in every trial, calm the storms within our hearts, heal us with His compassion, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

Merciful and compassionate God,
You know the burdens hidden within the human heart
and You never abandon Your children in moments of darkness and fear.

As we commend Your servant to Your loving mercy,
grant us the grace to trust in Your presence,
even when the storms of life seem overwhelming.
Strengthen our hope through the peace of Christ,
who calms every fear and leads us safely to eternal 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 man once shared that during one of the darkest periods of his life, he stopped answering phone calls, avoided friends, and rarely left his house. One evening there was a gentle knock at the door. It was an elderly neighbour who simply said, "I brought you some soup. You do not have to talk. I just wanted you to know someone remembered you." Years later, the man said, "That small act kept me alive because it reminded me I was not alone."

In today's Gospel, the disciples are caught in a violent storm. The waves crash into the boat, panic rises, and fear takes over. Meanwhile, Jesus appears asleep. Desperate, they cry out: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

Those words echo the silent cry of many hearts. People who battle depression often experience storms that others cannot see. From the outside, life may appear normal, yet within there can be exhaustion, fear, emptiness, loneliness, or hopelessness. Sometimes people wonder why faith does not immediately remove the darkness. Sometimes they ask: "Where is God in all this?"

Psalm 42 speaks honestly about that struggle: "Why are you cast down, my soul?" Scripture does not ignore human pain. God's Word recognizes tears, confusion, and emotional suffering. The Bible never tells us to pretend that everything is fine. Instead, it invites us to bring our wounded hearts before God.

There is a story of a young woman who carried a tiny candle during a nighttime prayer vigil. Someone asked her, "Why bring such a small candle when the darkness is so great?" She replied, "Because every

light matters when someone is trying to find their way." That is often how God works. Sometimes He calms the storm immediately. At other times, He sends small lights along the way: a kind word, a listening friend, a prayer, a helping hand, a moment of unexpected peace.

Depression can make a person feel isolated, even among people who love them. It can whisper lies that one is forgotten or beyond hope. But today's Gospel tells another story. Jesus was in the boat all along. Even when the disciples thought He was absent, He was near. Even when they feared they would perish, He remained with them.

We must remember this also for ourselves. Every person carries hidden struggles. Some wounds are emotional, some spiritual, some physical. The Church is called not to judge but to accompany, not merely to speak but to listen, not simply to advise but to love patiently.

A priest once visited a man in a psychiatric hospital. The man said quietly, "People keep trying to fix me. You are the first person who simply sat with me." Often the greatest healing begins not with answers, but with presence. Christ Himself entered human suffering and remained close to the broken-hearted.

Today, as we commend our beloved brother/sister into God's hands, we entrust to the Lord every burden, every fear, every hidden tear, and every unanswered question. God alone sees the full struggle of a human life, and God alone judges with perfect mercy and compassion.

And so we hold onto hope. The storm does not have the final word. Darkness does not have the final word. Death itself does not have the final word. Christ does.

There is an old story about sailors caught in a terrible storm at sea. For hours they fought against wind and waves until finally one sailor spotted a distant light from the shore. Exhausted but relieved, he whispered, "The light was there even when we could not see it clearly." Faith often works like that. Even in our darkest nights, Christ remains the light that never goes out, guiding His children safely home.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and hope amid the storms of human life, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings we place upon Your altar
as we entrust Your servant into Your loving hands.
May this sacrifice of Christ,
who calmed the storm and comforted the fearful,
bring peace to troubled hearts, healing to the wounded,
and hope to all who mourn.

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 love for humanity,
You do not abandon us in times of sorrow, confusion, or fear.
When the storms of life overwhelm us
and darkness fills the human heart,
Your Son Jesus Christ remains near,
speaking words of peace and hope.

In Him, the broken-hearted find compassion,
the weary find rest, and those who walk through suffering
are led toward the light of eternal life.

Through Christ's Death and Resurrection,
even death itself has been transformed,
for those who trust in You are not lost forever
but called into the peace of Your heavenly 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

In the storms and struggles of life, when words sometimes fail and hearts grow weary, Jesus teaches us to trust the Father who never abandons His children. With confidence in that love, we now pray in the words our Saviour gave us:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
and 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.
When fear overwhelms the heart,
when loneliness isolates the soul,
and when the storms within us seem stronger than our hope,
remind us that Your Son remains in the boat beside us,
speaking peace into our darkness and guiding us toward the light
that never fades.
Help us also to become signs of compassion and presence for those
who suffer silently,
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, 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.
You calmed the raging sea and strengthened the frightened hearts of
Your disciples; bring now Your healing peace to all who live with
anxiety, sorrow, loneliness, or inner darkness.
Teach us to recognize the silent struggles carried by others,
to listen with compassion, to remain present without judgment,
and to become gentle bearers of Your light in moments of despair.
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 who find refuge in Christ amid the storms of life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, in every storm You remain with us.
When hearts are weary and words fail,
Your presence still speaks peace.
May the soul of Your servant now rest
where no darkness remains,
where every tear is wiped away,
and where eternal light shines forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this sacred mystery
You have nourished us with the Body and Blood of Your Son.
Strengthen us with the peace that Christ alone can give,
comfort all who mourn,
heal wounded hearts,
and lead Your servant into the fullness of eternal joy and rest.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies,
who is close to the broken-hearted,
strengthen you in every trial
and fill you with the peace of His love.
Amen.

May Jesus Christ,
who calmed the stormy sea,
quiet your fears and guide you safely through every darkness.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
the Comforter and Giver of Hope,
remain with you always and bring you one day to 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 Christ walks with us through every storm
and leads His faithful ones into eternal light.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Even when the storm is within us and the night feels long, Christ
remains in the boat

62. Funeral for Someone with Addiction Recovery

Joel 2:12–17 — Return to me with all your heart.

Jn 8:1–11 — Woman caught in adultery.

Theme: “Mercy Restores What Addiction Tried to Destroy.”

In the struggle of addiction, there are wounds, falls, shame, broken relationships, and long battles hidden from many eyes. Yet today the Word of God speaks not first of condemnation, but of mercy.

Through the prophet Joel, God cries out: “Return to me with all your heart.” In the Gospel, Jesus refuses to reduce a wounded sinner to her failures. He lifts her up and opens a future: “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and sin no more.”

Today we remember a life marked not only by struggle, but also by courage — the courage to keep returning, to keep hoping, and to keep seeking healing. The mercy of Christ is greater than every weakness, and His grace continues working even through brokenness.

INTRODUCTION

A recovering addict once shared his story at a support meeting. He said: “Every morning I looked in the mirror and saw only my failures. But one day someone told me: ‘God still sees the person you can become.’ That sentence kept me alive.” Those words changed the way he faced each day. He no longer fought merely out of fear, but out of hope.

Addiction often traps people in cycles of shame and isolation. It convinces them that they are beyond forgiveness or incapable of change. Yet Scripture reveals a different truth: God never stops

calling His children back to Himself. Even when human strength fails, divine mercy continues searching for the wounded heart.

In today's Gospel, the woman caught in adultery stands surrounded by accusation and judgment. Yet Jesus does not humiliate her. He protects her dignity, silences condemnation, and invites her to begin again. Likewise, through the prophet Joel, God calls His people not to despair, but to return with all their hearts.

As we gather to commend our departed brother/sister to the mercy of God, we also acknowledge our own need for healing, forgiveness, and grace. Let us therefore turn to the Lord with humble hearts and ask pardon for our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You came to seek and save those who were lost:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You lifted up the fallen and restored dignity to the broken: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You never tire of calling sinners back to the Father's house: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who is rich in mercy and patient in compassion,
forgive us our sins,
heal the wounds caused by our weakness,
strengthen us when we fall,
and lead us from despair into the hope of His eternal love,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy is greater than human weakness and whose compassion never abandons those who seek You, look kindly upon Your faithful people gathered in prayer. Comfort us in our grief, strengthen us with the hope of redemption, and teach us to trust in the healing power of Your Son, who welcomes the sinner, restores the broken, and leads Your children into everlasting 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 man recovering from addiction once carried a small cracked cup with him wherever he went. Someone finally asked why he never threw it away. He replied, "Because this cup reminds me of my life. Broken — but still able to hold grace." That simple image speaks powerfully to us today.

Addiction wounds not only the body, but also the spirit. It can rob a person of confidence, relationships, peace, and even self-worth. Many who struggle with addiction live under constant judgment — from society, from others, and often from themselves. Yet today's Gospel reveals something extraordinary: Jesus refuses to define a person by their worst moment.

The scribes and Pharisees dragged the woman before Jesus not because they cared about holiness, but because they wanted condemnation. They reduced her entire identity to one failure.

But Jesus saw more. He saw a wounded daughter of God standing beneath the weight of shame.

There is an old story of a priest who regularly visited a rehabilitation centre. One evening he noticed a young man sitting alone after everyone else had left. The priest sat beside him and asked, "What frightens you most?" The young man answered, "That after all my failures, God must be tired of me." The priest quietly replied, "God has never once loved you only on your good days." Those words brought the young man to tears.

That is the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus does not deny sin, but neither does He allow sin to have the final word. Mercy has the final word.

Recovery itself is often a sacred struggle. It is rarely a straight road. There are victories, setbacks, relapses, moments of courage, and moments of exhaustion. Families too carry hidden pain — sleepless nights, disappointment, fear, helplessness, and prayers whispered through tears. Yet through all this, God continues saying what we hear in Joel today: *"Return to me with all your heart."*

A woman once described addiction recovery as learning to walk again after years in darkness. She said, "Some days I only took one step forward, but that one step mattered." In the Christian life, God does not ask perfection before He offers love. He walks with us step by step.

Today, as we pray for our departed brother/sister, we remember not only the struggle but also the courage. The courage to fight another day. The courage to hope after failure. The courage to return again and again to God's mercy.

The Cross of Christ tells us that no human life is beyond redemption. Jesus entered fully into human suffering so that no wounded person would ever suffer alone. Even when others lose patience, Christ remains faithful. Even when human strength collapses, divine grace remains.

There is a final story. A counsellor at a recovery home kept a lamp burning near the entrance every night. One resident once asked why he never turned it off. The counsellor answered, "Because some people come back after falling, and they need to know someone is waiting for them."

That is what God's mercy is like. Even in our darkest nights, the light remains on. And today we entrust our departed brother/sister into that eternal light where mercy, healing, and peace will never end.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in hope and trust in God's mercy,
for the healing of wounded hearts
and the salvation of 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
as we commend our departed brother/sister to Your mercy.
May this sacrifice of Christ,
which brings forgiveness and healing to the broken,
strengthen our hope in the victory of grace over sin
and lead us all toward the fullness 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 never abandon Your children in their weakness,
but continually call them back with tenderness and compassion.
In Your Son Jesus Christ,
You revealed a mercy stronger than sin
and a love capable of restoring the broken-hearted.

When shame weighed heavily upon sinners,
Christ spoke words of hope.
When others condemned,
He offered forgiveness and a new beginning.
Through His Death and Resurrection,
He opened the path from despair to eternal 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray to the Father
whose mercy welcomes His wandering children home
and whose love heals every wounded heart:

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,
especially from despair, discouragement,
and the wounds that weaken the human spirit,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.
Bring healing to hearts burdened by suffering,
strength to those still struggling with addiction,
and consolation to families carrying hidden pain.
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.
Behold the One who welcomes the weary, heals the broken,
and restores hope to those who return to Him with trusting hearts.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
You know the battles hidden within the human heart.
You know weakness, fear, shame, and longing.
Yet You never stop calling Your children back to Yourself.

May this Holy Communion strengthen our hope
that Your mercy is greater than every failure
and Your love stronger than every darkness.
Receive our departed brother/sister into Your eternal peace,
where suffering and struggle are no more,
and where Your healing light shines forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and renewed us in the hope of resurrection.
Comfort us in our sorrow,
strengthen us in our weakness,
and help us always to trust
in the mercy of Christ who restores the fallen
and leads His people into everlasting peace.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy
heal every wounded heart
and strengthen you in every trial.
Amen.

May Christ,
who welcomed sinners with compassion
and raised up those who had fallen,
grant eternal rest to our departed brother/sister
and peace to all who mourn.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
fill you with hope, courage, and trust
in the promise of everlasting life.
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 mercy of Christ
is stronger than every human weakness
and that His love never abandons those who seek Him.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“No life is beyond the reach of God’s mercy.
The Lord does not define us by our worst failures,
but by His unending desire to restore, heal, and save us.”

63. Funeral for Someone Estranged from Family

Romans 5:1–11 — Reconciled through Christ.

Luke 23:33–43 — The good thief.

Theme: “In Christ, No Distance Is Too Great for Reconciliation.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, an elderly father kept a small lamp burning every night near the front window of his house. His neighbours once asked why he never turned it off. Quietly he answered, “My son left home many years ago after harsh words between us. I do not know if he will ever return, but if one night he does, I want him to know there is still a light waiting for him.” The son never came back during the father’s lifetime, yet the lamp remained a silent sign that love had not died.

Family relationships can sometimes become wounded by misunderstanding, pride, disappointment, silence, or pain that lasts for years. Distances grow not only between homes, but between hearts. Yet today’s readings remind us that even when human reconciliation remains incomplete, God’s mercy continues reaching toward His children.

On Calvary, the good thief carried a broken past and no chance to repair many things in life. Yet in his final moments, he turned to Jesus with trust, and Christ opened to him the gates of paradise. Saint Paul reminds us that we are reconciled to God not because we are perfect, but because Christ loved us while we were still sinners.

As we gather to pray for N., we also place before God our own failures in love, our broken relationships, and the times we have withheld forgiveness or mercy. Trusting in the compassion of Christ

who reconciles all things, let us now acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You came to seek and save those who were lost:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You reconciled sinners to the Father through Your Cross: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You open paradise to all who turn to You with trust:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us the wounds we have caused by our sins,
heal what is broken within our hearts,
strengthen us in the grace of reconciliation and peace,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose mercy is greater than every human failure
and whose Son reconciled the world through the mystery of the Cross, look kindly upon Your servant N.
and upon all who mourn today.

Heal the divisions of the human heart,
strengthen us in forgiveness and compassion,
and lead us one day into the peace of Your heavenly kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away
and every separation is overcome in Your love.

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 woman once placed an unopened letter into the coffin of her brother before his funeral. Years earlier, the two had argued bitterly and stopped speaking to one another. Pride hardened into silence, and silence became years of separation. After her brother's sudden death, she wrote him a final letter saying everything she had never managed to say: "I never stopped loving you. I only stopped knowing how to return."

That painful reality is not uncommon. Sometimes the deepest wounds are not caused by strangers but by those closest to us. Families can carry invisible scars for years. Harsh words spoken in anger, misunderstandings left unresolved, disappointments never healed — all these can quietly build walls between hearts.

Today's Gospel brings us to another place of brokenness: Calvary. Beside Jesus hangs a criminal, a man whose life was marked by failure. He had no time left to repair his past, no opportunity to return stolen years, no chance to rebuild damaged relationships. Yet in his final moments, he turns to Jesus and says, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

And Jesus answers with astonishing mercy:
"Today you will be with me in paradise."

Notice what Jesus does not say. He does not rehearse the man's failures. He does not demand explanations. He does not ask whether every earthly relationship has been perfectly repaired. Instead, Jesus sees a wounded soul reaching out in trust — and mercy triumphs.

There is a story told of two brothers who farmed neighbouring lands but stopped speaking after a bitter inheritance dispute. One day, a carpenter arrived looking for work. Instead of building another fence between the properties, he quietly built a bridge across the stream separating them. When the brothers saw it, both stood silent. Then one slowly crossed the bridge and embraced the other. Sometimes reconciliation begins when someone chooses to build a bridge instead of another wall.

This is exactly what Christ does upon the Cross. Saint Paul says in today's reading that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus builds the bridge humanity could never build alone. His Cross stretches between heaven and earth, between wounded hearts and divine mercy.

Perhaps there were distances, hurts, or unfinished chapters in N.'s life. Perhaps some words remained unsaid. Funerals often awaken these realities within families and friends. But today the Church invites us not to remain imprisoned in regret. Instead, we place everything into the hands of the merciful Christ who alone sees the whole story of a human life.

A priest once visited an elderly man who had not spoken to his daughter in over twenty years. Near death, he quietly whispered, "Please call her." When she arrived, there were tears, silence, trembling hands — and finally forgiveness. Later the priest said, "The room became lighter after reconciliation happened." Forgiveness does that. Mercy brings light where bitterness kept darkness.

The good thief teaches us that it is never too late to turn toward Christ. And Christ teaches us that mercy always has the final word.

As we pray today for N., perhaps the Lord is also inviting each of us to examine our own hearts. Is there someone we need to forgive? Someone we need to call? A bridge we need to rebuild before time slips away?

There is an old tradition in some homes of leaving the porch light on for someone expected late at night. It quietly says: "You are still welcome here." The Cross of Christ is God's eternal light left burning for every lost and wounded child. No matter how far we wander, the mercy of God still waits for us to come home.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in hope and trust
to the God who reconciles His people through Christ,
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 Your mercy.
Through the sacrifice of Christ,
heal every wound caused by sin and division,
grant peace to Your servant N.,
and strengthen us to live as instruments of reconciliation 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,
through Christ our Lord.

For in Your great mercy
You never abandon those who stray far from You,
but continually call Your children back through the love of Your Son.
Upon the Cross, Christ stretched out His arms for the whole world,
opening paradise even to the repentant thief
and revealing that no human failure is greater than Your compassion.

In Him, broken hearts find healing,
the separated find hope of reunion,
and those burdened by sin discover the joy of forgiveness 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:

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,
trusting that our heavenly Father never closes His heart
to those who return to Him seeking mercy and 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,
as we strive to heal divisions, forgive one another,
and walk together in the reconciling love of Christ,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.

Heal the wounds of broken relationships,
soften hearts hardened by hurt or pride,
and teach us to become instruments of reconciliation in 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.
In Him the lost are welcomed, the sinner is forgiven,
and hearts divided by pain are offered peace and healing.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The mercy of Christ is wider than every human failure.
At His table, we are reminded that God never stops calling His
children home.
May the peace we have received today soften what is hardened
within us,
heal what is wounded among us,
and strengthen us to live with forgiveness, compassion, and hope.
And may N. now rest in the eternal embrace of the God whose love
never abandons His people.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of eternal life.
Strengthen our hope in Your mercy,
heal the divisions within the human family,
and bring Your servant N.
into the fullness of heavenly peace and reconciliation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy,
who reconciled the world to Himself through the death and
resurrection of His Son,
grant you peace in your sorrow and hope in your mourning.
Amen.

May Christ,
who opened paradise to the repentant thief,
welcome N. into the joy of eternal life
and teach us to walk always in forgiveness and compassion.
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 in the mercy of Christ
who reconciles what is broken
and calls every human heart home to the Father.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Christ does not ask whether our lives were perfect before He offers
mercy; He asks only whether we are willing to turn toward Him.”

64. Funeral for Someone Who Died During Sleep

1 Thes. 4:13–18 — “We do not grieve like those without hope.”

Mt 25:1–13 — Keep your lamps lit.

Theme: “Called in the Quiet of the Night: Awake in Hope, Ready for
the Lord.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a lighthouse keeper lived alone along a dangerous
coastline. Every evening, before darkness covered the sea, he
carefully lit the great lamp that guided ships safely through the night.
One stormy evening, exhausted after a long day, he considered
delaying the task for “just a few more minutes.” But he rose, lit the
lamp, and throughout the night unseen sailors were safely led
through the darkness. Only later did he learn that a fierce storm had
swept across the waters while most people slept peacefully in their
homes.

Our departed brother/sister was also called during the quietness of
sleep, in a moment hidden from the eyes of the world. The Gospel
today reminds us to keep our lamps burning, not in fear, but in
faithful readiness. Saint Paul consoles us with the words: “We do not
grieve like those who have no hope.” Death does not extinguish the
light of Christ; it leads us toward the eternal dawn.

The peacefulness of sleep often reminds us how fragile and
dependent we truly are. Every night we surrender control and entrust
ourselves to God without knowing what the next morning will bring.
In death, that final surrender becomes complete as the soul rests
entirely in the mercy and love of God.

As we gather before the Lord, we acknowledge that there were times when our lamps burned dim through sin, weakness, or forgetfulness. Therefore, with humble hearts and trusting in God's mercy, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call us to remain watchful and ready for Your coming: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You are the light that shines in the darkness and leads us to eternal life: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You awaken Your faithful servants from the sleep of death into everlasting joy: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who calls His faithful children from the darkness of this world into the light of His eternal kingdom, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son taught us to keep our lamps burning in faithful hope as we await His coming, grant that Your servant N., who was called from this life in the stillness of sleep, may awaken in the light of Your eternal presence.
Strengthen us who remain on our earthly pilgrimage, that we may live each day prepared in faith, steadfast in hope, and rich in love.
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 shared the story of an elderly man in a care home who had a simple nightly ritual. Before sleeping, he would place his worn Bible beside his pillow, fold his hands, and quietly say, "Lord, if You call me tonight, I am ready." One morning the nurses entered his room and found him peacefully departed, his face calm, his hands still folded in prayer. There was sorrow, yes, but also something deeply comforting — as though he had simply fallen asleep in the arms of God.

That image helps us understand today's Gospel. Jesus speaks of the wise virgins who kept their lamps lit while waiting for the bridegroom. The message is not about fear or anxiety; it is about readiness born of trust. None of them knew the exact hour when the bridegroom would arrive. What mattered was whether their lamps were burning when the moment came.

Death during sleep touches us in a unique way because it comes silently and unexpectedly. There are no final words, no long farewell, no last embrace. One moment a person rests in the stillness of night, and the next, they stand before the Lord. Yet Scripture does not speak of this with terror. Saint Paul tells us: "We do not grieve like those who have no hope." For the Christian, death is not a closed door but an awakening into eternal life.

A little child once asked her grandmother, "What is it like to die?" The grandmother smiled gently and answered, "It is a little like when you fall asleep in the living room and your father carries you to your bed. When you wake up, you find yourself somewhere more beautiful, and you realise you were carried there in love." That is the Christian hope. God carries His children home.

Jesus often used the image of sleep when speaking about death. At the house of Jairus, He said, "The child is not dead but asleep." At the tomb of Lazarus, He told the disciples, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep." Sleep suggests rest, peace, and awakening. For believers, death is not annihilation but rest in Christ until the dawn of resurrection.

There is another lesson hidden in today's Gospel. The wise virgins had oil for their lamps. Oil cannot be borrowed at the last moment. It represents the quiet faithfulness of daily life: prayer whispered when nobody sees, acts of kindness unnoticed by the world, forgiveness offered despite pain, perseverance through suffering, trust maintained during darkness. Readiness for eternity is built slowly in ordinary days.

A man once visited an old monastery and noticed that the monks treated every task with great care — sweeping floors, washing dishes, ringing bells. He asked one monk, "Why do you do even the smallest things so reverently?" The monk replied, "Because we never know which moment will be our last before meeting God." Not fear — but love made them attentive.

Today we entrust our departed brother/sister to the mercy of Christ. We pray that the Lord who called him/her during the silence of sleep now welcomes him/her into the eternal wedding feast where no lamp ever fades and no darkness remains.

And perhaps today's readings also ask something of us. Are our own lamps burning? Are we living awake to God, or merely drifting through life? One day each of us will experience that final night. But if Christ is our light, then even death itself becomes not an end, but the doorway to morning.

There is an old Christian inscription found in the catacombs of Rome. On a simple grave were written these words: "He went to sleep in peace." That is the faith of the Church. Those who die in Christ do not disappear into darkness. They rest in Him until He awakens them into everlasting life. May our departed brother/sister now sleep in the peace of Christ and rise in the glory of His eternal dawn. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in hope and trust before the Lord who calls His faithful servants into eternal light, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive the gifts we place upon Your altar as we commend Your servant N. into Your loving hands. May this sacrifice of Christ, who conquered the darkness of death by His Resurrection, bring comfort to the living and eternal rest to the departed. 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 have taught us to remain watchful, keeping the lamps of faith burning brightly as we await the coming of Your Son. Even amid the uncertainty of life and the silence of death, You do not abandon Your faithful people, but lead them from earthly rest into the eternal light of Your kingdom.

In Christ, death has become like sleep before the dawn.
Through His Resurrection,
the grave no longer speaks only of loss,
but of hope fulfilled and life transformed forever.
And so, trusting that Your servant N.
has been called into Your merciful presence,
we join the angels and saints in proclaiming Your glory, as we sing:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say the prayer of those who wait in hope for the coming of God's kingdom and trust that Christ will awaken His faithful people to 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,
as we live watchfully with lamps burning in faith and hearts prepared for Your coming.
Keep us steadfast in hope through the passing nights of life until we awaken in the light of Your eternal kingdom,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You told 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.
Comfort all who mourn today with the assurance that those who fall asleep in You shall awaken to everlasting joy, and make us instruments of Your peace as we journey 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.
Behold Christ, the eternal Bridegroom, who calls His faithful servants from the darkness of night into the banquet of everlasting light.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Night gives way to morning, darkness yields to light,
and those who rest in Christ shall awaken in glory.
Lord, in this Holy Communion
You have nourished us with the Bread of eternal life.
Strengthen our hope when death frightens us,
steady our hearts when life feels uncertain,
and teach us to live each day with lamps burning brightly in faith and love.
May our departed brother/sister now rest peacefully in Your presence, until the day when You gather all Your faithful people into the joy of the heavenly banquet.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
we have received the pledge of eternal life.
Mercifully grant that Your servant N.,
who has fallen asleep in Christ,
may rejoice forever in the light of Your presence.
And may we who continue our earthly journey
remain faithful and watchful until the coming of Your Son.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who calls His children from darkness into eternal light,
strengthen you in faith and fill you with hope.
Amen.

May Christ, the risen Lord,
whose victory over death has opened for us the gates of eternal life,
grant peace to the departed and comfort to all who mourn.
Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit
keep your lamps burning brightly in love and faithful readiness
until the day you rejoice in the kingdom where night shall be no
more.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting in the Lord who calls His faithful servants
from earthly sleep into the dawn of eternal life.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Every night we entrust ourselves to God in sleep; one day we shall
entrust ourselves to Him forever. Blessed are those whose lamps are
burning with faith, hope, and love when the Lord comes.”

65. Funeral for Someone Who Loved Nature

Romans 8:19–23 — Creation awaits redemption.

Matthew 6:25–34 — Birds of the air and lilies.

Theme: “All Creation Speaks of God’s Promise of New Life.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a park ranger told the story of an elderly man who visited the same forest every morning just before sunrise. He would sit quietly beside a lake, listening to birds awaken the woods. One day someone asked him, “Why do you come here every day?” The man smiled and answered, “Because when I watch creation wake up, I remember that God has not forgotten the world—and He has not forgotten me.”

Those who love nature often possess a special gift: they notice what others overlook. They see hope in new leaves after winter, strength in rivers that continue flowing, and beauty in the smallest living things. Through creation they learn patience, wonder, gratitude, and trust in God’s providence.

Today’s readings remind us that creation itself waits for redemption. Saint Paul tells us that all creation groans in expectation of renewal, while Jesus points to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field as signs of the Father’s loving care. The beauty of the earth is not eternal in itself; rather, it points beyond itself to the Creator who promises everlasting life.

As we gather in faith to commend our beloved departed to God, we also acknowledge the times we failed to trust the Lord’s care, the times we wounded His creation or neglected one another. Therefore, let us call to mind our sins and ask for His mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You reveal the Father’s loving care through the beauty of creation: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You calm anxious hearts and teach us to trust in divine providence: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You promise a new heaven and a new earth to those who hope in You: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who renews the face of the earth and restores all creation in Christ, forgive us our sins, heal what is broken within us, strengthen our hope in the resurrection, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, Creator of heaven and earth,
who reveal Your goodness
through the beauty of the world around us,
grant that we who mourn today
may find comfort in Your loving providence
and firm hope in the promise of resurrection.

As Your servant found joy and peace in the wonders of creation,
lead us also to recognize Your presence in all things
and one day bring us to the fullness of eternal life in 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 woman once shared how her grandfather planted a small tree on the day each of his grandchildren was born. Over the years those trees grew tall and strong. After he died, the family gathered beneath them, and one grandchild quietly said, “Grandpa is still teaching us that life continues.”

That is one of the great lessons nature teaches us: life moves through seasons, yet God continually brings forth renewal. Those who love the natural world often understand this deeply. They know that winter is not the end of the story. Beneath frozen ground, new life is already preparing to emerge.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us to look at the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. He does not point to kings or armies or wealthy merchants. Instead, He points to simple living things that depend entirely on God. Birds do not store away riches, yet God feeds them. Lilies do not struggle for greatness, yet God clothes them in beauty. Jesus is teaching us that behind all creation stands a faithful Father who cares for His children.

There is an old story about Saint Francis of Assisi walking with his companions through the countryside. Seeing birds gathered along the roadside, he stopped and began preaching to them about the goodness of God. The story may sound simple, yet its message is profound: creation itself becomes a choir praising the Creator. Every tree, river, mountain, and living creature silently speaks of God’s wisdom and love.

Those who spend time in nature often discover moments of healing there. A grieving man once said that after losing his wife, he could not bear the noise of crowds. So each evening he walked beside the ocean. At first he walked in silence and sorrow. But gradually, listening to the waves, watching the endless horizon, he began to pray again. Creation became a doorway through which God slowly reached his wounded heart.

Saint Paul tells us today that creation itself is “groaning in labor pains,” waiting for redemption. The world is beautiful, but it is also marked by suffering, decay, storms, droughts, and death. Human life shares this same reality. We love, we labor, we age, and eventually we die. Yet Saint Paul insists this is not meaningless suffering. Just as labor pains lead to birth, so too creation awaits a glorious renewal in Christ.

That promise is fulfilled in Jesus Himself. Christ entered our fragile world. He walked dusty roads, calmed storms, blessed fields and fishermen, prayed on mountains, and rose from the grave in a glorified body. His resurrection is God’s promise that death will not have the final word—not for humanity and not for creation itself.

There is a beautiful custom in some rural communities. When a great tree falls, people sometimes plant a new sapling nearby. The fallen tree nourished the soil; its life continues in another form. Christians do something similar whenever we gather for a funeral. Even in the presence of death, we plant seeds of hope. We proclaim that those who belong to Christ are not lost forever but are being prepared for eternal springtime in the Kingdom of God.

And so today, as we remember our beloved departed, we give thanks for a life that found joy in the beauty of God's creation. The forests, gardens, skies, birds, and oceans loved in this life were reflections of something greater still—the goodness of the Creator Himself. Now we entrust our loved one into the hands of that same loving God.

A young boy once asked his mother during a sunset, "Where does the sun go when it disappears?" His mother answered gently, "It is shining somewhere else." In faith, we believe that death is not the extinguishing of life, but the passing into God's eternal light, where all creation will one day be made new.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, drawn from the earth and the work of human hands, signs of God's goodness and providence, 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 hope.

As You provide for the birds of the air
and clothe the lilies of the field,
grant that Your servant,
who delighted in the beauty of creation,
may now behold forever
the glory of the new creation in Christ.
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 beauty of creation
You reveal signs of Your wisdom and love.
The changing seasons,
the abundance of the earth,
the songs of birds and the splendour of the heavens
all speak of Your goodness
and awaken hope within the human heart.

Even though creation bears the wounds of suffering and death,
You have destined it for renewal in Christ,
who by His Resurrection
opened for us the way to everlasting life.
In Him, sorrow is transformed into hope,
and death becomes the doorway to eternal joy.

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

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Jesus taught us to trust the heavenly Father who feeds the birds of the air, clothes the lilies of the field, and never forgets His children. With confidence in that loving providence and with hope in the resurrection, let us now pray 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 trust in Your loving providence,
which watches over all creation and guides us through every season
of life.

Strengthen our hope in the resurrection and renew the earth by Your
grace, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour,
Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You taught us through the birds of the air and the lilies of the field
to trust in the Father's care.

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 grieving hearts,
and help us to find in the beauty of creation
a reminder of Your abiding presence and eternal promise.
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 Him all creation finds its hope and renewal,
and through Him eternal life is opened to those who trust in the
Father's care.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The same God who feeds the birds of the sky
and clothes the fields with beauty
now nourishes us with the Bread of Life.

In every sunrise and every season,
God whispers that life continues.
May this Eucharist strengthen our hope
until the day when all creation is renewed in Christ
and we are gathered together in eternal peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have strengthened us
with the hope of resurrection.

May the peace found in Your creation
lead us ever closer to You,
and may Your servant,
whom we commend to Your mercy today,
rejoice forever in the glory of the heavenly kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God the Father,
who created the beauty of the earth and heavens,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen your hope. Amen.

May Jesus Christ,
who rose from the dead to renew all creation,
grant peace to your hearts and eternal rest to the faithful departed.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who fills the world with life and wonder,
remain with you always and guide you safely through every season
of life. 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 the peace of Christ,
trusting that the God who cares for every living thing
also holds our departed loved one in everlasting love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Every flower that blooms after winter, every sunrise after darkness,
and every seed that grows in silence reminds us of God's promise:
life is stronger than death, and in Christ all creation shall be made
new.

66. Funeral for Someone Known for Joy

Phil 4:4–9 — Rejoice in the Lord always.

Jn 15:9–17 — “That my joy may be in you.”

Theme: “The Joy That Christ Gives Cannot Be Taken Away.”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a hospital volunteer who was known for walking through the wards whistling softly each morning. One patient once asked her, “How can you still smile in a place filled with suffering?” She replied, “Because every room I enter still contains someone loved by God.” Over time, people noticed that her joy did not remove pain, but it made pain easier to bear.

Today we remember someone whose life carried that kind of spirit. Not a loud or superficial happiness, but a joy that lifted others, encouraged weary hearts, and reminded people that goodness still exists even in difficult times. Such joy becomes a quiet reflection of God's own presence.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples, “That my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” Christian joy is not based on perfect circumstances. It is born from knowing we are loved by God and held securely in His hands. Saint Paul echoes this when he writes, “Rejoice in the Lord always.”

As we gather in sorrow yet also in hope, we recognise that we have not always lived with that same trust and joy. At times we have allowed fear, resentment, or discouragement to darken our hearts. Therefore, let us now turn to the Lord who is rich in mercy and ask pardon for our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You came to fill our hearts with the joy of the Gospel:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You remained faithful through suffering and death:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You call us to eternal joy in Your heavenly kingdom:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who comforts the sorrowful, strengthens the weary, and fills His people with the joy that never fades, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
source of all true joy and lasting peace,
You gave Your servant the gift of bringing light and encouragement to others.

In Your mercy, welcome N. into the fullness of heavenly happiness,
where every tear is wiped away
and the faithful rejoice forever in Your presence.

Grant that we who mourn today
may continue to walk in hope, kindness, and trust,
until we are gathered together 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 teacher once kept a jar on her desk filled with bright coloured marbles. Whenever a student showed kindness to another person, she would quietly place one marble into the jar. By the end of the year, the jar was overflowing. On the final day, one student asked, “What do we win?” The teacher smiled and said, “You already did. You learned how joy grows when it is shared.”

That simple lesson reflects today’s Gospel. Jesus says, “That my joy may be in you.” Notice He does not speak about fleeting pleasure or easy happiness. He speaks about *His* joy — the deep joy that comes from love, faithfulness, and belonging to the Father.

The person we remember today understood something about that. Some people enter a room and bring tension; others bring peace. Some leave people feeling smaller; others leave them feeling grateful to be alive. A joyful person does not necessarily solve every problem, but somehow reminds others that life is still worth embracing.

There is a story of an elderly baker in a small town who woke every morning before dawn. Though his own life had known hardship, he greeted every customer warmly and always added one extra pastry for children who came with their parents. When asked why he did it, he replied, “People carry enough burdens already. If I can give them one small reason to smile, the day becomes lighter.” That is how Christian joy works. It becomes bread for the hungry heart.

Saint Paul writes from prison, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” Remarkably, he writes those words not from comfort, but from suffering. Christian joy is not denial of pain. It is the quiet conviction that darkness does not have the final word.

Even Jesus, on the night before His Passion, spoke about joy. He knew betrayal, suffering, and death were approaching, yet He still spoke of complete joy. Why? Because love remained stronger than fear. The Resurrection would come.

There is another story about a grandfather who used to laugh often with his grandchildren. After he died, one little boy asked his mother, “Will Grandpa still laugh in heaven?” She answered, “Yes — and every time we choose kindness instead of bitterness, we will hear an echo of it here.” That is part of the hope we hold today.

The joy this person shared was never meant to end at death. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every smile given to someone discouraged — these become seeds planted in human hearts. And God never loses what is planted in love.

Today grief is real. We mourn because love was real. Yet we also believe Christ’s promise: “That my joy may be in you.” The joy begun on earth is now entrusted to the mercy of God, where sorrow gives way to eternal gladness.

A monk once said that saints are people who leave behind “the memory of sunlight.” Some lives continue warming others long after they are gone. May that be true for the one we commend to God today. And may we leave this church carrying not only sorrow, but also gratitude — grateful that we encountered a life that reminded us how beautiful goodness, laughter, and faith can be.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

With humble hearts, let us bring these gifts of bread and wine before the Lord, praying that the sacrifice of Christ, who fills His people with lasting joy and hope, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts offered in faith and love
as we commend Your servant N. into Your merciful care.
May this holy sacrifice bring comfort to those who mourn
and strengthen us to live with the joy and generosity
that reflect the Gospel of Your Son.
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 not for sadness without hope,
but for the fullness of life in Your presence.
In Your Son Jesus Christ,
You revealed a joy that suffering cannot destroy
and a love stronger than death itself.

Through lives marked by kindness, laughter, compassion, and faith,
You allow glimpses of Your heavenly kingdom
to shine even in this passing world.
And so today, as we commend Your servant N. to Your mercy,
we thank You for every moment of goodness shared,
every burden lightened,
and every heart encouraged through a joyful spirit.

Therefore, 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 desires His children to live forever in the joy of His 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 remember the hope and joy promised by Christ to all who remain faithful in love.

May the memory of goodness shared among us strengthen our hearts until the day we are reunited in Your heavenly kingdom,
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.

In moments of grief, remind us that Your peace is deeper than sorrow and Your joy stronger than despair.
Help us become bearers of encouragement and hope to one another, as You 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 nourished by the love of Christ
and strengthened by the joy that comes from Him alone.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Joy leaves traces behind.
A kind word remembered years later,
a smile during difficult days,
a gentle presence that made life lighter.

Today we entrust all those memories to God.
Christ, whom we have received in this Eucharist,
is the source of everlasting joy.
May He now welcome His servant into that place
where laughter never fades,
love is never lost,
and every sorrow is transformed into eternal peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this sacred mystery
You have given us strength and consolation.
May the Body and Blood of Christ, received in faith,
bring peace to our hearts
and lead Your servant N. into the joy of everlasting life.
Teach us to live with thankful hearts,
sharing kindness and hope wherever we go.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
fill you with peace in your sorrow and gratitude in your memories.

May Christ, who promised His disciples lasting joy,
strengthen your hearts in faith and hope.

And may the Holy Spirit,
who renews weary souls with heavenly comfort,
remain with you always.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the joy rooted in Christ is never lost, but
brought to completion in the kingdom of heaven.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Joy shared in love becomes a light that death itself cannot
extinguish.”

68. Funeral for a Convert to Catholicism

Gal 2:19–20 — “It is no longer I who live...”

Jn 3:1–17 — Born anew.

Theme: “Born Anew in Christ: A Life Transformed by Grace.”

Through Baptism and faith, the Christian is reborn into a new life in Christ. The journey of conversion is not merely a change of religion, but a surrender of the heart to the living God. Today we commend our departed brother/sister to the Lord who first called him/her into new life and who now calls him/her into eternal life.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a man entered a cathedral during the middle of the day simply to escape the noise of the city. He intended only to sit quietly for a few moments before continuing on his way. Yet as sunlight streamed through the stained-glass windows and silence surrounded him, he found himself unexpectedly moved. Later he would say, “I walked in curious, but I walked out searching.” That small moment became the beginning of a journey that transformed his life.

The Gospel today tells us of Nicodemus, who came to Jesus searching in the darkness of night. Jesus spoke to him of being “born anew,” of receiving a life that comes not merely from human effort, but from the Spirit of God. Saint Paul echoes this mystery when he says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” Faith changes not only what we believe, but who we become.

Today we give thanks for the life of N., for the grace that led him/her to Christ and into the communion of the Catholic Church. Conversion

is always a work of God's patient love. The Lord calls each person by name, gently leading hearts toward truth, mercy, and hope.

As we gather around this altar, we also recognize our own need for renewal and grace. Let us ask the Lord to forgive our sins, strengthen our faith, and open our hearts more fully to the transforming power of His Spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call us to be born anew through water and the Holy Spirit: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You live within all who place their faith and trust in You: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You lead Your faithful people from earthly life into eternal glory: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, renew us through the grace of His Spirit, strengthen us in faith and hope, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose loving grace calls Your children to be born anew in Christ, grant that we who mourn N. today may find comfort in the promise of eternal life and be strengthened by the faith that transformed his/her heart and guided his/her journey. Teach us to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose for us, until we come to share forever in 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 young woman once restored an old abandoned house she had inherited from her grandparents. The walls were cracked, the roof leaked, and many told her it was beyond repair. Yet she patiently rebuilt it room by room. When asked why she spent so much effort on something so broken, she answered, "Because beneath all the damage, I saw what it could become."

That is often how God works in human life. He sees not only what we are, but what His grace can make us become.

In today's Gospel, Nicodemus comes to Jesus with questions deep in his heart. He senses there is something different about Jesus, something life-giving. Jesus tells him, "No one can see the Kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus struggles to understand because he thinks only in earthly terms. But Jesus speaks of a spiritual rebirth — a life transformed by grace.

Conversion is exactly that: not simply learning new prayers or entering a church building, but allowing God to reshape the heart.

There is an old story of a sailor who spent years navigating dangerous seas. One stormy night his ship nearly sank, and he promised God that if he survived, he would change his life. He survived, but at first he delayed fulfilling that promise. Yet the memory of that storm stayed with him until finally he returned to God completely. Later he would say, "The waves outside frightened me less than the emptiness within me." Many journeys of faith begin with

such moments — moments when people realize they are searching for something deeper than success, comfort, or routine.

For N., the Catholic faith became more than an idea; it became a home for the soul. The readings today speak beautifully of that transformation. Saint Paul says, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” Those words describe the heart of Christian conversion. Christ slowly becomes the center of one’s life, changing priorities, healing wounds, deepening love, and giving hope.

A teacher once placed a plain iron rod on a table before his students. “By itself,” he said, “this rod is cold and dark.” Then he placed it into a blazing fire. After some time, the rod glowed with the brightness and heat of the fire itself. “When iron remains in the fire,” he explained, “it begins to share the fire’s nature.” So too, when a soul remains close to Christ, it begins to reflect His compassion, His peace, and His light.

None of us lives perfectly. Every disciple struggles, doubts, and falls at times. Even Nicodemus, who first came to Jesus in the darkness, needed time to grow in courage. Yet eventually he stood openly beside Christ at the Lord’s burial. Grace works patiently in every human heart.

Today, as we pray for N., we remember that death is not the end of the journey. The God who began the work of renewal in Baptism now brings it to completion in eternity. The same Lord who called N. into new life on earth now calls him/her into the fullness of life beyond death.

There is a touching story of a child watching a caterpillar struggle within its cocoon. Thinking the creature was trapped, the child tried to cut the cocoon open. But the grandfather stopped him and

explained, “The struggle is what gives the butterfly strength to fly.” Faith, too, grows through struggle, searching, surrender, and trust.

And now N.’s earthly struggles are ended. We entrust him/her to the mercy of God, believing that Christ who transformed his/her life on earth now welcomes him/her into everlasting peace.

A monk once wrote in his journal shortly before his death: “I did not find God at the end of my journey. I discovered He had been walking beside me the whole way.” That is our hope today. The God who guided N. through every question, every step of faith, every joy and sorrow, now leads him/her home into the eternal light of His presence.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and thanksgiving for the new life Christ gave to N., may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings we place upon Your altar
as we commend N. to Your loving mercy.

Just as Your grace transformed his/her life through faith and Baptism,
may these sacred mysteries strengthen our hope
in the promise of resurrection and 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 in Your mercy

You call men and women from darkness into light
and through the waters of Baptism

You make them a new creation in Christ.

In every conversion of heart

Your Spirit is at work,

guiding souls toward truth, forgiveness, and peace.

In Your Son, Jesus Christ,

You revealed the fullness of Your love,

so that all who believe in Him

might not perish but have eternal life.

And though death brings sorrow to our hearts,

faith assures us that those reborn in Christ
are destined for everlasting 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: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray
with confidence to the Father who has made us His children through
the new birth of Baptism:

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 journey toward the fullness of life promised in Christ.

Strengthen our hearts with the hope that those reborn in Him shall
never be lost,

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.

Strengthen us with the peace that comes from knowing that life in

You conquers death,

and guide all searching hearts into the joy of Your truth and 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.

Through Him we are born anew and called into eternal life.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, You are the source of new life and eternal hope.
In this Eucharist You have nourished us with Your presence
and reminded us that those who believe in You never walk alone.
As we remember N. today,
help us to trust that the journey of faith does not end in death
but opens into the everlasting joy of Your kingdom.
May our hearts remain close to You
until the day we are reunited in eternal peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these holy mysteries
You renew and strengthen Your people.
Grant that we who have shared in the Body and Blood of Christ
may walk faithfully in the new life given to us through Baptism
and one day rejoice with N. in the eternal communion of Your saints.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who through His Son has given us the hope of eternal life,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen your faith. Amen.

May Christ,
who calls His people to be born anew through water and the Spirit,
lead you always in the path of truth, peace, and hope. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who transforms hearts by grace,
keep you steadfast in faith
until you share the joy of eternal life. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting in the Lord who makes all things new.
May the witness of N.'s journey of faith encourage us to walk
faithfully with Christ until we meet again in the kingdom of heaven.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Conversion is not a single moment but a lifelong journey of allowing
Christ to live within us. Those who are born anew in Him discover
that death is not an ending, but the doorway into eternal life.

69. Funeral for Someone Baptized Late in Life

Matthew 20:1–16 — Workers in the vineyard.

Titus 3:4–7 — Saved through rebirth and renewal.

Theme: “Never Too Late for the Mercy of God.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, an elderly man stood quietly at the back of a church during the Easter Vigil. He had spent most of his life far from faith. He had worked hard, raised a family, endured failures and disappointments, and carried questions in his heart for decades. That night, with trembling hands and tear-filled eyes, he stepped forward to receive Baptism. Afterward he simply said, “I wish I had come sooner—but I am grateful He never stopped waiting for me.”

Today’s Gospel speaks about workers hired at different hours of the day. Some came early, others came late, yet all received the generosity of the master. Jesus reminds us that God’s grace is not measured by human calculations. The Lord never stops calling His children into His vineyard, whether early in life or late in the evening.

Saint Paul, in the Letter to Titus, tells us that we are saved not because of our own achievements, but through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Baptism is always a gift of mercy, never a reward earned. Whether received in childhood or later in life, it marks the beginning of new life in Christ.

As we gather in faith and hope, we entrust our departed brother/sister to the God whose mercy never arrives too late. And aware that we too depend completely on that mercy, let us now acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You call workers into Your vineyard at every hour of life:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You wash us clean through the rebirth of Baptism and the renewal of the Holy Spirit:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You open the gates of paradise to all who trust in Your mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who never ceases to seek His children and call them into His kingdom, forgive us our sins, renew us by His mercy, strengthen us in faith and hope, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose mercy reaches us at every hour of life and whose love never grows weary of calling us home, grant that we who have been renewed through Baptism may live in the hope of eternal life and confidently entrust our departed brother/sister to Your compassionate embrace.
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 schoolteacher once decided, at the age of seventy-eight, to learn how to read music. When people laughed gently and asked why he was beginning so late, he replied, "Because I finally heard the melody clearly enough to follow it." Within two years he was singing in the parish choir with the joy of a child discovering something new.

That story reflects something beautiful about today's Gospel. The workers who arrived late in the vineyard may have thought they had missed their chance. Perhaps they stood in the marketplace all day feeling forgotten, unnecessary, or ashamed. Yet the master still went searching for them even in the final hour. And when evening came, he treated them not with suspicion, but with generosity.

This is how God acts. Human beings often keep score. We calculate who deserves more, who came first, who did enough. But God's mercy does not operate according to our mathematics. His concern is not simply how long a person walked with Him, but whether they finally opened their heart to Him.

Many people carry quiet regrets about time lost. A woman once admitted to her priest after entering RCIA in her sixties, "I spent most of my life thinking God was disappointed in me." After her Baptism she said, "For the first time, I feel like I've come home." That is the miracle of grace. God does not stand at the door saying, "Why did you take so long?" He says, "I'm glad you are here."

In the Letter to Titus, Saint Paul reminds us that salvation comes "through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." Baptism is not a medal for the perfect. It is the embrace of a merciful Father. It is God saying: "Your past does not define your future. Come and live in My grace."

Sometimes people imagine that faith is only for those who have always believed strongly. Yet throughout the Gospels, Jesus constantly welcomed those who arrived late—the tax collector, the thief on the cross, the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus in the tree. Again and again, Christ showed that no life is beyond redemption and no hour is too late for grace.

There is an old story about a lighthouse keeper who kept his lamp burning through a violent storm. Several ships safely reached the harbor that night because they saw the light in the darkness. Our departed brother/sister discovered that light later in life, but once discovered, it mattered deeply. The important thing is not how late the light was seen, but that it was followed.

And that is a message for all of us today. Every person here still hears the invitation of the Master: "You too go into my vineyard." The Lord continues to call, forgive, renew, and welcome. As long as life remains, grace remains possible.

A hospice nurse once spoke about a dying man who had been baptized only months before his death. In his final days he often held a small crucifix close to his chest. Shortly before he died, he whispered, "I thought I was searching for God all my life. Now I know He was searching for me." Perhaps that is the deepest truth of today's readings. Long before we seek God, He is already seeking us.

Today we commend our departed brother/sister into the hands of that merciful God, trusting that the One who called him/her into the vineyard will also welcome him/her into the eternal kingdom where grace never ends and where no one ever arrives too late.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in gratitude for the mercy of God who calls His children at every hour into His vineyard, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord our God,
receive these gifts which we place upon Your altar
as signs of our faith and hope.

As You renewed Your servant through the waters of Baptism,
so now welcome him/her into the fullness of eternal life,
where Your mercy and generosity endure forever.

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 cease to call Your children to Yourself.
At every hour of life
You invite us into the vineyard of Your kingdom
and renew us through the waters of rebirth and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Even when we wander far from You,
Your love remains faithful;
even when we arrive late,
Your generosity remains abundant.
In Christ Your Son,
You revealed that no life is beyond redemption
and no sinner beyond the reach of grace.

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

With trust in the Father whose mercy never tires of seeking His children and who welcomes all into His kingdom, let us pray 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 learn to trust more deeply in Your unfailing compassion
and never lose hope in the call
You continue to offer each human heart,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, You welcomed sinners, sought the lost, and revealed the boundless mercy of the Father. 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 compassion calm troubled hearts and strengthen all who still seek their way back to 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. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

God's mercy is wider than our failures and stronger than our delays. The Lord who called His servant late in life now calls him/her into the eternal joy of heaven. May we leave this Eucharist remembering that every day is another opportunity to answer God's invitation with trust, humility, and hope.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, through these holy mysteries You have nourished us with the Bread of Life. Strengthen our hope in Your mercy and lead us ever more deeply into the grace of our Baptism. May our departed brother/sister, who trusted in Your saving love, rejoice forever in the company of the saints. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy, who calls His children at every hour into His kingdom, comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ Jesus, who renews us through the waters of rebirth and prepares a place for us in eternal life, receive our departed brother/sister into His peace. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, the giver of life and the source of consolation, fill your hearts with faith in the Resurrection and sustain you with the peace that comes from God alone. 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 who began His work of grace in us will bring it to completion in the kingdom of heaven. Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

God's mercy is never limited by the hour of our arrival. Whether early or late, whoever turns toward Christ with faith discovers a Father who never stopped waiting.

70. Funeral for Someone Devoted to the Rosary

Revelation 12:1–6 — The woman clothed with the sun.

Luke 1:26–38 — The Annunciation.

Theme: “With Mary, Trusting the Promise of God.”

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, in a quiet village, an elderly woman was known for carrying a rosary everywhere she went. People would often see her waiting at a bus stop, sitting outside the church, or walking slowly through the market, her fingers gently moving over the beads. One day a child asked her, “Why do you keep praying the same words every day?” She smiled and answered, “Because every bead reminds me that God never stops loving us, and Our Lady never stops leading us to her Son.”

Today, as we gather to commend our departed brother/sister to the mercy of God, we remember a life shaped by prayer, trust, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The rosary was not merely a habit but a way of placing every joy, sorrow, fear, and hope into the hands of Christ through Mary.

In the Gospel, Mary responds to God’s call with humble faith: “Let it be done to me according to your word.” In Revelation, the woman clothed with the sun stands as a sign of hope and victory. These readings remind us that those who walk faithfully with God are never abandoned, even in the hour of death.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask pardon for our sins and pray for the grace to trust God as faithfully as Mary did.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you gave us Mary as a mother and guide on our journey of faith: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you hear the prayers whispered through the beads of the rosary and gather them into your heart: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you prepare a place in your heavenly kingdom for those who trust in your promise: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who looked with love upon Mary’s humble faith and who receives the prayers of all who call upon him with trusting hearts, forgive us our sins, comfort us in every sorrow, strengthen our hope in eternal life, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to bear your Son into the world
and who teach us through her example
to trust completely in your saving will,
hear the prayers we offer today for your servant N.

As N. found comfort in the prayer of the rosary
and sought the guidance of Mary throughout life,
grant now the joy of dwelling forever
in the company of your saints and angels.

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 sailor once told the story of being caught in a violent storm at sea. The sky was dark, the waves crashed against the boat, and fear spread among the crew. In the distance, however, he saw the steady light of a lighthouse. He later said, “The storm did not disappear immediately, but once I saw the light, I knew where home was.”

For many faithful Catholics, the rosary becomes like that lighthouse. In moments of fear, grief, uncertainty, or loneliness, those familiar prayers steady the heart and point the soul toward Christ. That was true for our departed brother/sister N. The rosary was not simply repetition; it was relationship. Every decade became a quiet journey through the life of Jesus with Mary beside him.

In today’s Gospel, we hear Mary’s response to the angel: “Let it be done to me according to your word.” Those words changed the history of the world. Mary did not understand everything that lay ahead — the joy of Bethlehem, the sorrow of Calvary, the silence of the tomb — but she trusted God completely.

The rosary teaches that same trust. It teaches us to place our lives into God’s hands one mystery at a time.

There is a story about Saint John Paul II. After surviving the assassination attempt in 1981, he credited Our Lady of Fatima for saving his life. He said, “One hand fired the bullet, another hand guided it.” In suffering, he turned not to despair but to Mary’s intercession and to Christ’s mercy.

Perhaps that is why so many people hold onto the rosary during illness, grief, or dying. The beads become almost like the hand of a mother leading her child through darkness.

In the Book of Revelation today, we hear of “a woman clothed with the sun.” The Church sees in this image both Mary and the faithful people of God. It is an image not of defeat but of victory. Evil does not have the final word. Death does not have the final word. God does.

A nurse in a hospice once shared how she sat beside a dying man who could no longer speak clearly. Yet his fingers kept moving gently as though counting invisible beads. Quietly she began praying the Hail Mary beside him. His breathing calmed, and tears rolled down his face. Even when words fail, faith remembers.

That is the beauty of the rosary. It carries faith when strength is gone.

Today we commend N. to the mercy of God with confidence. The same Mary who stood beside Jesus at the cross now stands beside all her children in their final journey. She does not replace Christ; she leads us to him.

And perhaps that is what the rosary really is: a path home.

There is an old tradition that when children are frightened at night, they reach for the hand of their mother before they can even see clearly in the dark. The child may not understand the night, but the mother’s hand is enough.

Today, in our grief and sorrow, we entrust N. into those loving hands — the hands of Mary that always lead to the heart of Christ — trusting that beyond the darkness of death shines the eternal light of resurrection.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with faith and trust, and united with the prayers of Mary and all the saints, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings we bring before you for the salvation of your servant N.

As the Blessed Virgin Mary pondered the mysteries of Christ in her heart, may these sacred gifts deepen our faith, strengthen our hope, and lead us safely toward 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 in your wisdom and love you gave us the Blessed Virgin Mary as a sign of faithful discipleship and enduring hope. Through her “yes,” your Son entered our world to conquer sin and death and open for us the gates of eternal life.

In every generation, you strengthen your people through her prayers and example. She comforts the sorrowful, guides the wandering, and leads the faithful always closer to Christ.

Today we thank you especially for the life of your servant N., who found strength in the prayer of the rosary and trusted in your promises through the loving care of Mary.

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 the trust of children who know that God hears every whispered prayer and never abandons those who place their lives into his hands.

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 the passing of N. and await the comfort of your kingdom.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, keep our hearts steadfast in faith and hopeful in your promises, so that even in sorrow we may walk confidently toward the light of 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, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Comfort all who mourn today, and through the gentle care of Mary, your Mother, calm every troubled heart with the hope of resurrection and eternal reunion. 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.
Through the loving guidance of Mary, we are led always to her Son,
who is the bread of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The rosary often begins in the hands of the living but ends in the heart of God. Today, having received Christ in the Eucharist, we remember that every prayer spoken in faith is heard by the Lord. May Mary, who accompanied N. throughout life, now accompany N. into the fullness of eternal joy, where sorrow and death are no more and where Christ reigns forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.

Grant that your servant N.,
who trusted in your mercy
and honoured the Blessed Virgin Mary through faithful prayer,
may rejoice forever in the company of Christ and his saints.

Strengthen us also in faith and hope,
that we may continue our earthly pilgrimage
with hearts fixed on the eternal kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation bless you in your sorrow and grant you peace.
Amen.

May Christ, who conquered death and opened the gates of eternal life, strengthen your faith and fill you with hope.
Amen.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who prayed faithfully beside the cross of her Son, accompany you with her maternal love and lead you safely toward Christ.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting in the promises of Christ and strengthened by the example of Mary. May the prayer of the rosary continue to guide your hearts until the day we are all gathered into the joy of eternal life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The rosary is not merely a prayer repeated with the lips; it is a journey of trust that places every sorrow, every hope, and every life into the hands of Christ through Mary.”

71. Funeral for Someone Who Loved Eucharistic Adoration

Exodus 16:2–15 — Manna in the desert.

John 6:51–58

Theme: “Fed by the Bread of Heaven, We Journey Home to God.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an elderly man who visited the church every afternoon for Eucharistic Adoration. One day someone asked him, “What do you say to Jesus for so many hours?” The old man smiled and replied, “I do not say very much. I look at Him, and He looks at me. That is enough.” In the silence of adoration, he had discovered the deepest companionship of life.

Today we gather to commend our beloved departed to the Lord whom he/she loved in the Eucharist. The readings speak of God feeding His people in the desert with manna and of Jesus declaring Himself the living Bread come down from heaven. Throughout life, our departed found strength, peace, and hope before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Eucharist was not merely a devotion but a way of living — learning to trust God in times of dryness, to remain faithful in weakness, and to receive each day as a gift from the Lord. The Bread of Life became nourishment for the journey of faith.

Now, as we stand before the mercy of God, we acknowledge the times when we hungered for lesser things and failed to trust the Lord who alone satisfies the heart. Let us ask pardon for our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You fed Your people with manna in the desert and never abandoned them in their need: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You are the living Bread come down from heaven to give life to the world: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You remain with us in the Eucharist as our strength, consolation, and hope: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen us with the Bread of Life in our earthly pilgrimage, heal every weakness of faith and love, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
You nourished Your servant throughout life
with the Bread come down from heaven
and taught him/her to seek Your presence
in the silence of Eucharistic adoration.

Grant that, strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ,
he/she may now rejoice at the eternal banquet of heaven,
and may we who continue our earthly journey
learn to hunger above all for You.

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 accompanied his grandmother to Eucharistic Adoration. After several minutes of silence, he whispered impatiently, “Grandma, nothing is happening.” She gently replied, “Something is always happening when we stay with Jesus. Even bread rises quietly.” Years later the boy would say that those silent hours before the Blessed Sacrament shaped his faith more deeply than many words ever could.

The Gospel today brings us to the heart of Christian faith. Jesus says: *“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.”* He does not merely give bread; He gives Himself. In the Eucharist, Christ becomes nourishment for weary hearts, strength for difficult days, and hope for the final journey home.

The first reading reminds us of Israel wandering in the desert. The people were tired, uncertain, and afraid. Yet God provided manna each morning — enough for the day. There is a touching story of a missionary priest who carried Communion for miles through mountain villages. Once, exhausted and discouraged, he asked an old woman why she walked hours each week just to attend Mass. She answered, “Father, because after receiving Jesus, I can carry the burdens of the week.” That is what manna does. That is what the Eucharist does. It sustains us one day at a time.

Our departed understood this deeply. Eucharistic Adoration is not simply about saying prayers; it is about allowing Christ to shape the heart. Many people kneel before the Blessed Sacrament carrying griefs, fears, regrets, and unanswered questions. Slowly, silently, Christ teaches them trust. Like a lamp that quietly burns through the night, His presence remains constant even when life grows dark.

There is another story of a nurse caring for a dying patient. Near the bedside was a small pyx containing Holy Communion brought earlier that day. The patient, too weak to speak much, simply pointed toward the Eucharist and smiled. The nurse later said, “I realized then that he was not dying alone.” For believers, the Eucharist is never merely a symbol. It is the assurance that Christ walks with us through suffering, through death, and into eternal life.

Today we entrust our beloved departed to the Lord whom he/she adored in faith. The One who fed him/her on earth now welcomes him/her to the heavenly banquet where hunger and sorrow are no more. And we who remain are reminded where true nourishment is found. Many things promise satisfaction in life — success, possessions, recognition — yet the human heart remains restless until it rests in God.

A teacher once asked her students what sunlight does for flowers. One child answered, “It helps them turn toward the light.” That is what Eucharistic Adoration does for the soul. It slowly turns the heart toward Christ. Our departed spent time before the Eucharistic Lord, and that gaze shaped a life of faith. May we too learn to seek strength not only in our own efforts but in the living Bread who alone gives eternal life.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and thanksgiving to the Lord who feeds us with the Bread of Life, 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/sister.

As he/she found comfort and strength
in the Eucharist during earthly life,
grant that these sacred mysteries
may lead him/her to 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 love You nourished Your people
with bread from heaven in the wilderness
and in the fullness of time You gave us Jesus Christ,
the living Bread come down from heaven.

Through the Eucharist You remain near to Your pilgrim Church,
strengthening the weary, comforting the sorrowful,
and giving hope to those who seek You
in silent adoration and prayer.

In this sacred mystery we learn that death is not the end,
for those who eat this Bread in faith
are promised eternal life in Christ.

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 feeds His children with the Bread
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 continue our earthly
pilgrimage nourished by the Bread of Life and strengthened by the
hope of the heavenly banquet, 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.
In moments of sorrow and loss, remain close to us through Your
Eucharistic presence and teach our hearts to rest in 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.
He is the living Bread come down from heaven, the food for our
journey and the promise of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Eucharist teaches us that God remains close even in silence. Like manna in the desert, grace is given day by day, often quietly and unnoticed. Our departed sought the face of Christ in adoration and found strength in His presence. Today we pray that the Lord who fed him/her on earth may now welcome him/her to the eternal feast where every longing is fulfilled and every tear wiped away.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have given us the Bread of Life
and renewed our hope in the resurrection.
Grant that our departed brother/sister,
who loved to adore Christ in the Eucharist,
may rejoice forever in Your presence,
and may we who remain
grow ever deeper in faith, hope, and love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
the living Bread come down from heaven,
strengthen you in faith,
comfort you in sorrow,
and lead you safely to the eternal banquet of heaven.

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 feeds His people with the Bread of Life and who calls His faithful servants to the eternal feast of heaven.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Those who spend time before the Eucharistic Lord slowly learn that true strength does not come from possessing much, but from remaining close to Christ, the living Bread who sustains us in life and leads us into eternity.

72. Funeral for Someone Who Frequently Went on Pilgrimage

Hebrews 13:14 — “Here we have no lasting city.”

Luke 24:13–35 — Road to Emmaus.

Theme: “Pilgrims on the Road with Christ”

Life is a pilgrimage toward the Father’s house. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus discovered that the risen Lord was walking beside them, so too N. journeyed through life seeking God in sacred places, prayer, and encounters. Today we entrust N. to the Lord who accompanies every pilgrim and leads them home to the eternal city.

INTRODUCTION

There are people who never travel merely to see places; they travel to seek meaning. N. was one such pilgrim. Whether visiting shrines, holy places, or humble chapels hidden along dusty roads, each journey carried a prayer in the heart and a longing for God. Pilgrimage was never simply movement across land; it was movement of the soul toward the Lord.

In today’s Gospel, two discouraged disciples walk the road to Emmaus. They believe their hopes have died, yet the risen Jesus quietly walks beside them. Only later do they realize that their hearts had been burning within them all along. The Gospel reminds us that every road of life—even the road of sorrow and death—is a place where Christ walks with his people.

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us: “Here we have no lasting city.” Every earthly journey eventually comes to an end, but God prepares for us a lasting home. The pilgrim’s staff is finally laid down, not in defeat, but in fulfillment, when the traveller reaches the Father’s house.

As we gather to commend N. to God’s mercy, we also acknowledge that along our own journeys we have sometimes lost our way, failed to recognize the Lord walking beside us, or grown weary in faith. Let us therefore ask God for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you walked beside the disciples on the road to Emmaus and renewed their hope: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you reveal yourself in the breaking of the bread and strengthen weary pilgrims: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful people to the everlasting city prepared by the Father: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who patiently walks beside us on every road of life, forgive us for the times we have wandered from his ways, restore hope to our weary hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source and destination of every human journey, you walked beside your servant N. through the pilgrim roads of this earthly life and nourished faith through prayer and devotion. As your Son accompanied the disciples to Emmaus, so now lead N. into the joy of your eternal kingdom, where every journey finds its fulfillment in you. 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 shared how he had walked part of the ancient Camino pilgrimage in Spain. One day, exhausted and discouraged, he sat alone by the roadside wondering whether he could continue. An elderly stranger approached him quietly, offered him a piece of bread and some water, and simply said, “Do not worry—the road also carries you.” Years later, the pilgrim said he could not remember the stranger’s face, but he never forgot the peace those words gave him.

The Gospel today tells us about another journey—two disciples walking toward Emmaus. Their steps are heavy with disappointment. Jesus had died, and with him, all their hopes. Yet unknown to them, the risen Christ himself walks beside them. He listens to their sorrow, explains the Scriptures, and finally reveals himself in the breaking of the bread.

That is often how God works in our lives. We expect dramatic signs, but Christ frequently comes quietly—through companionship, prayer, sacred places, and moments of grace along the road.

N. understood something of this mystery. Pilgrimage was important because it was never just tourism. Pilgrims travel not only with their feet but with their hearts. A pilgrimage teaches us that we are not meant to remain spiritually comfortable or stationary. Faith is a journey.

Someone once described a pilgrimage shrine this way: “People arrive carrying burdens invisible to the eye.” One comes seeking healing, another forgiveness, another gratitude, another simply searching for peace. And somehow, after lighting candles, praying quietly, or standing silently before God, they leave changed—not

because the road was easy, but because they encountered grace there.

That is exactly what happened at Emmaus. The disciples later say, “Were not our hearts burning within us?” The journey became holy because Christ was present on it.

The reading from Hebrews reminds us: “Here we have no lasting city.” Every pilgrimage eventually ends. Every traveler returns home. And every human life reaches a final horizon. Yet for believers, death is not the end of the road; it is the crossing into the eternal homeland God has prepared.

There is an old story about a monk who spent his life welcoming pilgrims to a monastery. Near death, someone asked him, “After all these years, what have you learned from pilgrims?” The monk replied, “Every true pilgrim knows that the road matters less than the One who waits at the end.”

Today we entrust N. to that loving Lord. The roads once traveled in faith now give way to the eternal journey into God’s presence. And for us who remain, the Gospel offers comfort: even when we do not recognize him, Christ still walks beside us. He accompanies us through grief, uncertainty, and hope, until the day we too reach the eternal city where every pilgrimage finds its rest.

A woman visiting the Holy Land once wrote in her journal after a long day of walking: “I came searching for holy places, but I discovered that the holiest thing of all was realizing that God had been walking with me the entire time.” That is the heart of today’s Gospel. The risen Lord walked with the disciples to Emmaus, he walked with N. through life, and he continues to walk with us now—until every road leads home to him.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered as we remember N., a fellow pilgrim in faith, and celebrate Christ who walks beside his people on every road, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts we place upon your altar
as we commend your servant N. into your loving care.
Just as your Son made himself known
in the breaking of the bread at Emmaus,
may this Eucharistic sacrifice strengthen our hope
that the faithful departed are welcomed
into the eternal homeland 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 not for wandering without purpose,
but to journey toward you,
the source of all life and peace.
Throughout our earthly pilgrimage,
you accompany your people with mercy and love,
guiding the weary, strengthening the doubtful,
and renewing hope through your Son.

In the Gospel of Emmaus,
Christ walked beside disciples burdened by sorrow
and transformed their grief into joy.
So too, in every age, he remains close to those who mourn
and reveals himself in the breaking of the bread.

Today we entrust your servant N. to your compassion,
confident that earthly journeys do not end in darkness,
but in the eternal city you have prepared
for those who seek you in faith.

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 guides all his children on the
journey toward the 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 journey through the changing roads of this life with Christ
beside us, guiding our steps toward the eternal homeland,
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, 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 you walked beside the disciples on the road to Emmaus, remain close to all who mourn today and strengthen us with the peace that leads to eternal life.

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

Every pilgrimage has moments of weariness, silence, and longing. Yet the disciples at Emmaus discovered that Christ was nearest precisely when they felt most lost. In this Eucharist, the Lord again walks beside us and nourishes us with the Bread of Life.

Today we pray that N., who sought God through many pilgrim journeys, may now rejoice in the eternal sanctuary where no road ends and no traveller is turned away. And may we who continue our earthly pilgrimage keep our hearts open to Christ, who still walks beside us each day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through this holy sacrament
you have strengthened us on our earthly pilgrimage.
Grant that your servant N.,
who sought you in faith throughout life's journey,
may now enter the heavenly Jerusalem,
the lasting city where Christ reigns forever.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies,
who accompanies his people on every journey,
grant you comfort in your sorrow and hope in your grief. Amen.

May Jesus Christ,
who walked beside the disciples on the road to Emmaus,
remain close to you and strengthen your hearts in faith. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
guide you safely through the pilgrim roads of this life
until you reach the eternal home prepared for you. 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 Christ walks beside his people on every road, until he leads them home to the eternal city.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith is not standing still but walking with Christ. The road may sometimes be long or uncertain, but the risen Lord journeys beside us, turning every path into a way that leads home to God.

73. Funeral for Someone Who Died on a Marian Feast

Rev 21:1–5

Lk 1:39–56 — The Visitation.

Theme: “Mary’s Song and God’s New Creation”

On a Marian feast day, N. was called from this world into the promise of the new heaven and the new earth. As Mary carried Christ with joy and hope in the Visitation, so the Christian journey ends not in darkness but in God’s dwelling where every tear is wiped away.

Today we celebrate the faith that trusted God’s promises and now rests in their fulfillment.

INTRODUCTION

There is an old tradition in many Catholic homes: on Marian feast days, families light a candle before an image of Our Lady and pray together, entrusting joys, fears, and loved ones into her care. For generations, believers have felt that days dedicated to Mary carry a special tenderness, because they remind us that God never abandons His people.

Today we gather with both sorrow and hope as we commend N. to the Lord. It is striking and deeply consoling that N. was called to eternal life on a Marian feast. In today’s Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth carrying Christ within her, bringing joy, comfort, and blessing. In the Book of Revelation, we hear God’s promise of a new creation where death and mourning will be no more.

This funeral Mass is therefore not only a farewell but also a proclamation of hope. The God who began His work in Baptism now completes it in eternity. Mary, who walked faithfully through life and stood beside the cross of her Son, accompanies believers on the final journey toward the Father’s house.

As we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for mercy, trusting that Christ came to heal the broken-hearted, forgive sinners, and lead His people into the new Jerusalem where every tear shall be wiped away.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you were carried by Mary as the hope of the nations:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you promise a new heaven and a new earth to those who trust in you: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you wipe away every tear and lead your faithful into eternal joy: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who through the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary leads His children safely home, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, comfort us in every sorrow, strengthen us in hope, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son was joyfully carried by the Blessed Virgin Mary to the house of Elizabeth and who prepare for your faithful people a new heaven and a new earth, grant that we who mourn the passing of N., may be strengthened by the hope of eternal life and comforted by the promise that you dwell forever among your 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 small village church once kept a centuries-old bell that rang only on the greatest feasts of the year. The people said its sound carried differently on Marian feasts — softer, gentler, almost like a mother calling her children home. One elderly parishioner used to say, “When Our Lady’s feast comes, heaven feels closer.” Today, as we gather for N.’s funeral on a Marian feast, those words touch our hearts deeply. Heaven does indeed feel closer.

The Gospel of the Visitation is a meeting filled with life and joy. Mary travels in haste to Elizabeth, carrying Jesus within her. The moment Mary arrives, Elizabeth’s child leaps for joy. Wherever Mary goes, she brings Christ; and wherever Christ is welcomed, hope awakens.

That is why the Church has always loved Marian feast days. They remind us that God enters ordinary human life gently, quietly, and faithfully. Mary does not draw attention to herself. Instead, she leads others to recognize the presence of God. Even her great hymn, the Magnificat, is not about herself but about the greatness of the Lord: “My soul magnifies the Lord.”

There is a story of a sailor caught in a violent storm at sea. Unable to see the shore, he noticed one steady light in the distance. He later discovered it was a Marian shrine built on the cliffs overlooking the ocean. The sailors called it “the mother’s lamp,” because whenever storms came, that light guided them safely home. Faith often works like that. In the storms of grief, God does not always remove the waves immediately, but He gives a light strong enough to guide us through them.

Today’s first reading from Revelation gives us that light. “I saw a new heaven and a new earth.” God promises not simply survival after

death, but renewal. “He will wipe every tear from their eyes.” Notice that Scripture does not say tears are ignored or forgotten. God Himself wipes them away. The hands that created the world become the hands that console His children.

Many people fear death because it feels like an ending. Yet for Christians, death is also a homecoming. On a Marian feast especially, we remember Mary’s own journey into God’s glory. The Church sees in Mary the image of what awaits all the faithful: not abandonment, but welcome; not emptiness, but fullness of life in Christ.

There is an old custom in some Catholic families: when someone dies, a Rosary is placed into their hands before burial. It is a simple but powerful sign. The beads speak of a lifetime of prayer, trust, struggle, and surrender. They also remind us that no believer walks alone. Mary accompanies the pilgrim people of God from birth to eternity.

In another town, a grieving daughter once said after her mother’s funeral, “I realized today that faith does not remove sorrow — it gives sorrow somewhere to go.” That is exactly what Christian hope does. We bring our grief to Christ. We place our tears into God’s hands. We entrust N. to the mercy of the Father.

The Visitation ends with joy and blessing. Revelation ends with a promise of all things made new. Between those two readings stands our human life — filled with love, weakness, prayer, struggle, and hope. Today we believe that the Lord who accompanied N. through earthly life now welcomes N. into eternal life.

And so we pray not only for N., but also for ourselves: that one day, when our own earthly pilgrimage is complete, we too may hear the voice of God saying, "Behold, I make all things new."

A monk once wrote that when believers die on a Marian feast, it is as though Our Lady herself stands at the doorway of heaven whispering, "Do not be afraid. My Son is waiting for you." Whether poetic or literal, the message is true: in Christ, death is not the final word. Love is. Mercy is. Eternal life is.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in hope of the new creation promised by God and in thanksgiving for the faithful journey of N., 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 in your mercy and hope in your promises.
As Mary carried Christ with joy,
may we carry within our hearts
the assurance that death is transformed by resurrection
and sorrow by the hope 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 in the Blessed Virgin Mary
you have given your Church
a sign of faithful hope and loving comfort.
Through her visitation to Elizabeth
you revealed the joy that comes
when Christ is welcomed into human life.

And in your promise of a new heaven and a new earth
you assure your faithful people
that death does not destroy the work of your love.
For you wipe away every tear,
renew all creation,
and call your children into your eternal dwelling.

Therefore, with Angels and Saints,
with Mary and all who trusted in your mercy,
we proclaim 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 promises to make all things new
and to gather His children 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,
as we walk in hope toward the new heaven and the new earth
where you will wipe away every tear
from the eyes of your faithful people,
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.

Comfort all who mourn today,
and let the gentle hope shown in Mary's visitation
strengthen us with the assurance
that your love is stronger than death.

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

Lord, in this Eucharist you have visited your people once again with grace and consolation. As Mary carried Christ to Elizabeth, you have brought your presence into our sorrow today. Strengthen our hope that N. now rests in your mercy and that one day we shall rejoice together in the new creation where death will be no more.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these holy mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and strengthened us in the hope of resurrection.
Grant that, comforted by the example of Mary and trusting in your
promise to make all things new, we may journey faithfully through
this life until we are gathered with N., and all your saints in eternal
joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation, who through the Blessed Virgin Mary
gave hope to the world through Christ,
strengthen you in faith and comfort you in sorrow. Amen.

May the Lord Jesus, who promises a new heaven and a new earth,
wipe away every tear from your eyes
and fill you with the hope of resurrection. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who sustains the pilgrim Church in love and hope,
guide you safely through this life
until you rejoice in the eternal kingdom of God. 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 makes all things new, and carry into the world the hope and consolation of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

A Marian feast reminds us that God never abandons His people.

Mary carried Christ to others in hope and joy; Christ now carries His faithful through death into the new creation where every tear is wiped away and love endures forever

74. Funeral for Someone Deeply Devoted to Prayer

1 Thess 5:16–24 — Pray constantly.

Lk 18:1–8 — The persistent widow.

Theme: “Persevering in Prayer Until We Meet the Lord”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a grandmother who lived alone in a small village. Every evening, without fail, a light could be seen from her tiny chapel room long after the rest of the village had gone to sleep. One day a neighbour asked her, “Why do you spend so much time praying?” The old woman smiled and replied, “Because before anyone speaks to me tomorrow, I want God to hear my voice tonight.” For her, prayer was not duty; it was friendship with God. Today we gather to pray for our dear departed brother/sister, whose life was deeply marked by prayer. Prayer shaped the rhythm of life, carried burdens, gave strength in suffering, and became a quiet witness to faith. The readings today remind us that prayer is not merely asking God for things, but remaining close to Him with trust and perseverance.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow who never gave up. Saint Paul urges us: “Pray constantly.” These readings assure us that God never ignores the prayers of His faithful people. Every whispered rosary, every silent tear offered to God, every candle lit in hope, every prayer for family and friends—all are remembered by the Lord.

As we now stand before God with humility, aware that even the faithful are in need of mercy and purification, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by acknowledging our sins and asking the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you taught us to pray always and never lose heart:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you listen to the cries of those who call upon you in faith:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful servants from earthly prayer into the joy of eternal praise: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who hears the prayers of the humble, forgive us our sins, strengthen our faith in moments of weakness, comfort us with the hope of eternal life, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
you taught us through your Son
to persevere in prayer and never lose heart.

As we commend our departed brother/sister to your loving mercy,
comfort all who mourn with the assurance
that the prayers offered in faith are never unheard before you.
Strengthen us to live each day in trust, hope, and faithful prayer
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 nurse once spoke about an elderly man in a hospital who had become too weak to speak much. Yet every morning she noticed his lips moving quietly. One day she leaned close and asked, “Are you in pain?” He gently shook his head and whispered, “No... just saying my morning prayers. I have spoken to God every morning for seventy years. I do not want to stop now.” Even at the edge of death, prayer remained his deepest habit and greatest comfort.

That story helps us understand today’s Gospel. Jesus tells us about a widow who keeps knocking, keeps asking, keeps trusting. She refuses to give up. The widow becomes an image of faith itself—a faith that prays not once, not occasionally, but continually.

Our departed brother/sister understood something very important: prayer is not magic; prayer is relationship. People who pray deeply are not necessarily spared suffering, but they are never alone in suffering. Prayer becomes the steady breathing of the soul.

Saint Paul tells us in today’s reading: “Pray constantly.” At first that sounds impossible. How can anyone pray constantly? Yet prayer is more than words. A mother preparing meals with love can pray. A worker doing honest labour can pray. Someone suffering silently and offering it to God can pray. A person sitting quietly before the Blessed Sacrament can pray without speaking at all.

There is another story about a farmer who visited the church every afternoon for only a few minutes. The parish priest became curious and asked him what he did during those short visits. The farmer replied, “I look at Him, and He looks at me.” That simple gaze was prayer.

Our departed brother/sister knew this kind of prayerful living. Perhaps there were rosaries prayed faithfully, novenas repeated countless times, prayers for children and grandchildren, moments of silent surrender during sickness or anxiety. Many of those prayers may never have been noticed by others, but God noticed them all.

Prayer also changes the heart slowly and quietly. Like water shaping stone over many years, prayer shapes a person into gentleness, patience, forgiveness, and trust. Those who remain close to God in prayer begin to reflect God's peace.

A teacher once told her students to write down the names of people who had influenced them most in life. Many students named not famous people, but grandparents and parents who prayed for them daily. One student wrote, "My grandmother taught me that when everything fails, prayer still works." That is a powerful legacy.

Today, as we commend our departed brother/sister to God, we believe those years of faithful prayer were not wasted words disappearing into the air. Every prayer uttered in faith was gathered into the heart of God. And now the prayer that sustained life on earth becomes eternal praise in heaven.

At the end of his life, Saint Augustine said that our hearts remain restless until they rest in God. Prayer is the journey of that restless heart toward its true home. Today we entrust our departed brother/sister into the loving hands of the God to whom prayers were offered throughout life. And we pray that one day, when our own earthly journey is complete, we too may join the communion of saints where prayer becomes everlasting joy in the presence of God forever.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered with faith and hope as we remember a life rooted in prayer and trust in God, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings
which we place upon your altar
as we pray for our departed brother/sister.
May the sacrifice of Christ,
to whom every faithful prayer rises,
bring purification, peace, and eternal rest.
Strengthen us also to persevere in faith and prayer
through all the days of our earthly pilgrimage.
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 seek you in faith.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you taught us to pray always and never lose heart,
trusting that every sincere prayer rises before your throne.

In the lives of your faithful servants,
you reveal the quiet beauty of persevering prayer:
hearts strengthened in suffering,

hope renewed in darkness,
and love sustained through daily trust in you.

And when earthly prayer comes to its end,
you call your servants into the eternal liturgy of heaven,
where tears are no more
and praise never ceases.

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 Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say the prayer that sustained our departed brother/sister throughout life and now unites us in hope 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,
as we trust in the power of prayer and in your unfailing love
that never abandons your faithful people,
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.

Comfort all who mourn today, and let hearts strengthened by prayer become instruments of reconciliation and hope 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 Eucharist, we receive the strength that sustained our departed brother/sister through a life of faithful prayer and trust in God.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Prayer often begins with words, but it ends in trust.
Throughout life, our departed brother/sister turned to God in moments of joy and sorrow, strength and weakness.
Today we pray that the Lord who listened to every earthly prayer may now welcome this faithful soul into the peace of eternal communion,
where prayer becomes everlasting praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries you have nourished us with the Bread of Life. Grant that our departed brother/sister, who trusted in you through faithful prayer, may rejoice forever in your presence. And strengthen us who remain to persevere in hope, faith, and prayer until we are united again in your heavenly kingdom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God who listens to the prayers of his people comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ, who taught us to pray always and never lose heart, lead our departed brother/sister into eternal peace. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit sustain you with faith, courage, and consolation in the days ahead. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting that every prayer offered in faith is heard by God, and carry into the world the hope and perseverance taught to us by Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

A life of prayer is never wasted, because every prayer draws the human heart closer to God, who faithfully remembers every word spoken in faith and love.

75. Funeral for Someone Known for Service

Gal 5:13–14 — Serve one another through love.

Jn 13:1–15 — Washing of the feet.

Theme: “Greatness in the Kingdom of God is Found in Loving Service.”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a village struck by heavy floods. While many fled to safer places, one elderly woman stayed behind in her small house because she could not walk. A quiet man from the village made several trips through the dangerous waters carrying children, food, and medicine to those trapped. Only later did people discover that he himself had lost most of his belongings in the flood. When someone praised him for his courage, he simply replied, “If we do not help one another, what kind of people are we?”

Today, in the Gospel, Jesus kneels before His disciples and washes their feet. The Lord of heaven chooses the place of a servant. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds us: “Serve one another through love.” Christian greatness is never measured by power, wealth, or recognition, but by the willingness to love and serve.

We gather today to thank God for the life of N., whose service touched many lives in quiet and meaningful ways. Acts of care, generosity, patience, and sacrifice become reflections of Christ Himself. Love expressed in service leaves traces that death cannot erase.

As we come before this altar, we also recognize the moments when we failed to love generously, when we chose comfort over compassion, or indifference over service. Let us therefore ask the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You came not to be served but to serve and to give Your life for many: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You knelt before Your disciples and taught us the humility of love: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You call us to serve one another through love and bring us into Your eternal kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who calls us to walk in the path of humble service
and merciful love,
forgive us our sins,
heal what is selfish within us,
strengthen us to follow the example of His Son,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son taught us that true greatness is found in humble service,
grant that we who mourn the passing of N.
may be inspired by the witness of a life given in love for others.
As Christ washed the feet of His disciples,
teach us also to serve with generous hearts
until the day when You welcome us 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 nurse once spoke about an elderly hospital cleaner who worked quietly in the corridors every night. He was not a doctor, not a surgeon, not someone whose name appeared on plaques or awards. Yet patients often asked for him. Why? Because he noticed people. He would stop to speak gently with those who were frightened. He would sit beside someone who had no visitors. Sometimes he prayed silently beside a dying patient. After he passed away, many nurses said that he had healed more hearts than medicines ever could.

That story helps us understand today's Gospel. Jesus, the Master and Lord, kneels with a towel around His waist and washes the dusty feet of His disciples. Peter is shocked because in their culture foot washing belonged to servants. Yet Jesus turns the world upside down: greatness is not found in being above others, but in bending down for others.

Saint Paul echoes this truth in today's reading: "Serve one another through love." Christianity is not only about believing correct doctrines; it is about becoming people whose love takes visible form in service.

N. tried to live that kind of love. Perhaps not with grand gestures known to the world, but through ordinary acts that became extraordinary because they were done with love. Service often hides itself in simple things: preparing meals, listening patiently, visiting the lonely, helping quietly, sacrificing personal comfort for family or community.

There is a story of Saint Teresa of Calcutta. A volunteer once complained to her that washing the wounds of dying people was

unpleasant work. Mother Teresa smiled and replied, “You are not washing wounds; you are touching Christ.” That is the heart of Christian service: seeing Christ in others.

Jesus did not simply teach service; He became service. On the Cross He gave everything — His strength, His dignity, His very life. Every act of selfless love participates in the love of the Cross.

Another story is told of a violinist who played beautifully in a crowded subway station, yet most people hurried past without noticing. Only a small child stopped to listen. Service is often like that: unnoticed by the world, but never unnoticed by God. Heaven remembers every hidden act of kindness.

Today we grieve because someone we loved is no longer physically present among us. Yet the service N. offered continues like ripples in water. Every life touched by kindness carries something forward.

And this brings us to hope. In the Gospel, Jesus says, “I have given you an example.” The One who served us unto death has also risen from the dead. Therefore, death does not have the final word. The hands that served on earth are now entrusted into the hands of God.

There is a final story about an old lantern lighter from years before electricity. Every evening he walked through the streets lighting lamps one by one. People rarely noticed him, but when darkness came, the whole town benefited from his quiet work. Service is like that. Those who bring light to others often walk unnoticed, but they make the journey easier for many.

Today we entrust N. to the Lord who washed feet, carried the Cross, and opened the gates of eternal life. May Christ, the Servant King, now welcome His faithful servant into the joy of His kingdom.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in gratitude for the life of loving service shown by N., and united with the perfect self-offering of Christ, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings which we place upon Your altar
as signs of our faith, gratitude, and hope.
As Your Son gave Himself completely in loving service for the
salvation of the world,
grant that N., who sought to serve others in charity,
may now share in 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 Son Jesus Christ
You revealed that true greatness is found in humble service.
He washed the feet of His disciples,
comforted the weary, welcomed sinners,
and gave His life upon the Cross for the salvation of the world.

In every act of kindness, compassion, and sacrifice,
Your grace continues to shine among Your people.
And in the life of N., we have seen reflections of that generous love
which seeks not reward but the good of others.

Even in death,
You do not abandon those who trusted in You,
for Christ who died and rose again
has opened for us the way to eternal life,
where every tear is wiped away
and the faithful rejoice forever in Your presence.

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 calls us to love and serve one
another as His children.

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 serve one another in love
and walk faithfully in the example of Christ.
Comfort all who mourn today
and strengthen us in lives of humble charity,
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 Your peace
through loving service and compassionate hearts.
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 Servant King who gave His life for us and calls us to love
one another through humble service.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love that serves never truly dies.
The hands that once helped, comforted,
and cared now rest in God's eternal mercy.
Christ, who knelt to wash the feet of His disciples,
now welcomes His servant into the house of the Father.
May we continue the work of love begun here on earth
until we meet again in the kingdom
where service becomes everlasting joy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
You have strengthened us with the Bread of Life.
May the example of Christ's humble service
remain alive within our hearts,
and may N., who sought to love others generously,
be welcomed into the eternal joy of Your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all compassion,
who sent His Son to serve and to save,
strengthen you in faith, comfort you in sorrow,
and fill your hearts with the peace that comes from loving one
another.

May Christ, the Servant King,
who conquered death through the Cross,
welcome N. into the eternal banquet of heaven
where every act of love finds its fulfillment.

May the Holy Spirit,
who pours the love of God into our hearts
and unites us in the communion of saints,
sustain you with hope and lead you in the way of peace.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in Christ who taught us that whatever is done in
love is never lost.
May we continue to serve one another through love until we are
gathered again in God's eternal kingdom.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

"The measure of a Christian life is not how much we gained for
ourselves, but how much love we gave in service to others."

76. Funeral for Someone Who Died Far from Home

Psalm 121 — “The Lord will guard your coming and going.”

Jn 14:1–6

Theme: “At Home in the Father’s House”

Though we journey through distant lands and uncertain roads, God never loses sight of His children. Even when death comes far from familiar places, Christ prepares an eternal home where every wandering heart finds rest.

INTRODUCTION

There is something deeply painful about dying far from home. Home is where memories live, where voices are familiar, where love first shaped us. When someone dies away from homeland, family, or the places that formed them, the grief often feels heavier because distance seems to separate even the final goodbye.

A sailor once said that no matter how rough the ocean became, he always slept peacefully because he trusted the lighthouse would guide him safely. He explained, “The shore may be far away, but the light knows where home is.” In today’s Gospel, Jesus becomes that light for us. He tells His disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am going to prepare a place for you.” Christ assures us that no child of God is ever lost, no matter how far the journey.

The Psalm reminds us: “The Lord will guard your coming and your going.” The God who watched over every step of N.’s earthly life now accompanies this final passage into eternal life. Human distances may separate us, but God’s love crosses every border and every sea.

As we gather in faith, we also recognize our need for mercy. At times we have wandered far from God, failed to trust His guidance, or neglected one another on life’s journey. Therefore, let us now ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the way that leads us safely to the Father’s house: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you accompany us when we feel lost and far from home: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you prepare for your faithful a dwelling place of eternal peace: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who guides His children through every road of life and leads the faithful into the eternal home prepared by Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son comforted His disciples with the promise of an eternal dwelling place, look with mercy upon your servant N., who has completed the journey of this earthly life far from home. Grant that, guided by Christ the Way, N. may be welcomed into the Father’s house of everlasting peace, and strengthen us with the hope that no distance can separate your children from your love.

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 priest once shared the story of an elderly immigrant who spent fifty years in a foreign land. Near death, the man held a small pouch of soil brought from his native village decades earlier. Every now and then he would open it, touch the earth, and remember home. But in his final moments he whispered to the priest, “Now I know my true home is not there anymore. My true home is with God.”

That longing for home lives in every human heart. We spend our lives searching for belonging, safety, and peace. We build houses, gather families, treasure memories, and form friendships because we desire a place where we are fully loved. Yet even the best earthly homes remain temporary. Life eventually teaches us that we are pilgrims.

That is why today’s Gospel is so comforting. Jesus speaks to anxious disciples who fear separation and loss. He says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” These are not empty words. Christ does not deny pain or grief. Instead, He gives a promise: “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.” He assures us that beyond the uncertainties of this world there is a permanent home prepared for us.

To die far from home can feel especially heartbreaking. Families may not arrive in time. Familiar rituals may be absent. Loved ones may feel the cruelty of distance. Yet the Gospel reminds us that no one

dies outside the reach of God. The Lord who guarded every coming and going also accompanies the final journey.

There is a touching story from World War II about a soldier who died far from his homeland. Before he died, he asked a nurse to read Psalm 121 aloud: “The Lord will guard your coming and your going.” Those words gave him peace because he believed God Himself would carry him home. Today that same Psalm strengthens us. God does not abandon His children in strange lands. His presence becomes homeland for the faithful.

Sometimes life itself feels like living far from home. People may feel displaced by grief, loneliness, migration, sickness, or failure. A woman once told her pastor after losing her husband, “I sit in the same house, but it no longer feels like home.” Loss changes us. Yet Christ speaks into those empty places and says, “I am the way.” He does not merely point toward heaven; He walks with us through sorrow into hope.

Another story tells of a little child waiting at an airport arrivals gate. Every few minutes the child would ask, “Will Daddy know the way home?” Finally the mother smiled and replied, “Even if he gets lost, he knows we are waiting for him.” That is the Christian meaning of death. Heaven is not merely a place; it is the Father waiting for His children.

And so today we entrust N. to the Lord. The earthly journey has ended, but the eternal journey has begun. The roads of this world may have led far from familiar places, but Christ has gone ahead to prepare a room in the Father’s house.

A traveller once wrote these words in his diary shortly before he died abroad: “I have seen many roads, many cities, and many faces. But

at the end, every road leads home to God.” That is our faith today.
We do not say farewell in despair. We commend N. into the hands of
the God who welcomes every faithful pilgrim home. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in faith for N.
who has now completed life’s journey,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord,
receive the gifts we offer
for the salvation of your servant N.
As Christ became the Way that leads us home to you,
may these sacred mysteries
bring comfort to those who mourn
and grant eternal rest to N.,
who trusted in your guiding 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 through your Son Jesus Christ
you have shown us the path that leads to eternal life.
When human hearts are troubled by separation and death,
He speaks words of peace and hope,

promising that in your house
there is a place prepared for all your faithful children.

Even when death comes far from familiar homes and loved ones,
your providence never abandons those who trust in you.
You guard their coming and going,
you accompany them through the valley of death,
and you welcome them into the eternal homeland
where sorrow and distance 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

With trust in the Father
who welcomes His children into the eternal home prepared by Christ,
let us pray 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 journey through this passing world toward our eternal
homeland.

Comfort those who feel distant, lost, or burdened by grief,
and keep our hearts fixed on the dwelling place prepared for us by
your Son,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.

Be close also to all who mourn today,
especially those separated by distance and loss,
and let your comforting presence become
their true home and refuge.

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

The journey of life leads through many roads—some joyful,
some lonely, some unexpected.
Today we remember that Christ walks every road with us.
He does not abandon His people in life or in death.
In this Eucharist, heaven touches earth,
and the promise of the Father's house becomes real for us again.
May N. now rest in that eternal home
where every tear is wiped away
and every wandering heart finds peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of life.
Strengthen our hope that, after all the journeys and separations of
this earthly life, we shall one day be gathered together
in the eternal home prepared by your Son.
Grant eternal rest to N., and comfort all who mourn in faith.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies,
who called N. through the journeys of this earthly life,
welcome him/her into the peace of the eternal homeland. Amen.

May Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life,
strengthen you in hope and guide you safely through every sorrow
and uncertainty. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter of the grieving and companion of
pilgrims, bring peace to your hearts
and keep you united in faith and love. 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 guards our coming and our going,
and that in Christ every faithful pilgrim is led safely home.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“No road is too distant for God's love. In Christ, every journey ends in
the Father's house.”

77. Funeral for Refugee / Migrant Parent

Lev 19:33–34 — Love the stranger.

Mt 2:13–15 — Flight into Egypt.

Theme: “God Walks with the Stranger: From Exile to Eternal Home.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of a refugee mother who arrived in a foreign land carrying only two bags and holding tightly to the hands of her children. At the immigration desk she was asked, “Do you have anything to declare?” Through tears she answered, “Only hope.” She had lost her homeland, her security, and almost everything familiar, but she refused to lose hope for her family. Many migrant parents know this silent courage: leaving behind what is loved in order to protect those they love even more.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that even the Holy Family became refugees. Joseph fled into Egypt with Mary and the child Jesus to escape danger and death. The Son of God himself knew what it meant to be displaced, unwelcome, and dependent on the kindness of strangers. In the first reading, God commands his people: “Love the stranger, for you yourselves were once strangers.” Our faith teaches us that God is especially close to those who journey far from home.

Today we entrust our departed brother/sister to the Lord who accompanies every migrant path, every anxious crossing, every sacrifice made for family, and every longing for home. The struggles borne with courage, the tears hidden from children, the lonely nights, and the quiet perseverance of a parent are all known to God.

As we gather around this altar, we also recognize our own need for mercy. At times we have failed to welcome others, failed to trust God during uncertainty, or become indifferent to the suffering of strangers. Therefore, let us now ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you became a refugee child and shared the suffering of displaced families: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you teach us to welcome the stranger with compassion and love: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lead your pilgrim people toward the eternal home of the Father: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who is rich in mercy and never abandons those who seek refuge in him, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in compassion and hope, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, loving Father of all peoples
and companion of those who journey in hope,
you guided the Holy Family in exile
and remained close to all who wander far from home.
Console us today as we mourn N.,
and strengthen our faith that you prepare an eternal dwelling
for all who trust in your mercy.
Teach us to welcome one another with generous hearts
until we are gathered together in your heavenly kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, ... Amen.

HOMILY

A journalist once interviewed an elderly migrant father who had worked for decades in a country far from his birthplace. The reporter asked him, “What was the hardest part of leaving home?” The old man paused and replied, “Pretending not to be afraid so my children could feel safe.” Those words reveal the hidden heroism of many migrant parents. Behind every new beginning there are sacrifices unseen by the world.

Today’s Gospel tells us that the Holy Family themselves became refugees. Joseph woke in the middle of the night, gathered Mary and the child Jesus, and fled into Egypt. Imagine the fear in Joseph’s heart. Imagine Mary holding the child tightly as they travelled through darkness into an unknown land. The Son of God entered human history not in security and privilege, but in vulnerability. Jesus knows the uncertainty of families forced to move, the fear of strangers, and the longing for safety.

The first reading from Leviticus carries a powerful command from God: “Love the stranger as yourself.” Why? “Because you yourselves were strangers.” Suffering can either harden the heart or deepen compassion. Many migrants become people of extraordinary generosity because they remember what it means to need kindness.

There is another story of a migrant mother who worked long hours cleaning offices at night. Her children once asked why she never bought anything for herself. She smiled and said, “Every sacrifice becomes lighter when it builds a future for those you love.” That is the love of a parent — a love that quietly carries burdens so that others may stand taller.

Today we remember N. not only for the struggles endured, but for the love that sustained the journey. A migrant parent often lives between two worlds: grateful for the new land, yet carrying memories of the old; building a future while grieving what was left behind. Yet through all this, faith often becomes the suitcase never abandoned. Prayer, trust in God, devotion to family, and perseverance become sources of strength.

Another migrant family once kept a small key from the house they had left behind in their homeland. For years they carried it wherever they moved. One day the youngest child asked, “Why keep a key to a house that no longer exists?” The grandmother answered, “Because it reminds us that one day God will open for us a home that can never be taken away.” That is the Christian hope we celebrate today.

For all of us, life itself is a journey. We are pilgrims moving toward the Father’s house. No earthly nation, house, or passport can fully satisfy the human heart. Saint Augustine once wrote: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” The migrant story reflects a deeper spiritual truth: all humanity longs for a permanent home in God.

And so we commend N. into the hands of the Lord who guided the Holy Family through exile and safely home again. We believe that Christ now welcomes N. into the eternal homeland where there is no fear, no separation, no borders, and no tears.

I end with another story. A refugee child arriving in a new country was asked at school, “Where is your home?” The child thought for a moment and answered, “Home is where someone waits for you with love.” Today our faith tells us that heaven is exactly that: the place where God waits for his children with everlasting love. May N. now rest in that eternal home. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours,
offered with hope in the God
who welcomes every pilgrim
and prepares an eternal home for his children,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these gifts we place upon your altar
as we remember N. with faith and gratitude.
As your Son once journeyed as a refugee among us,
may these sacred mysteries strengthen us
who still travel through this world
and lead our departed brother/sister
into the peace of your heavenly dwelling.
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 on their earthly journey.
You guided Abraham to a new land, protected Israel in exile,
and watched over the Holy Family
as they fled into Egypt seeking safety and peace.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you shared the uncertainty of the migrant
and the suffering of the displaced,

so that all who feel far from home
might know they are never far from your love.

And for your faithful people, Lord, life is changed, not ended.
When the journey of this earthly life is complete,
you open the doors of the eternal homeland
where every tear is wiped away
and your children dwell in peace 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

With trust in God our Father,
who welcomes every nation and every people into his house,
let us pray 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 journey through this passing world toward our eternal
homeland.

Strengthen all who are far from home,
protect displaced families,
and keep alive in us the hope of heaven,
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.
Comfort all who live with displacement, loneliness, or uncertainty,
and make us instruments of welcome and reconciliation
wherever people seek refuge.
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 companion of every pilgrim
and the refuge of all who seek peace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Eucharist reminds us that no believer walks alone.
Christ journeys with his people just as he walked with the Holy
Family into Egypt and accompanied countless weary hearts through
uncertainty and exile.
Today we pray that N. has reached the eternal home prepared by the
Father, where every longing finds fulfillment and every journey finds
peace.
May we who remain continue to carry one another with compassion
until we too are gathered into God's kingdom.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these holy mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Strengthen our hope as we continue our earthly pilgrimage,
and welcome N. into the eternal home
where your children live in peace and joy forever.
Teach us always to recognize Christ
in the stranger, the migrant, and the suffering neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God who guided the Holy Family in exile
protect and strengthen you in every journey of life. Amen.

May Christ, who welcomes the stranger and comforts the sorrowful,
fill your hearts with peace and hope. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit lead you safely toward the eternal homeland
prepared for all God's children. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting that God walks with every pilgrim,
comforts every grieving heart, and prepares an eternal home for his
faithful people.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Home is not only the place we come from; for the believer, home is
ultimately the place where God waits for us with eternal love.”

78. Funeral for Someone Killed in War

Is 2:2–5 — They shall beat swords into ploughshares.

Jn 15:12–17

Theme: “From the Violence of War to the Peace of Christ.”

INTRODUCTION

During the First World War, a young soldier was found carrying in his pocket a small, worn photograph of his family. On the back were written the words: *“Come home safe, and if not, come home to God.”* In the middle of fear, destruction, and hatred, those words reminded him that beyond every battlefield there remained a deeper truth — that human life belongs not to war, but to God.

Today we gather with grief in our hearts as we commend our departed brother/sister to the Lord after the tragedy of war and violence. War tears apart families, nations, and hopes. Yet the Word of God today speaks not of vengeance, but of a future where “they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,” and where Christ commands us to remain in love.

Jesus does not glorify violence. He calls humanity to friendship, reconciliation, and sacrificial love. Even amid human cruelty, the Lord remains near to the wounded, the grieving, and the innocent who suffer.

As we stand before God with our sorrow and questions, let us also acknowledge our own need for mercy — for the times we have failed to build peace, failed to forgive, or allowed anger and division to grow within us. And so, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile humanity and to break down the walls of hatred: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you taught us to love one another as you have loved us: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful people from the darkness of violence into the peace of your Kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
heal the wounds caused by hatred and violence,
strengthen us to become instruments of peace and reconciliation,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
Father of mercy and Lord of peace,
you sent your Son into the world
to gather humanity into the bond of love and reconciliation.
Look with compassion upon your servants
who mourn the loss of N.,
and grant that all who suffer from war and violence
may one day rejoice in the peace of your Kingdom.
Teach us to walk in your light, to reject hatred and division,
and to become builders of peace in our world.
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 chaplain once told the story of visiting a battlefield hospital during wartime. The room was filled with wounded soldiers from different nations. Some spoke different languages; some had fought against one another only days earlier. Yet one evening, during a power outage, a nurse quietly began singing the hymn *“Abide With Me.”* Gradually the room fell silent. One by one, soldiers joined in the melody — enemies singing the same prayer under the same darkness. For a brief moment, hatred gave way to humanity. That moment reflects the longing found in today’s readings.

The prophet Isaiah gives us one of the most beautiful visions in all Scripture: *“They shall beat their swords into ploughshares.”* Weapons become tools for life. Instruments of death become instruments of growth. God’s dream for humanity is not endless conflict but peace.

Yet we know how far our world remains from that dream. War leaves scars no words can fully heal. Families lose loved ones. Children lose parents. Homes become ruins. The death we mourn today reminds us painfully of the terrible cost of human violence.

And still, into this wounded world, Jesus speaks his command: *“Love one another as I have loved you.”*

Notice that Jesus speaks these words not in peaceful comfort but on the eve of his own suffering and death. He knew betrayal, hatred, injustice, and violence. Yet he refused to answer hatred with hatred. On the Cross he prayed, *“Father, forgive them.”*

There is a story from the trenches of Christmas 1914 during World War I. Soldiers on opposing sides unexpectedly stopped fighting. They climbed out of their trenches, exchanged food and

photographs, buried the dead together, and even played football in the muddy fields. For one sacred night, they remembered that before being enemies they were human beings. The world later called it the “Christmas Truce.” It remains a reminder that even amid violence, the human heart still longs for peace.

Our departed brother/sister became one more victim of a world that often forgets the sacredness of life. Today we grieve not only a death, but the cruelty that caused it. Yet faith tells us that violence does not have the final word. Christ risen from the dead has overcome hatred, sin, and death itself.

Another story is told of a mother who lost her son in war. Years later, she planted olive trees on the land where fighting had once taken place. People asked her why she chose olive trees. She replied, “Because somebody must begin the peace that others failed to protect.” That is Christian hope — refusing to let hatred reproduce itself.

Today the Gospel calls us not only to mourn but also to choose the path of Christ: forgiveness over revenge, reconciliation over division, peace over violence.

At every funeral, we place our trust in the mercy of God. We entrust N. into the hands of the Lord who knows every fear, every wound, every tear, and every moment of suffering. Christ, who himself died through violence, now welcomes the faithful into a Kingdom where war shall be no more.

A survivor of war once said, “After every battle, what people desire most is not victory but home.” Today we pray that N. has come home — home to the eternal peace of God, where every wound is healed, every tear is wiped away, and love remains forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts,
offered in hope and in prayer for N.
and for a world longing for peace,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive the offerings we place upon your altar
as we pray for your servant N.
May this sacrifice of Christ,
who conquered hatred through love
and death through his Resurrection,
bring comfort to the grieving, peace to troubled nations,
and hope to all who suffer from violence.
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 family
to live in harmony and peace,
and you sent your Son, Jesus Christ,
to reconcile all people through the blood of his Cross.

In him, hatred is overcome by forgiveness,
violence is defeated by love,
and death is transformed into the promise of eternal life.

Though we grieve today
for the loss brought by war and human cruelty,
we place our trust in your mercy,
for you gather the faithful into a Kingdom
where justice and peace endure 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:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...

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 —
a Kingdom of peace, reconciliation, and 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,
as we mourn the wounds caused by hatred and violence
and strive to become instruments of your peace in the world,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.
Strengthen all who work for reconciliation among nations,
comfort those wounded by war,
and teach humanity to walk in the ways of peace.
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 him hatred is overcome by love and death is transformed into
eternal life. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Body of Christ received today reminds us that God does not
abandon humanity in its suffering. Christ enters the brokenness of
the world to heal, reconcile, and save. As we pray for N., may we
also pray for all victims of war, for grieving families, and for the
courage to build peace wherever we are. The peace of Christ begins
in hearts willing to love, forgive, and hope again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, that through this sacrament of peace
we may draw closer to Christ your Son,
who gave his life for the salvation of the world.
May our departed brother/sister N.

share in the joy of your heavenly Kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away
and everlasting peace reigns forever.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies,
who called humanity to live in peace,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ, who overcame hatred through the power of the Cross,
grant eternal rest to N.
and make you witnesses of reconciliation and love. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
the giver of peace, heal the wounds of grief
and guide the nations of the world toward justice and unity. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ.
Let us carry into the world the courage to reject hatred, to protect life,
and to become instruments of God's peace.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

War reminds us how fragile human life can be, but Christ reminds us
how powerful love can be. The Christian response to violence is not
revenge, but the difficult and holy work of peace. Every act of
forgiveness, compassion, and reconciliation becomes a small victory
of God's Kingdom over the darkness of the world.

79. Funeral for Someone Who Died in Childbirth

Rom 8:28–39 — God works all things for good.

Jn 16:20–22 — Sorrow turned into joy.

Theme: “Love That Gives Life: From Sorrow to Eternal Joy”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story of a candle lit during a stormy night. A mother, holding her newborn child close, placed a candle by the window so that the father returning home could find his way safely through the darkness. By morning, the candle had burned low, but the family was together in warmth and love. Sometimes love shines brightest when it gives everything it has.

Today we gather with hearts weighed down by sorrow at the death of N. in childbirth. This kind of loss leaves many questions and tears that words cannot easily answer. Yet the Scriptures today speak gently into our grief. Jesus tells his disciples, “Your sorrow will turn into joy,” and Saint Paul assures us that nothing—not even death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

In giving life to another, N. reflected something holy and Christ-like: a love willing to pour itself out completely. Though this moment feels filled with darkness, faith tells us that God does not abandon his children in suffering. He holds both mother and child in tenderness beyond our imagining.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us bring before the Lord our grief, our questions, our fears, and also our hope. Trusting in God’s mercy and love, let us ask pardon for our sins and pray for hearts open to the promise of eternal life.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you comfort those who mourn and bind up the broken-hearted: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you transformed the sorrow of the Cross into the joy of Resurrection: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you gather the living and the dead into the embrace of your eternal love: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who knows the pain of grieving hearts and whose Son conquered death through the Cross, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in hope, comfort us in our sorrow, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose love is stronger than death
and whose compassion never fails,
look kindly upon your servants gathered in sorrow today.
As we mourn N.,
who gave herself in bringing new life into the world,
grant us the grace to trust
that Christ transforms sorrow into eternal joy.
Strengthen our faith, console our hearts,
and keep us united in the hope of the Resurrection.

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 shared the story of a young mother in a maternity ward. Complications arose suddenly, and despite every effort, the mother died shortly after giving birth. Days later, the nurse saw the grandmother holding the baby near the hospital chapel. Through tears she whispered, “Your mother loved you before she ever saw your face.” That child would grow up never remembering his mother’s voice, yet he would spend his whole life shaped by her love.

Today, many hearts feel shattered because the joy expected at a birth has been overshadowed by death. Birth is supposed to bring celebration, laughter, and plans for the future. Instead, we stand before mystery and grief. Yet into this sorrow, Jesus speaks words that seem written for this very day: “You will grieve, but your grief will become joy.”

Jesus does not deny sorrow. He does not pretend pain is unreal. Even he wept at the tomb of Lazarus. The Gospel today compares sorrow to a woman in labor: pain that eventually opens into life. N.’s death in childbirth painfully mirrors that image. Her suffering was not meaningless. In giving life, she participated in one of God’s deepest gifts—the gift of self-giving love.

There is a story told of pelicans in ancient Christian symbolism. People once believed that when food was scarce, a mother pelican would wound her own breast to feed her young with her blood. Early Christians used that image for Christ, who gave his life so others might live. Whether legend or not, the image endured because it reflects the truth of sacrificial love. In a different but profoundly real way, N.’s love became life-giving.

Saint Paul tells us today: “Nothing can separate us from the love of God.” Not tragedy. Not fear. Not death. The bond of love created in God does not disappear at the grave. The child born through N.’s sacrifice will forever carry her gift of life. Her family will forever carry memories of her tenderness, laughter, generosity, and care. Love leaves traces that death cannot erase.

A teacher once asked children how they knew they were loved. One little girl answered, “Because my mother always stayed until I fell asleep.” Love is often found in ordinary acts—staying, caring, sacrificing, remaining faithful. N.’s final act became the deepest expression of that love.

Today we also remember Mary standing beneath the Cross of Jesus. She knew what it was to hold life close and then experience unbearable sorrow. Yet God transformed Good Friday into Easter morning. Christianity does not promise a life without tears; it promises that tears are not the final word.

And so, even now, faith asks us to hold sorrow and hope together. We grieve because love is real. But we hope because Christ is risen. The same Lord who conquered the tomb now receives N. into eternal peace.

There is another story of a child who asked why stars only appear at night. The grandfather answered, “Because some lights can only be seen in darkness.” In these painful days, the love, courage, and faith revealed through N.’s life may shine more clearly than ever before. And we trust that one day, when all tears are wiped away, sorrow itself will give way to the joy Christ promised—a joy no one can take away.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in love and in hope of the Resurrection, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings which we place upon your altar
as signs of our faith and hope.
In your mercy, welcome N. into the joy of your kingdom,
and strengthen all who mourn
with the peace that comes from Christ's victory over death.
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 created us for life that never ends.
Even when sorrow and death touch our lives,
your Son Jesus Christ remains our hope and our resurrection.

Today we remember N.,
whose love brought new life into the world.
In the mystery of suffering and sacrifice,
we see reflected the love of Christ himself,
who gave his life so that others might live.

Through the Cross, you transformed grief into hope
and opened for us the promise of eternal 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Gathering our sorrow, our hope, and our trust into one prayer, and remembering that God is the loving Father who never abandons his children, let us pray in the words Jesus himself taught 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 with hope and trust in your unfailing love.
Comfort all parents, families, and children who carry hidden grief,
and remind us that your love is stronger than death,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.
In moments when sorrow overwhelms us, let your gentle peace hold
our hearts and renew our trust in the promise of eternal life.
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

Love poured out is never lost in the eyes of God.
Today we remember a life given in love,
a sorrow held by grace,
and a promise spoken by Christ himself:
“Your sorrow will turn into joy.”
In the quiet of this moment,
may the Lord draw near to every wounded heart
and fill us with the hope of reunion in his eternal kingdom.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this sacrament of salvation
you have strengthened us with the Bread of Life.
Comfort us in our grief
and deepen our trust in your promise
that those who die in Christ shall live forever.
Grant eternal rest to N.
and surround all who mourn with your enduring peace.
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 the Resurrection.
Amen.

May Christ,
who transformed suffering into eternal life,
receive N. into the joy of his heavenly kingdom.
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 love revealed in Christ is stronger than death,
and that those who sleep in him shall rise to eternal joy.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Some loves shine most brightly in sacrifice.
Though sorrow fills our hearts today,
Christ promises that love given in faith is never lost,
and that sorrow itself will one day be transformed into eternal joy.”

80. Funeral for a Couple Who Died Together

Song of Songs 2:10–13; 8:6–7

Jn 15:9–12

Theme: “Love Stronger Than Death”

The readings reveal a love rooted in God himself — a love faithful through seasons of joy and suffering, a love that no waters can quench and even death cannot destroy. Today we commend this husband and wife into the hands of the Lord who first united them in love and now calls them together into eternal communion.

INTRODUCTION

Dear brothers and sisters, today we gather with both sorrow and wonder as we commend to God this beloved couple who journeyed through life side by side and were called from this world together. Their shared departure has touched many hearts because it reminds us how deeply two lives can become woven into one another through years of love, sacrifice, forgiveness, and fidelity.

An elderly neighbour once spoke about her husband after more than fifty years of marriage. She said, “We no longer finished each other’s sentences; we carried each other’s silences.” Love matures in that way. It becomes less about grand words and more about faithful presence. The Song of Songs speaks of such love: “Deep waters cannot quench love.” Jesus today commands his disciples: “Love one another as I have loved you.”

As we pray for this couple, we also remember that every human love finds its meaning and fulfilment in God. Marriage is not only a companionship for earth but a sign pointing toward the eternal union

God desires with his people. Today we entrust them to the Lord whose love is stronger even than death.

And so, aware that we have not always loved faithfully or generously, let us turn to the Lord with repentant hearts and ask for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you loved us with a faithful and enduring love:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you taught us that no sacrifice is greater than love given for others: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you prepare an eternal home for all who remain in your love: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, heal whatever in us has wounded love, strengthen us in faith, hope, and charity, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose love is eternal and whose mercy never fails,
you joined this husband and wife in a covenant of faithful love and allowed them to walk together through the seasons of life. As we commend them to your compassionate care, grant that all who mourn may find comfort in your promises and renewed trust in the victory of Christ over death.

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 visited the grave of his grandparents every anniversary of their wedding. Someone asked him why he continued the practice after so many years. He answered, “Because theirs was the first love that taught me God could be trusted.” That is perhaps one of the greatest gifts a married couple can leave behind — not wealth, not achievements, but a witness that faithful love is possible.

Today’s readings speak powerfully about love. The Song of Songs proclaims, “Love is strong as death... deep waters cannot quench love.” Human history often tells us that everything fades — beauty, strength, health, even memory. Yet Scripture dares to say that love endures. Real love survives hardship, sacrifice, misunderstanding, sickness, aging, and finally even death itself.

Jesus deepens that truth in the Gospel when he says, “Remain in my love.” Christian love is not simply emotion or romance. It is participation in the very love of Christ. It is patient when life becomes difficult. It forgives when wounded. It stays when leaving would be easier.

There is a story of a husband caring for his wife who no longer recognized him because of illness. Every morning he fed her breakfast at the nursing home. A nurse once asked him, “Why do you keep coming when she no longer knows who you are?” He smiled gently and replied, “Because I still know who she is.” That is

love shaped by grace — faithful not because circumstances are easy, but because the heart has learned to give itself completely.

Marriage forms people slowly. Two lives begin separately, but over years they become deeply intertwined — through ordinary routines, shared burdens, laughter at family tables, tears in hospital rooms, prayers whispered at night, and countless unnoticed sacrifices. Love grows quietly in daily fidelity.

Another couple married for decades were once asked the secret of their lasting marriage. The husband answered, “We never fell out of love at the same time.” There is wisdom there. Every lasting relationship survives because people choose love repeatedly, especially during difficult moments.

Today we mourn this couple because love leaves an empty place when it departs from our sight. Yet Christian mourning is never hopeless. Jesus does not say merely, “Love one another.” He says, “As I have loved you.” His love passed through suffering and death into resurrection. Therefore, those who lived in love remain alive in God.

Their shared death speaks to us with unusual tenderness. They walked together in life, and now we entrust them together into eternity. But even more beautiful than their love for one another is God’s love for them. Human love reaches its fulfillment in divine love.

A child once drew a picture after losing both grandparents. In the drawing were two small figures holding hands while walking toward a great light. When asked what it meant, the child simply said, “God didn’t let them walk alone.” That is our hope today. The Lord who

accompanied them through earthly life now leads them into the fullness of peace and joy.

So today we give thanks for the witness of faithful love. We pray for this husband and wife. And we ask the Lord to teach us all how to love more generously, more patiently, and more faithfully — until we too are gathered into the eternal communion where love never ends.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in thanksgiving for the faithful love witnessed in this husband and wife, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings placed upon your altar as we commend to you this beloved couple.

May the sacrifice of Christ,
which reveals love stronger than death,
bring them cleansing, peace, and eternal joy,
and strengthen us who remain
to live in faithful charity toward one another.
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 every true love,
and in the covenant of marriage
you reveal a reflection of your faithful care for your people.

In the lives of this husband and wife
you allowed love to grow through years of shared joys and burdens,
teaching them patience, sacrifice, forgiveness, and hope.

Even in the face of death your love remains victorious,
for Christ your Son has conquered the grave
and opened for us the gates of eternal life.
In him, love is never lost,
and those who have walked together in faith
are entrusted to your everlasting embrace.

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

United by the love of God that gathers every family into one, and
trusting that Christ prepares an eternal home for those who remain in
his love, let us pray with confidence to the 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,
as we remember that every act of faithful love shares already in your
eternal kingdom.

Keep us united in charity
until we are gathered with all our loved ones
in your heavenly home, 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.
Comfort all who mourn today,
and teach us to live with the same faithful love
that reflects your own enduring presence among 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.
In this Eucharist we encounter the love of Christ
that remains faithful beyond death
and gathers his people into eternal communion.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love leaves traces that never disappear completely.
A familiar chair, a shared prayer, an old photograph,
a remembered laugh —
these remain in the hearts of those who loved deeply.
Yet today the Eucharist reminds us
that the deepest memory is held by God himself.
The Lord remembers this husband and wife with perfect love
and welcomes them into the eternal banquet
where every tear is wiped away and love reaches its fulfilment.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the Bread of Life.
Grant that this husband and wife,
who shared their earthly pilgrimage in love and faith,
may rejoice forever in the communion of your saints,
and may all who mourn them
find comfort in the promise of resurrection and eternal reunion.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies,
who created us for love and eternal life,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen your hope. Amen.
May Jesus Christ, whose love conquered death,
welcome this husband and wife into the peace of his kingdom
and remain close to all who mourn them. Amen.
May the Holy Spirit, the bond of everlasting charity,
help you live faithfully in love
until the day you are reunited in the house of the Father. Amen.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that love offered in Christ is never lost, and
carry into the world the hope that faithful love is stronger than death..

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Deep waters cannot quench love.”
The greatest legacy we leave behind is not what we possessed, but
how faithfully we loved. In Christ, every act of genuine love is
gathered into eternity, where love never ends.

81. Funeral for Victim of Natural Disaster

Psalm 46 — “God is our refuge and strength.”

Matthew 8:23–27 — Jesus calms the sea.

Theme: “Christ Our Refuge in the Midst of the Storm”

INTRODUCTION

A coastal village once experienced a terrible storm that swept away homes, fields, and treasured belongings. After the waters receded, the villagers gathered in the little church that still stood on the hill. They came carrying grief, questions, and silence. The old pastor simply opened the doors, lit one candle before the crucifix, and said, “The storm was strong, but God is stronger still.” In that fragile light, the people found courage to begin again.

Today we gather with hearts wounded by the painful loss of N. The suddenness and force of natural disaster often leave us searching for answers. We feel how fragile life can be and how powerless human beings are before the forces of nature. Yet the Word of God today speaks not of abandonment, but of God’s presence amid chaos.

In the Gospel, the disciples panic as the waves crash against their boat, but Jesus rises and calms the sea. Psalm 46 reminds us: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” The Lord does not promise a life without storms, but He promises never to leave us within them.

As we place before God our sorrow, fears, and questions, let us first ask pardon for our sins and pray for hearts that trust more deeply in the Lord who calms every storm.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are our refuge when fear overwhelms us:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you calm the storms that trouble the human heart:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful ones into the peace of eternal life:

Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us the times we doubted His presence in the storms of life, strengthen us in faith and hope, comfort us in every sorrow, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, our refuge and unfailing strength,
you remain near to your people
even in moments of fear, loss, and disaster.
As we mourn the passing of N.,
grant us the grace to trust in your Son,
who calmed the raging sea
and brought peace to troubled hearts.
Console all who grieve,
strengthen us with the hope of the Resurrection,
and lead us safely to the eternal harbor 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 man once described surviving an earthquake that destroyed much of his town. In the middle of the night, as walls shook and people screamed, he ran outside holding his frightened child. Later he said, “What I remember most was not the noise of the disaster, but the sound of my daughter asking, ‘Dad, are you still here?’” He answered, “Yes, I’m here.” Years later he reflected, “That was enough for her to stop trembling.”

That simple story helps us understand today’s Gospel. The disciples are caught in a violent storm. The boat fills with water, and fear overtakes them. Experienced fishermen suddenly realize they are helpless. Meanwhile Jesus sleeps peacefully. In panic they cry out, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” Before calming the sea, Jesus first speaks to their hearts: “Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?”

Natural disasters shake more than the earth or sea; they shake the human spirit. They confront us with painful questions about suffering, fragility, and loss. The death of N. has brought such pain into our hearts. There are moments when grief feels like waves crashing endlessly against us. We may even wonder where God is in all of this.

But today’s Gospel reminds us that Christ is in the boat. Even when He seems silent, He is present. Even when the storm rages, He has not abandoned His people.

There is a story of a lighthouse keeper during a violent cyclone. Throughout the night he kept the light burning despite the winds battering the tower. Many ships survived because they could still see that light through the darkness. Faith often works like that lighthouse.

It does not always remove the storm immediately, but it gives direction and hope while we pass through it.

Psalm 46 declares, “God is our refuge and strength.” A refuge is not a place where storms never come; it is the shelter that protects us when they do. Today the Church becomes such a refuge. We gather not because we fully understand tragedy, but because we believe death does not have the final word.

Another family who lost their home in a flood spoke about finding an old family Bible among the debris. The pages were damaged, but one line remained clearly readable: “Be still and know that I am God.” They framed that page and placed it in their rebuilt home as a reminder that God remained with them through everything.

That is the Christian hope we proclaim today. Christ who calmed the sea also conquered death itself. The Lord who spoke peace to the winds now speaks eternal peace to N. The storm of earthly life has passed, and we pray that N. may now rest safely in the calm harbor of God’s eternal love.

And we who remain behind are invited not to surrender to despair. Storms may leave scars, but they can also deepen compassion, unite communities, awaken faith, and teach us what truly matters.

A sailor once said that after surviving many storms at sea, he learned one lesson above all: “The anchor matters most when the waves are highest.” Today our anchor is Christ. The winds of grief may still blow strongly, but the Lord remains with us. And because He is with us, we can continue forward with hope, trusting that one day every storm will give way to eternal peace.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and hope amid the storms of earthly life, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings we place upon your altar
for N. and for all who mourn.
As your Son brought peace to fearful hearts upon the sea,
grant that these sacred mysteries
may strengthen us with consolation and hope.
May N. be welcomed into the safety of your eternal kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away.
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 moments when fear and sorrow overwhelm us,
you remain the refuge of your people.
Through the storms of earthly life,
you guide us with the light of Christ,
whose power calmed the raging sea
and whose Resurrection conquered death forever.

In him we discover that suffering does not destroy hope,
nor does death separate us from your love.
For those who trust in you

are led safely toward the eternal shore of peace,
where grief and fear 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 Lord...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, let us pray
with confidence to the Father who remains our refuge and strength in
every storm:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days, and sustain all who struggle
beneath the weight of grief, fear, and loss.
Strengthen our trust when life's storms seem overwhelming, and
keep our hearts anchored in the hope of Christ's Resurrection,
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.
In the midst of the storms and sorrows of this world,
make us signs of comfort and hope for one another.
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 calms every storm
and leads his people into eternal peace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
in this Eucharist you have drawn near to us
in our grief and weakness.
When fear rises like stormy waves within us,
teach us to trust that you remain in the boat beside us.
Receive N. into the peace of your kingdom,
and strengthen us until the day
when all tears are wiped away forever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by these sacred mysteries,
we humbly ask you, Lord,
to strengthen us with the peace of Christ,
who calms troubled hearts and brings hope amid sorrow.
May N., for whom we have prayed today,
rejoice forever in your presence,
and may all who mourn be comforted
by the promise of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
be your refuge in every trial and sorrow.
Amen.

May Christ, who calmed the stormy sea,
bring peace to your hearts and lead N. into eternal rest.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you with hope,
that you may walk forward in faith and courage.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting that Christ remains with us in every storm
and leads his faithful ones to eternal peace.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Storms can shake the world around us, but they cannot separate us
from the presence of Christ. When fear rises and answers seem
distant, faith reminds us that the Lord is still in the boat, guiding us
toward the peace that never ends.

82. Funeral for Someone Who Died During Pandemic

Lamentations 3:22–26

John 6:37–40

Theme: “His Mercy Is New Every Morning”

In a time marked by fear, separation, uncertainty, and loss, Christ remains faithful to his promise: “I will not reject anyone who comes to me.” Even amid the wounds of the pandemic, God’s compassion does not fail. Today we entrust our beloved dead into the hands of the risen Lord whose mercy renews hope and whose love is stronger than isolation and death.

INTRODUCTION

During the height of the pandemic, many hospitals around the world placed a simple tablet or phone beside the beds of the dying so families could say goodbye through a screen. One nurse recalled an elderly man who could barely speak, yet when he heard his daughter whisper, “Dad, we love you; you are not alone,” tears rolled down his cheeks. Even in separation, love still found a way to reach him.

That painful period taught humanity how deeply we need one another. It reminded us how fragile life can be, but also how precious compassion is. We discovered heroes in nurses, doctors, carers, priests, neighbours, and ordinary people who quietly carried hope into fearful places.

Today, in the light of the Gospel, we hear Jesus say: “I shall lose none of those the Father has given me.” And the prophet reminds us: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.” Though grief remains, God’s mercy has not been quarantined; his love continues to surround his people.

As we gather to commend our beloved departed to the Lord, we also acknowledge our own weariness, fears, failures, and moments when hope grew weak. Trusting in the mercy that is new every morning, let us now ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you stood beside the sick, the fearful, and the dying with compassion and tenderness: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you promised never to reject those who come to you in faith and hope: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life, leading your people from sorrow into eternal peace: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, whose compassion never fails and whose mercy is new every morning, forgive us our sins, heal the wounds left by fear and sorrow, strengthen us in faith and hope, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose steadfast love never ceases
and whose mercies are renewed each day,
look kindly upon your people gathered in sorrow and hope.
As we commend your servant to your eternal care,
strengthen us with the promise of the resurrection
and console us with the peace of Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

HOMILY

A small town once placed candles in every window during the darkest weeks of the pandemic. Streets were empty, churches closed, and families isolated, but each evening those tiny lights appeared one by one. A journalist asked an elderly widow why she continued lighting hers every night. She replied, "Because someone passing by may need to remember that hope still lives somewhere."

That image speaks beautifully to today's readings. The Book of Lamentations was written during a time of devastation and grief. Yet in the middle of suffering comes one of Scripture's most beautiful lines: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases." Faith does not deny pain; it discovers that God remains present within it.

The pandemic brought a unique kind of sorrow. Many suffered not only death, but distance. Some could not hold the hands of loved ones. Funerals were small. Tears were postponed. Silence filled homes and hearts. Yet even in those difficult days, humanity revealed remarkable goodness.

A priest told the story of a nurse who stayed after her shift ended because a dying woman was afraid to be alone. The nurse sat quietly beside her, holding her hand until she passed peacefully. Later someone asked her why she stayed. She answered simply, "No one should leave this world without love beside them."

That is what Christ does for us. In today's Gospel Jesus says: "I shall lose none of those the Father has given me." Those words are not poetry alone; they are promise. Death does not erase a person from God's memory. The risen Christ holds every life with infinite tenderness.

The pandemic also humbled humanity. We discovered that wealth, power, technology, and plans cannot fully protect us from suffering. But we also rediscovered prayer, kindness, gratitude, and the importance of presence. Neighbours checked on neighbours. Families prayed together online. People applauded healthcare workers from balconies and doorsteps. In crisis, many remembered what truly matters.

There is another story told of a grandfather who survived isolation during lockdown. Each day his granddaughter mailed him a simple drawing. One day she drew a rainbow with the words: "After storms come colours again." He kept every picture beside his chair because they reminded him that darkness does not have the final word.

Christian faith says the same thing. Good Friday is never the end of the story. Christ who entered suffering and death also rose again. Therefore today's farewell is painful, but it is not hopeless. We commend our beloved departed into hands marked forever by love.

And perhaps this funeral also calls us to live differently. The pandemic taught us how quickly life changes. So let us love more generously, forgive more readily, pray more deeply, and cherish people while we still can.

A teacher once asked her students what they learned from the pandemic years. One child answered, "People need each other more than they think." That may be one of the deepest truths of all. We belong to one another, and above all we belong to God.

So today, even through tears, we light the candle of faith again. For Christ has promised that those who come to him will never be abandoned. His mercy is still new this morning. And somewhere beyond the sorrow of this life, eternal light already shines.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and hope before the God whose mercy never fails, 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 trust in your unfailing compassion.
Through this sacred sacrifice,
bring comfort to those who mourn,
peace to your departed servant,
and renewed hope to all who seek your face.
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 times of uncertainty and fear,
you never abandon your people.
When illness spread across the world
and hearts grew weary with grief and isolation,
your love continued to shine
through acts of courage, compassion, and selfless care.

In your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed a hope stronger than death itself.

For he promised that none who come to him would be lost,
and by his resurrection
he opened for us the gates of eternal life.

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 Lord...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At a time when many people longed simply to be near those they loved, Christ reminded us that we are never abandoned by the Father. With trust in that enduring love, let us now pray as Jesus taught 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 compassion and hope
during times of suffering and uncertainty,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.
In moments when fear and isolation divide hearts,
teach us again to become
instruments of compassion and reconciliation.
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 every sorrow and in every season of hope,
Christ remains our life and resurrection.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, during the long nights of fear and uncertainty,
you remained beside your people.
You were present in silent prayers,
in acts of kindness,
in the courage of carers,
and in the tears of families who waited and hoped.
Today, nourished by the Bread of Life,
we place our beloved departed into your hands.
May your mercy, renewed each morning,
lead them into the eternal dawn of peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the hope of eternal life.
May the promise of Christ's resurrection
bring peace to your departed servant
and comfort to all who mourn.
Teach us to live each day with deeper faith, compassion, and
gratitude,
until we are gathered together in your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
whose mercy never fails
strengthen you in every sorrow and bless you with peace.
Amen.

May Christ,
who promised never to lose those entrusted to him,
welcome your beloved departed into eternal light and life.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who renews hope even in the darkest times,
remain with you and guide you always.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and carry into the world the hope and compassion of Christ. Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The pandemic reminded humanity how fragile life is, but it also revealed how powerful love, compassion, and faith can be. Christ's promise remains unchanged: no one who comes to him is ever lost. Even in the darkest nights, God's mercy is new every morning.

83. Funeral for Someone with Strong Faith Amid Suffering

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 — “My grace is sufficient.”

John 19:17–30 — The Cross.

Theme: “Grace Stronger Than Suffering”

In the midst of pain, weakness, and the mystery of the Cross, God does not abandon His children. Through Christ crucified, suffering becomes a place where grace is revealed, faith is purified, and hope is born. The life of the departed reminds us that even in weakness, God's strength is made perfect.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an old stained-glass window in a small chapel that had been cracked by years of storms. Visitors wondered why it was never replaced. One day the caretaker explained, “The cracks are what make the morning light sparkle the most.” What seemed broken had become the very place where beauty shone through.

Today we gather with sorrow because suffering and death have touched our lives once more. Yet we also gather with faith. In the Gospel, Jesus carries His Cross to Calvary and gives His life in complete trust to the Father. In the second reading, Saint Paul speaks of his own weakness and hears the Lord say: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”

The life of our departed brother/sister reflected this mystery of faith amid suffering. Pain did not have the final word; faith did. Trials did not extinguish hope; grace sustained it. In moments when human strength was limited, God remained close.

As we begin this Eucharist, let us place before the Lord our burdens, our grief, our doubts, and our sins. Trusting in the mercy flowing from the Cross of Christ, let us ask forgiveness and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You carried the Cross and shared fully in human suffering: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You strengthen the weak with the power of Your grace: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, through Your death and resurrection You open for us the way to eternal life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God,
who reveals His strength in our weakness and His mercy
through the Cross of His Son,
comfort us in our sorrow, forgive us our sins,
heal what is wounded within us,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son accepted the Cross
and transformed suffering into the path of glory,
look with compassion upon Your people gathered today
for the funeral of Your servant N.
Grant that through the mystery of Christ's Passion
we may find strength in our weakness,
hope in our sorrow, and confidence in Your unfailing grace.
Welcome Your servant into the peace of eternal life,
where every tear is wiped away and faith is fulfilled in joy.
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 told the story of an elderly man suffering from a long illness. Every day he endured pain that weakened his body more and more. One afternoon the nurse asked him, "How do you still manage to smile?" The man quietly pointed to the crucifix hanging beside his bed and said, "Because He stayed with me first." That simple answer revealed a deep faith: suffering did not isolate him from God; it drew him closer to Christ.

Today's Gospel brings us to Calvary. We stand before Jesus carrying the Cross, enduring rejection, pain, humiliation, and finally death. It is one of the darkest moments in human history, yet at the same time it is the greatest revelation of divine love. Jesus does not run from suffering. He enters it fully so that no human suffering would ever again be endured alone.

Saint Paul, in today's reading, speaks honestly about his own weakness. He prayed for his burden to be removed, but instead the Lord answered: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." Paul discovered that God's grace is often most visible not when life is easy, but when faith survives hardship.

There is another story about a woman who cared for her sick husband for many years. Friends often asked how she found the strength to continue. She would simply say, "Every morning God gives me enough strength for that day." Not for the whole future—just enough for one day. And day after day, grace carried her. That is often how God works: quietly, steadily, faithfully.

The life of our departed brother/sister reminds us of this same truth. Suffering can make a person bitter, but it can also make a person deeper, gentler, and more compassionate. Faith amid suffering

becomes a silent sermon. Sometimes the strongest testimony is not spoken from a pulpit but lived from a hospital bed, a lonely room, or a heart that continues trusting God through tears.

A priest once visited a man who had suffered greatly and expected to find despair. Instead, the man said, "I have learned that pain can take many things away, but it cannot take away God." Those words echo the Cross itself. On Calvary, everything seemed lost, yet God was accomplishing salvation.

The Cross teaches us that suffering is not the end of the story. Good Friday leads to Easter morning. Death gives way to resurrection. Weakness opens itself to grace. For those who belong to Christ, suffering is no longer meaningless because Christ Himself has entered it and transformed it.

Today we entrust our departed brother/sister to the mercy of God. We thank the Lord for the witness of faith shown amid suffering. We pray also for ourselves, because every person carries some hidden cross. Perhaps today we are tired, grieving, anxious, or struggling with questions. The Lord speaks the same words to us that He spoke to Saint Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you."

A missionary once described seeing Christians gathered secretly in a place of persecution. They had little comfort, little security, and many burdens. Yet they sang with joy. When he asked why, one believer answered, "Because the Cross tells us that suffering never has the last word." That is our faith today. Standing beneath the Cross, we do not lose hope. Christ crucified and risen remains with us, and His grace is enough — in life, in suffering, in death, and into eternity.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and united with the sacrifice of Christ who carried the Cross for our salvation, may strengthen us in weakness and deepen our trust in God's sufficient grace, and may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings which we place upon Your altar
in memory of Your servant N.
As Your Son transformed the suffering of the Cross
into the victory of eternal life, grant that these sacred mysteries
may bring comfort to the sorrowing, strength to the weak,
and hope to all who trust in You.
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 sent Your Son into our human condition
to carry the burden of suffering
and to reveal the depth of Your love upon the Cross.
Though wounded and rejected,
He trusted completely in You, and through His sacrifice
He transformed death into the gateway of eternal life.

In Christ, weakness is not abandoned but filled with grace;
sorrow is not without meaning but united with redeeming love.

And so, with faith in the resurrection,
we commend Your servant N. to Your mercy,
confident that those who suffer with Christ
shall also share in His 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
who sustains His children in every trial
and whose grace is always sufficient
for those who trust in Him.

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 carry the crosses of this life with faith and courage,
trusting that Your strength is made perfect in our weakness,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.

Strengthen all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit,
and let the peace flowing from Your Cross
bring comfort to grieving hearts.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him who carried our sorrows
and conquered death by His Cross.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Cross of Christ stands at the centre of our faith.
It reminds us that God does not remain distant from human suffering
but enters it with love.
In this Eucharist we have received the One
whose grace is sufficient for every weakness
and whose resurrection promises eternal life.
May the faith of our departed brother/sister
inspire us to trust God more deeply,
especially in moments when the road is difficult
and the burden feels heavy.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through this holy Communion
You have nourished us
with the Body and Blood of Your Son,
who strengthened the weak
and gave hope to the suffering.

Grant that Your servant N.,
for whom we have prayed today,
may rejoice forever in the peace of Your kingdom.
And may all of us who remain on our earthly journey
find courage in the Cross, strength in Your grace,
and hope in the promise of resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you with the grace of Christ crucified. Amen.

May the Lord Jesus,
who carried the Cross and overcame death,
lead you from darkness into the light of hope. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
sustain you in every trial
and keep you faithful until the day 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 that the grace of God is sufficient for every weakness,
and carry into the world the hope
that shines from the Cross and Resurrection of Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The Cross does not mean that God has abandoned us;
it means that God is closest to us in our suffering.
When human strength fails,
divine grace remains sufficient.

84. Funeral for Someone Known for Mercy

James 2:13 — Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Luke 6:36–38

Theme: “Mercy Given, Mercy Received in Christ”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a shopkeeper in a small town who quietly kept a notebook beneath his counter. Whenever a struggling family could not afford bread or milk, he would write their names in the notebook and simply say, “Pay me when life becomes kinder.” Many debts were never repaid, yet he never erased a single name with bitterness. After his death, people discovered that beside every unpaid debt he had written the same words: *“Forgiven already.”*

Today, as we gather to commend our beloved departed to God, we remember a life marked by mercy — mercy shown in patience, kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and compassion. The Scriptures remind us: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful,” and Saint James assures us that “mercy triumphs over judgment.” We come with grief, but also with hope in the God whose heart is rich in compassion.

Mercy leaves traces that outlive a person. Acts of kindness become quiet echoes of God’s own love in the world. Even small gestures — listening without judging, helping without seeking praise, forgiving without keeping score — become signs of Christ among us.

As we begin this Eucharist, we also recognize the moments when we ourselves have failed to love generously. Trusting not in our merits but in the mercy of Christ, let us now call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you showed mercy to sinners and welcomed those who sought your compassion. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you taught us to forgive as we ourselves have been forgiven. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you opened the gates of paradise to those who trusted in your mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, whose mercy triumphs over judgment, forgive us our sins, heal every hardness of heart, strengthen us to live with compassion and kindness, welcome our departed loved one into the peace of Christ, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son revealed the boundless riches of your mercy through words of forgiveness and deeds of compassion, grant that we who gather in faith today may be strengthened by the example of a life marked by kindness and generosity.

Comfort us in our sorrow, deepen our trust in your mercy, and welcome your servant into the eternal embrace of your love.

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 woman once visited a nursing home every Friday evening after work. She was not related to any of the residents. She simply walked from room to room, holding hands, listening to stories, sometimes praying quietly beside those who no longer remembered their own names. One nurse asked her, “Why do you keep coming?” She answered, “Because mercy should never retire.”

That simple sentence captures the heart of today’s Gospel. Jesus says: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Mercy is not merely an occasional act; it is the very character of God. And whenever mercy is practiced, heaven becomes visible on earth.

Today we remember someone known for mercy — not necessarily in grand or dramatic ways, but often in ordinary moments that carried extraordinary love. The most Christ-like people are frequently those who notice suffering quietly and respond without seeking recognition.

Mercy can take many forms. Sometimes it is generosity. Sometimes patience. Sometimes silence instead of criticism. Sometimes the courage to forgive. Sometimes the willingness to begin again with someone who has failed us.

A priest once told the story of hearing the confession of an elderly man who carried deep regrets from decades earlier. After absolution, the man wept and said, “Father, I thought God had stopped wanting me.” The priest replied, “God never gets tired of mercy; only we get tired of asking for it.” That is the Gospel. God’s mercy is greater than our failures.

Saint James tells us today: “Mercy triumphs over judgment.” Those words do not deny justice; rather, they proclaim that the final word of God is not condemnation but love. At the end of life, what lasts is not

power, success, wealth, or reputation. What lasts is love given and mercy shared.

There is another story about a teacher who kept two drawers in her desk. One drawer contained students’ failures — unfinished assignments, disciplinary reports, angry notes. The second drawer contained letters of gratitude, stories of improvement, signs of hope. At retirement she burned the contents of the first drawer and kept only the second. She said, “I decided long ago that mercy remembers differently.”

That is how God sees us in Christ. God sees beyond weakness and calls forth what grace has accomplished in a person’s life.

Today our grief is real because love is real. Yet our hope is also real because Christ died and rose again. The mercy shown throughout this life was not merely human kindness; it was a reflection of God already at work. Every compassionate act became a quiet participation in the heart of Christ himself.

And now we entrust our beloved departed into the hands of the God whose mercy never ends.

A father once carved into a wooden sign above the doorway of his family home the words: “In this house, mercy lives here.” After he died, the family left the sign hanging because they realized it had become his legacy. Perhaps that is the calling left to us today — that in our homes, our families, our parish, and our hearts, mercy may continue to live.

For in the end, those who have received mercy are called to become mercy for others. And those who trust in the mercy of Christ will never be abandoned. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in gratitude for the mercy of God and in hope for our departed loved one, 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 trust in your compassion.
As your Son taught us to forgive and to love without measure,
grant that this sacrifice may bring peace to your servant
and strengthen us to live lives marked by mercy and reconciliation.
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 revealed your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who welcomed sinners, comforted the sorrowful,
healed the wounded, and taught us to forgive without counting the
cost.

In him we have learned that compassion is stronger than hatred,
love stronger than fear, and mercy stronger than judgment.

Today, as we commend our departed loved one to your care,
we thank you for every act of kindness and generosity
that reflected your goodness in this world.
In the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection,

you give us hope that those who trusted in your mercy
will find a home in your eternal 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray to the Father whose mercy never fails,
trusting that he hears the cries of his children
and gathers the departed into the peace of his 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 learn to forgive others with the compassion Christ has shown
us, and become instruments of mercy in a wounded world,
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 mercy heal every division, soften every hardened heart,
and teach us to live in reconciliation and compassion for one
another. 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 Christ we see the mercy of the Father poured out for humanity, a
mercy stronger than sin and faithful even unto death.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Mercy changes the world quietly.
It does not always appear in headlines or grand achievements,
but in gentle words, patient hearts, forgiving hands, and
compassionate lives.

Today we remember with gratitude a life that reflected something of
God's own tenderness. And as we receive Christ in this Eucharist,
we pray that the mercy we have celebrated may continue through us
— in how we speak, forgive, serve, and love.

For those who live by mercy never truly disappear; their goodness
continues in the hearts they have touched.

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 salvation.
May the mercy we have received from Christ
shape our lives each day in compassion, forgiveness, and love.
Welcome your servant into the joy of your kingdom,
where every tear is wiped away and peace endures forever.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all mercy,
who raised his Son from the dead
and promises eternal life to all who trust in him,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope.
Amen.

May Christ,
who taught us to forgive and to love without measure,
make your hearts gentle and compassionate toward one another.
Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit,
whose gifts bring healing and peace,
help you carry forward the legacy of mercy we remember today.
Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace, trusting in the mercy of God.
May the example of compassionate love remembered today inspire
you to forgive generously, serve humbly, and walk faithfully with
Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Mercy is the memory of the heart. What we forgive, heal, and give in
love becomes the part of us that lives forever in God.”

85. Funeral for Someone Awaiting Heaven with Peace

Philippians 1:20–24 — Desire to depart and be with Christ.

Luke 23:44–46 — “Father, into your hands...”

Theme: “Into Your Hands: Resting in the Peace of Christ”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a weary traveller crossing a river at dusk. Fearing the strength of the current, he held tightly to a rope stretched from one side to the other. Halfway across, exhausted and trembling, he heard the guide on the shore call out, “Do not be afraid. The rope is stronger than your hands.” Only then did the traveller stop struggling and allow himself to be carried safely forward.

Today, as we gather to commend our beloved departed to God, the Gospel gives us the final words of Jesus on the Cross: “*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*” These are not words of despair but of surrender, trust, and peace. Saint Paul echoes the same confidence when he says that his deepest desire is “to depart and be with Christ.”

Christian death is not simply an ending; it is the final act of trust in the God who has held us from the beginning. The Lord who accompanied our loved one through life now receives him/her into eternal rest. We grieve because we love, yet we also hope because Christ has conquered death.

As we begin these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge the times when fear overcame trust, when we clung to ourselves instead of surrendering to God’s mercy. And so, with humble hearts, let us ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you entrusted your spirit into the Father’s hands and opened for us the way to eternal life. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are the peace of those who hope in you and the rest of those who are weary. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us beyond fear into the joy of your heavenly kingdom. **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who is rich in mercy and gentle toward all who trust in him,
forgive us our sins, calm our fears,
strengthen our hope in eternal life,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son entrusted himself completely
into your loving hands upon the Cross,
grant that we who mourn today
may find peace in the promise of eternal life.
As you welcomed your servant into your eternal dwelling,
teach us also to live with trusting hearts,
so that when our own journey is complete,
we may depart in faith and dwell forever with Christ.

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 people stop asking complicated questions. Instead, they ask very simple ones: “Will someone stay with me?” “Am I loved?” “Can I rest now?” She noticed that those who were most at peace were often not the strongest or richest, but those who learned to place themselves into loving hands.

That is exactly what Jesus does in today’s Gospel. In his final moment upon the Cross, he says, *“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”* These are not the words of defeat. They are the words of a Son who knows he is loved. Jesus dies not clinging to fear but surrendering himself to the Father.

Saint Paul speaks with the same serenity in the second reading. He says, *“My desire is to depart and be with Christ.”* Paul is not rejecting life; he is expressing confidence that death does not separate us from Christ. Rather, it brings fulfillment to the relationship begun in baptism.

There is a story of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux as she approached death. Someone asked her if she was afraid. She answered gently, “I am not dying; I am entering life.” What gave her peace was not certainty about herself but certainty about God’s love.

That is the heart of Christian hope. We do not stand here today claiming that death is easy. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. Grief is real because love is real. Yet faith tells us that death is no longer the final word.

A child once fell asleep in the backseat of a car during a long night journey. The roads were dark, the weather rough, but the child slept

peacefully because someone trustworthy was driving. In many ways, faith is like that. We do not always understand the road ahead, but we trust the One who leads us.

Today we commend our beloved departed into the hands of God. Those hands created life, healed the sick, blessed children, were stretched upon the Cross, and opened the gates of eternal life through the Resurrection. No safer place exists than the hands of God.

And perhaps today’s Gospel also asks something of us who remain behind. Every day of life is practice for that final surrender. We spend so much time trying to control everything—our future, our worries, our fears. Yet peace comes when we learn to pray with Jesus: *“Father, into your hands...”*

There is an ancient Christian tradition that tells of believers falling asleep whispering the name of Jesus, trusting that the last name spoken on earth would become the first joy heard in eternity. That is our hope today: that our departed loved one now rests in the embrace of Christ, where every tear is wiped away and peace has no end.

And so, even through tears, we dare to pray with confidence: *“Father, into your hands we commend your servant, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.”*

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in trust and hope
as we commend our departed loved one
into the loving hands of the Father,
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 your Son entrusted himself to you upon the Cross,
so now we entrust our departed loved one
to your mercy and eternal care.
Grant that this sacrifice may strengthen our confidence
in the resurrection and the life to come.
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 love
you created us for life that has no end,
and through the death and resurrection of your Son
you transformed even death itself
into the doorway to eternal peace.

On the Cross, Christ entrusted his spirit into your hands,
teaching us that those who place their trust in you
are never abandoned.

In him, sorrow is joined to hope,
and every farewell is spoken
in expectation of the heavenly kingdom.

Therefore, 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, let us pray
with confidence to the Father whose loving hands receive all who
trust in him:

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 place our lives with trust into your loving hands.
Strengthen us in hope as we journey toward the eternal home
you prepare for your faithful people,
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.
Comfort all who mourn today,
and let the peace with which you entrusted yourself to the Father
rest upon every troubled heart.

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

Into God's hands we place our grief, our memories,
our gratitude, and our hope.
The Eucharist we have shared reminds us
that Christ remains with us even in the valley of sorrow.
The One who died and rose again
now leads our departed loved one toward the fullness of life
where fear is ended and peace is eternal.

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,
calm our fears in the face of death,
and teach us to live each day
with trusting and peaceful hearts.
May our departed loved one,
who hoped to be with Christ,
now rejoice forever in your kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
give you peace in your sorrow and courage in your faith.
May Christ, who entrusted himself into the Father's hands,
lead your departed loved one into eternal rest.
And may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts
until the day we are reunited in the joy of heaven.

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.
Our departed loved one now rests in the hands of the Father, and we
continue our journey in the hope of the resurrection.
Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Peace does not come from controlling the future but from trusting the
One who holds the future in his hands. The final prayer of Jesus—
"Father, into your hands..."—is also the prayer that gives every
Christian hope in life, in death, and in eternity.

86. Funeral for Someone Who Loved Scripture

2 Timothy 3:14–17 — “All Scripture is inspired by God.”

Luke 24:27–32 — Jesus explains the Scriptures on the road to Emmaus.

Theme: “Our Hearts Burned Within Us: Christ Speaks Through the Scriptures”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of an elderly woman whose Bible was so worn and marked that a visitor once asked her whether she should buy a new one. She smiled gently and replied, “This Bible is worn because it has been held together by God’s promises during difficult years.” For her, Scripture was not decoration on a shelf; it was daily bread for the soul.

Today, as we gather to commend our beloved departed to the mercy of God, we remember someone who loved the Word of God deeply. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, whose hearts burned within them as Jesus explained the Scriptures, N. found comfort, wisdom, strength, and hope in the sacred pages of God’s Word.

Saint Paul reminds Timothy that “all Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching.” The Word of God shaped the life of N.; it guided decisions, offered courage in suffering, and nourished faith in moments of uncertainty. And now we trust that the same Lord who spoke through the Scriptures has come personally to lead N. into eternal life.

As we begin these sacred mysteries, let us acknowledge that although we have heard God’s Word many times, we have not always lived by it faithfully. Let us ask the Lord for pardon, mercy, and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you walk beside us and open the Scriptures to our hearts: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are the living Word who gives light in times of darkness: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed your people with the Bread of Life and lead them to eternal glory: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
whose Word calls us from darkness into light,
forgive us our sins,
heal what is wounded within us,
strengthen our faith in the promises of Christ,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son opened the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus
and revealed the fire of your love within their hearts,
grant that through the prayers for your servant N.,
we too may listen faithfully to your living Word,
walk steadfastly in the path of Christ,
and one day rejoice forever in the eternal kingdom
where every promise is fulfilled.
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 noticed that every night his grandfather sat quietly beside a lamp reading the Bible. One evening the boy asked, "Grandpa, do you remember everything you read?" The grandfather smiled and answered, "Not always. But every day it changes me a little." Years later, the boy understood that the Word of God had shaped his grandfather's patience, kindness, and hope.

That is very much what today's Gospel reveals. The disciples on the road to Emmaus were discouraged, confused, and grieving. They thought the story of Jesus had ended at the cross. But then Christ walked beside them, explained the Scriptures, and slowly transformed their sorrow into hope. Later they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us?"

That burning of the heart is what happens when people truly love Scripture. The Bible is not merely information; it is encounter. It is God speaking to human hearts. And that encounter shaped the life of N.

There are people who read Scripture occasionally, and there are people who allow Scripture to read them. N. belonged to the second group. The Word of God became a lamp for difficult moments, a comfort during suffering, and a source of wisdom in daily life.

There is another story about a nurse in a hospital who cared for a dying patient. The patient was frightened and restless. One evening the nurse simply began to pray Psalm 23 softly: "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." The patient gradually became calm and whispered, "I know those words... they feel like home." Scripture has that power. It becomes a home for the soul.

Saint Paul tells Timothy that "all Scripture is inspired by God." Inspired means "God-breathed." The Bible carries the breath of God into human life. Through it, God corrects us, strengthens us, comforts us, and prepares us for every good work.

N. understood this well. Perhaps there were favourite passages often read, verses underlined, pages worn thin by use. Those sacred words were not merely studied; they were lived. And now, at the end of earthly life, those same promises become even more precious: "I am the resurrection and the life." "Do not let your hearts be troubled." "Nothing can separate us from the love of God."

Another story tells of a traveller crossing a desert who carried a compass. At times the landscape looked confusing and endless, but the compass quietly kept pointing north. Scripture works like that in human life. When emotions change and circumstances become uncertain, God's Word continues pointing toward truth, hope, and eternal life.

Today grief may make us feel like the disciples walking away from Jerusalem — saddened and uncertain. Yet Christ walks with us also. He speaks to us in the Scriptures proclaimed here today. He reminds us that death is not the final word. Resurrection is.

And soon, as at Emmaus, we will recognize Him "in the breaking of the bread." The same Lord who nourished N. through Scripture now welcomes N. to the heavenly banquet where faith becomes sight.

A teacher once wrote inside a student's Bible these words: "This Book will keep you close to God, and God will keep you close through every season of life." Today we entrust N. to the Lord whose Word was loved in life and whose eternal voice now calls N. home. May our hearts also burn within us, until the day we meet Christ face to face in the kingdom where every promise of Scripture is fulfilled forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours, offered with faith in the Lord whose Word gives life and hope, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we place upon your altar
as we commend your servant N. into your loving care.
May the saving mysteries we celebrate
strengthen our faith in your promises,
console us in sorrow,
and lead us one day to the eternal banquet of heaven,
where your Word is fulfilled in 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,
through Christ our Lord.

For in your wisdom and love
you speak to your people through the Scriptures,
guiding them through the joys and sorrows of earthly life.
In every age your Word has been a lamp for the path,
a comfort in suffering, and a promise of eternal hope.

In your Son Jesus Christ, the living Word made flesh,
you walked beside us in our human weakness,
opened the hearts of believers,

and revealed that death is not the end
but the doorway to everlasting life.

Today we thank you for the life of your servant N.,
who found strength and consolation in your holy Word.
And with faith in the resurrection,
we entrust N. to your mercy,
confident that the voice once heard in Scripture
now calls your servant into the joy of heaven.

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 the divine teaching
that sustained the faith of N. throughout life,
we dare to say:

EMBOLISM

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, nourished by your holy Word
and strengthened by the hope of the Resurrection,
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress.
May your promises continue to burn within our hearts,
guiding us like the disciples on the road to Emmaus,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus
and brought peace to hearts troubled by grief and uncertainty.
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 Word continue to strengthen all who mourn today
and fill them with the hope of resurrection.
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 him the promises of Scripture are fulfilled
and eternal life is given to all who believe.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The disciples recognized Jesus
in the breaking of the bread
after listening to Him on the road.
Today we too have listened to His Word
and received His presence in the Eucharist.
The Lord who walked beside N.
through the journey of earthly life now welcomes N.
into the eternal home prepared for all faithful servants.
May God's Word continue to burn within our hearts
and guide us in hope until we are reunited in Christ.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life
and strengthened us by your living Word.
Grant that our faith may remain steadfast in times of sorrow,
our hearts renewed in hope, and our lives directed toward the eternal
kingdom where your servant N. now rests in peace.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
whose Word gives light in darkness and hope in sorrow,
strengthen you in faith and fill your hearts with peace. Amen.
May Christ Jesus,
the living Word who walked with the disciples to Emmaus,
walk beside you always and lead you safely to eternal life. Amen.
And may the Holy Spirit,
who inspires and renews the hearts of believers, keep you faithful
until the day you rejoice with all the saints in heaven. Amen.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in the promises of Christ.
May His living Word remain a light for your path and a source of
hope until we meet again in the kingdom of heaven.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The Word of God does not merely inform the mind; it transforms the
heart and leads us home to Christ.”

87. Funeral for Someone Who Evangelized Others

Rom 10:9–18 — “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.”; **Mk 16:15–20** — “Go into the whole world.”

Theme: “Beautiful Feet, Faithful Voice: Called to Bring the Good News.”

INTRODUCTION

Brothers and sisters, we gather today in faith and hope as we commend our departed brother/sister to the loving mercy of God. Grief brings us here, yet the Word of God reminds us that the Gospel is always stronger than silence, stronger even than death itself. The one we remember today sought, in many ways, to bring Christ to others — through words, witness, kindness, prayer, and example.

There is a story of a small village where every evening an elderly catechist would walk from house to house carrying only a lantern and a worn Bible. Someone once asked him why he continued, even in old age. He answered, “Because somewhere tonight, someone may need a little light.” Evangelization often happens like that — not in grand speeches, but in faithful presence, patient encouragement, and quiet testimony.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus sends His disciples into the whole world to proclaim the Good News. Saint Paul tells us in Romans: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.” Today we thank God for the ways our departed loved one walked that path and helped others draw closer to Christ.

Yet even the most faithful disciple stands in need of God’s mercy. Therefore, trusting not in our own goodness but in the compassion of Christ who died and rose for us, let us acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you called your disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you strengthened your servants to bear witness through faith and love: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you open the gates of eternal life to all who trust in your saving name: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
whose Son sent forth His disciples
to proclaim the Good News of salvation, forgive us our sins,
strengthen us in faith, renew us in hope,
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son commanded the Gospel to be preached
to every creature,
grant that your servant,
who sought to bear witness to Christ in this life,
may now rejoice forever in the company of the saints in heaven.
Strengthen us also, Lord,
to live courageously as disciples of your Son
and to proclaim by our lives the hope that does not fade.
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 teacher once kept a box filled with letters from former students. Some were short, others long and detailed. One simply read: "Because you believed in me, I returned to God." The teacher said that among all the awards received in life, that single sentence mattered most. At the end of our lives, what remains is not wealth or status, but the lives touched by faith, hope, and love.

Today's Gospel from Saint Mark gives us Jesus' final command before His Ascension: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News." Christianity has always been a faith carried from one heart to another. The Gospel travels through voices, hands, sacrifices, conversations, acts of kindness, and faithful witness.

Saint Paul asks in today's reading: "How can they believe unless someone proclaims?" Then he adds those beautiful words: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Paul is not praising physical beauty. He is praising the journey of discipleship — the willingness to walk toward others carrying hope.

Our departed loved one understood this in ordinary but meaningful ways. Evangelization is rarely dramatic. Often it happens quietly. A grandmother teaching prayers to a child. A friend encouraging someone to return to church. A parishioner visiting the sick. A catechist explaining Scripture patiently year after year. A believer remaining faithful during suffering. These are the hidden roads on which the Gospel travels.

There is another story about a man who repaired old church bells. Someone asked him why he spent so much effort on bells few people noticed. He replied, "If the bell rings clearly, people remember

where home is." Evangelizers are like that. They help others remember the way back to God.

The Gospel today also says that the Lord worked with the disciples and confirmed the message through them. That is important. Evangelization is never our work alone. God Himself works through imperfect people. None of us proclaims Christ perfectly. We all fail at times. Yet God still chooses human voices and human lives to carry divine grace.

And perhaps this is one of the greatest consolations today. The good our loved one planted did not end with death. Seeds of faith continue growing in the lives of others. Every prayer taught, every act of charity offered, every encouragement given in Christ's name continues to echo.

There is a touching custom in some places where runners in a relay race carry a flame from one person to another. Each runner eventually stops, but the flame continues forward. That is the Christian life. One generation passes the light to the next. Today we give thanks for the flame our departed brother/sister carried faithfully.

Now the Gospel promise is fulfilled: the one who proclaimed Christ in life is called to dwell with Christ in eternity. We entrust our loved one to the mercy of the Lord whom he/she served and proclaimed.

And we who remain are not merely mourners; we are disciples still being sent. The Gospel command did not end with the apostles, nor with our departed loved one. Christ now says to us: "Go and proclaim the Good News." Through our words, our compassion, our forgiveness, our courage, and our faithfulness, may others encounter the living Christ.

A missionary once said before his death, "I am not taking the Gospel away with me. I am leaving it in your hands." Today, as we commend our loved one to God, we hear that same invitation. The voice we mourn now becomes a mission entrusted to us. May we carry it faithfully until the day we too are welcomed into the eternal kingdom of God.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for a life that sought to share the Gospel of Christ, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts which we offer
as we commend your servant to your mercy.
May this sacrifice of Christ,
proclaimed and celebrated throughout the world,
bring pardon, peace, and eternal joy
to the one who trusted in your saving Word.
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 called disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations,

bringing light to those in darkness
and hope to those burdened by fear and sorrow.

In every age you raise up faithful servants
whose words and example lead others toward you.
In lives marked by kindness, perseverance, prayer, and charity,
the Good News continues to resound throughout the world.

And so, with faith in the resurrection
and trusting in your mercy toward your servant whom we commend
to you today,
we join the angels and saints in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father,
who calls us not only to receive the Gospel
but also to carry its light into the world.
Trusting in His mercy and united as one family in Christ,
we dare to say:

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 continue the mission of proclaiming your Gospel
with faith and courage, and carry forward the hope handed on to us
by those who have gone before 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.
Strengthen us also to become instruments of your peace
and bearers of your Gospel in a world longing for hope.
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

The Gospel we proclaim is not only spoken; it is lived.
Today we have remembered a life
that tried to reflect Christ to others.
In this Eucharist, the Lord who was proclaimed in life
now becomes our food and strength.
May the faith handed on to us continue to guide our steps,
comfort our sorrow, and deepen our hope in eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Grant that your servant,
who sought to lead others toward Christ,
may now share fully in the joy of your heavenly kingdom.
May we also remain faithful witnesses to the Gospel
until the day we are gathered together in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation strengthen your faith and fill your
hearts with hope. Amen.

May Christ, who sent His disciples to proclaim the Good News, guide
you to live courageously as witnesses of His love. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit keep alive within you the light of faith
handed on through those who have gone before you. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your lives,
and carry the Good News of Christ to one another.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The greatest legacy of a Christian life is not what was possessed,
but the faith that was passed on. Those who bring others closer to
Christ leave footprints that time cannot erase.

88. Funeral for Someone Who Carried Heavy Family Burdens

Gal 6:2–10 — “Bear one another’s burdens.”

Mt 11:28–30

Theme: “Come to Me, All You Who Are Burdened.”

Today’s liturgy honours a person who quietly carried the weight of family responsibilities, sacrifices, worries, and hidden struggles. The readings remind us that Christ does not ignore heavy burdens; He enters them with us, gives rest to weary hearts, and teaches us to carry one another in love. In death, the burdens borne in love are now laid down before the mercy of God.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of an elderly woman who was once seen walking along a dusty road carrying a heavy basket on her head. A farmer passing by stopped and offered her a ride in his cart. Gratefully she climbed aboard, but after several minutes the farmer noticed she was still holding the basket on her head. He asked, “Why don’t you put it down?” The woman replied, “You have already carried me; I did not want your horse to carry my load too.”

Many people live that way. They carry burdens silently—family worries, responsibilities, sacrifices, griefs, and struggles—often believing they must bear everything alone. Yet today’s Gospel gives us one of the tenderest invitations of Jesus: *“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

We remember today a loved one who spent much of life carrying the weight of others with patience and love. Some burdens were visible; many were hidden in the heart. Through acts of care, sacrifice, and endurance, a life was lived for others, echoing Saint Paul’s words: *“Bear one another’s burdens.”*

As we gather around this altar, we also bring our own burdens—our grief, regrets, sins, and tired hearts. Let us lay them before the Lord who is gentle and humble of heart, and ask Him for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You invite the weary and burdened to find rest in You:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You carried the burdens of humanity upon the Cross:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You teach us to bear one another’s burdens in love:
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who sees every hidden sacrifice, every burden carried in love, and every weary heart seeking rest, forgive us our sins, heal our sorrows, lighten our hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, gentle refuge of the weary
and strength of those who labour in love,
look with compassion upon Your servants gathered in sorrow.
As we commend N. to Your mercy,
grant that all who carried burdens in this life
may find eternal rest in Christ,
whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.
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 father once worked two jobs for many years to support his family. He rarely spoke about his exhaustion. One evening, after coming home late, his young daughter noticed his worn-out shoes by the door. Quietly she placed a handwritten note inside them. The next morning he found the words: *“Thank you for carrying us.”* Years later, after his death, those shoes and that note remained among the family’s most treasured possessions.

Many burdens in life are never fully seen by the world. Some people carry financial worries. Others carry emotional pain, loneliness, illness, family tensions, disappointments, or silent fears for those they love. Often the strongest people are not the loudest, but those who quietly continue loving despite exhaustion.

That is why today’s Gospel touches the heart so deeply. Jesus says: *“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”* He does not say, “Come to me only when you are strong.” He welcomes the weary, the anxious, the grieving, and the tired. Christ understands the weight people carry because He Himself carried the Cross.

Saint Paul in the second reading tells us: *“Bear one another’s burdens.”* That is more than kindness; it is the Christian way of life. Love always carries something. Parents carry children. Children care for aging parents. Spouses support one another through sickness and hardship. Friends stand beside one another in grief. Real love always costs something.

There is another story told about a boy carrying his little brother up a steep hill. Someone said to him, “That must be a heavy burden.” The

boy answered, “He’s not heavy; he’s my brother.” Love changes the meaning of burdens. What is carried with love becomes an offering.

Today we remember how N. carried responsibilities, worries, sacrifices, and acts of care for others. Some of those sacrifices may never have been recognized publicly. But God sees what the world overlooks. God remembers every act of patience, every sleepless night, every sacrifice made for family, every silent prayer whispered for loved ones. And today the Lord speaks words of rest. The burdens of earthly life are now laid down. The weary hands are now opened before God. The tired heart is invited into the peace of Christ.

There is one more story. A woman cleaning out her late mother’s kitchen found an old cracked cup hidden at the back of a cupboard. She almost threw it away until she remembered that her mother used that cup every night while staying awake beside sick children. The cup was cracked, worn, and ordinary—but it had become beautiful because of the love it had carried.

So too, human lives may appear tired, worn, or burdened. Yet in God’s eyes, a life poured out in love becomes something beautiful and holy. And perhaps today Jesus says not only to the deceased, but also to us who remain: “You do not have to carry everything alone.” Bring your grief to Him. Bring your fears to Him. Bring your tired heart to Him. For the Lord who carried the Cross now carries us toward eternal life.

A little girl once asked her grandmother, “Does God get tired of listening to us?” The grandmother smiled and replied, “No, child. God is strongest where we are weakest.” That is our hope today. The God who sustained N. through life will now carry N. home into everlasting rest.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in memory of a life spent
carrying burdens in love and sacrifice,
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 love, gratitude, and hope.
As Your Son welcomed the weary
and gave strength to the burdened,
grant that N., who shared the weight of others in this life,
may now rejoice in the peace and rest of Your 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 Your compassion
You never abandon those weighed down by sorrow or labour.
In Christ Your Son,
You revealed a heart gentle and humble,
a Savior who walks beside the weary
and gives rest to troubled souls.

Through lives marked by sacrifice and care for others,
You show us that love is strongest
when it bears the burdens of another.

And through the death and resurrection of Christ,
You promise that every burden carried in love
will be transformed into eternal 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

With trust in the Father who knows every burden we carry
and who never abandons His children in their weariness,
let us pray in the words our Savior 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 learn to place our burdens into Your loving hands
and support one another with compassion and hope,
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.
Comfort all who are weary with grief today,
strengthen hearts burdened by loss,
and teach us to carry one another in love and patience.
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 gentle Shepherd who gives rest to the weary
and strength to the burdened.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord who fed us with the Bread of Life now whispers again:
“Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened.”
In this Eucharist, Christ does not merely speak words of comfort;
He gives Himself as strength for the journey.
Today we entrust N. into those merciful hands
that carried the Cross and opened heaven to all who love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have strengthened us with the presence of Christ,
who is rest for the weary and hope for the sorrowful.
May N., freed from every earthly burden,
rejoice forever in the peace of Your kingdom,
and may all who mourn today
find comfort in Your unfailing love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who lovingly carries the burdens of His people,
strengthen you in your sorrow and give you peace.

May Christ,
who invited the weary to come to Him,
welcome N. into eternal rest and sustain you with hope.

And may the Holy Spirit,
who helps us bear one another’s burdens in love,
remain with you and guide you always.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
trusting that the Lord receives the weary into His eternal rest,
and let us continue to bear one another’s burdens in love.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The burdens carried in love are never forgotten by God.
What may have seemed like ordinary sacrifices on earth
become holy offerings in eternity.
Christ does not promise a life without burdens,
but He promises that no burden carried with Him
is ever carried alone.

89. Funeral for Someone Who Was Abandoned or Forgotten

Is 49:13–16 — “I have carved you on the palms of my hands.”

Jn 14:18 — “I will not leave you orphaned.”

Theme: “Never Forgotten in the Hands of God”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about an elderly man who lived alone in a quiet village. Few people visited him. As years passed, many assumed his life no longer mattered. But after his death, the villagers discovered drawers filled with letters he had written to encourage struggling people, prayers he had offered for neighbors, and names of others he remembered every single day. A man whom society had nearly forgotten had, in truth, carried many people in his heart.

Today’s readings speak directly into the pain of abandonment and loneliness. Through the prophet Isaiah, God says: *“Can a mother forget her child? Even if she forgets, I will never forget you. I have carved you on the palms of my hands.”* And Jesus assures His disciples: *“I will not leave you orphaned.”* Human beings may fail one another, but God never abandons His children.

Today we gather not only in grief, but also in faith. We entrust our beloved departed to the Lord who remembers every tear, every silent suffering, every unnoticed act of goodness, and every longing for love and belonging.

As we stand before the God who never forgets us, we also acknowledge the moments when we have failed to love, failed to notice the lonely, or turned away from those who needed compassion. Let us now ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You came to seek those who felt abandoned and alone:
Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You promised that You would never leave us orphaned:
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You hold Your children forever in the palms of Your hands: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God, who never forgets His children and whose mercy is greater than our weakness, forgive us our sins, heal the wounds of loneliness within us, strengthen us in love and compassion, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
loving Father of the forgotten
and hope of those who feel abandoned,
You never cease to hold Your children in the palm of Your hand.
Look with mercy upon Your servant
whom You have now called from this world,
and comfort all who mourn with the assurance of Your unfailing love.
Teach us to recognize Christ in the lonely and neglected,
and lead us all into the eternal home where no one is ever
abandoned again.

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 told the story of an old woman in a hospital ward who rarely received visitors. Day after day she sat quietly by the window while other patients welcomed family and friends. One evening, the nurse apologized to her and said gently, “You must feel very alone.” The woman smiled weakly and replied, “Not really. Every night before I sleep, I tell Jesus, ‘Stay with me,’ and somehow the room no longer feels empty.”

That simple faith opens the heart of today’s Gospel. Jesus says: “*I will not leave you orphaned.*” Those words were first spoken to frightened disciples who feared losing everything. Yet Christ assures them—and us—that His presence does not disappear in moments of sorrow, abandonment, or death.

The prophet Isaiah deepens that promise with one of the most tender images in all Scripture: “*I have carved you on the palms of my hands.*” A name written on paper can be erased. A memory in the mind can fade. But what is engraved into the hands remains close forever. God is saying: “You are permanently held in My love.”

Many people know the pain of being forgotten. Some experience it in old age, when visits become fewer. Some feel abandoned after loss, illness, or rejection. Some quietly carry loneliness even while surrounded by others. Human love, though sincere, can sometimes fail because human beings are limited. But God’s love never grows tired.

There is another story of a young boy in an orphanage who used to wait by the gate every evening hoping someone would come for him. Most days nobody arrived. One caretaker asked him why he kept waiting. The boy answered, “Because maybe today someone will

remember me.” Deep within every human heart is that same longing—to be remembered, chosen, loved.

The Christian faith proclaims that God does remember us. Christ Himself entered human abandonment. On the Cross He experienced rejection, loneliness, and suffering. Yet precisely there, He opened His arms wide enough to gather every forgotten person into the embrace of God.

Perhaps one of the greatest judgments on society is not cruelty but indifference. People can survive hardship more easily than being ignored. The lonely neighbour, the grieving widow, the elderly forgotten in care homes, the person whose calls are never returned—these are not invisible to God. And they should not become invisible to us.

A priest once noticed an elderly man sitting alone in church every morning. One day he asked him, “Why do you come here every day?” The man answered, “I look at Him, and He looks at me.” That was enough. Sometimes the deepest healing comes simply from knowing we are seen and loved.

Today, as we commend our beloved departed to God, we place our trust in the Lord who never abandons His children. Death itself cannot erase a person from the memory of God. The hands that were stretched out on the Cross now receive this beloved soul into eternal peace.

And perhaps today’s farewell also leaves us with a mission: to remember the forgotten, to notice the lonely, to become for others the reassuring presence of Christ who says, “*I will not leave you orphaned.*”

Let me end with one final story. After a devastating earthquake, rescuers heard the faint voice of a child trapped beneath the rubble crying out, "Does anybody know I'm here?" One rescuer shouted back, "Yes—we know, and we are coming." The Gospel today tells us that in every sorrow, every loneliness, and even in death itself, God speaks those same words to us: "I know you. I have not forgotten you. And I am coming for you." Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in faith to the God
who never forgets His children,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings which we place before Your altar
for Your servant whom You lovingly remembered throughout life.
May this sacrifice of Christ, who never abandons His people,
bring forgiveness, peace, and eternal welcome
into Your heavenly home.
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 refuge of the abandoned,
the comfort of the lonely,
and the unfailing hope of all who cry out to You.

Though human hearts may forget,
Your love remains faithful forever.

In Your Son, Jesus Christ,
You drew near to all who suffered rejection and sorrow.
He promised that He would never leave us orphaned,
and by His Death and Resurrection
He opened for us the way to the eternal home
where no one is ever lost or forgotten again.

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 Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer of God's children,
trusting in the Father who never abandons 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 all who feel abandoned, lonely, or forgotten,
and trust in Your faithful presence
that never leaves Your children orphaned,
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.
Strengthen all who carry hidden loneliness or grief,
and make us instruments of Your compassionate presence
for those who feel forgotten.
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 Him no life is forgotten and no soul is abandoned.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, in this Holy Communion You have drawn near to us once more.
You know the silent places of grief within our hearts.
You remember every person the world overlooks
and every sorrow hidden from human eyes.
Remain with us now,
and lead our departed brother/sister into the eternal embrace
where loneliness and separation are no more.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have strengthened us with the promise of Your faithful love.
May Your servant, whom You have called from this life,
share forever in the joy of Your presence,
and may all who mourn be comforted by the assurance
that no one who trusts in You is ever forgotten.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God who never forgets His children
hold you in the palm of His hand and strengthen you in every sorrow.
Amen.

May Christ, who promised never to leave us orphaned,
walk beside you and give you peace. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit,
the comforter of the grieving and the lonely,
remain with you always. 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 remembers His children forever,
and bring His compassion to those who feel forgotten.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“People may forget us, but God never does.
We are forever held in the hands of Christ.”

90. Funeral for Foster Parent or Adoptive Parent

1 Jn 4:7–12 — God is love; Mark 10:13–16

Theme: “Love Makes a Family in God’s Heart.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a little boy in an orphanage who once asked a visiting volunteer, “How will I know if someone really wants me?” The volunteer gently answered, “Because they will choose you, keep choosing you, and never stop calling you their own.” Years later, the boy would remember not the toys or the gifts he received, but the day someone finally took his hand and brought him home.

Today, as we gather to commend our departed brother/sister to the Lord, we remember a life that reflected that kind of love. A foster parent or adoptive parent does more than provide shelter or food. Such a person mirrors the heart of God, who receives strangers as children and turns loneliness into belonging. Through patience, sacrifice, tenderness, and steadfast care, our beloved revealed that family is born not only through blood, but through love freely given.

The Scriptures today speak beautifully of this mystery. Saint John reminds us that “God is love,” and that whoever loves is born of God. In the Gospel, Jesus welcomes children with open arms and declares that the Kingdom belongs to such as these. The hands that welcomed children, comforted fears, and created a home shared in the very love of Christ Himself.

And yet, no human love is ever perfect. As we now prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us ask pardon for our sins and pray that the merciful Lord who taught us to love may receive our departed brother/sister into the eternal home prepared for all God’s children.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you welcomed the little children and blessed them with tenderness: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you teach us that whoever loves is born of God: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you prepare an eternal home for all who trust in you: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
heal every wound caused by our failures to love,
strengthen us in compassion and mercy,
welcome our departed brother/sister into the home of eternal peace,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose love gathers the abandoned, comforts the lonely,
and makes us your sons and daughters through Christ,
grant that your servant N.,
who welcomed others with a generous and faithful heart,
may now be received into your eternal household of peace.
Comfort all who mourn today,
and teach us to reflect your tender love in our lives.
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 draw a picture of family. Most children drew houses, parents, brothers, sisters, and pets. But one little girl simply drew a large hand holding a much smaller one. When the teacher asked why, the child replied, "Because before I came to my new home, I was afraid all the time. Then someone held my hand and told me I belonged."

That simple drawing says something deeply Christian. To belong is one of the deepest longings of the human heart. Every person wants to know: *Am I wanted? Am I loved? Does my life matter to someone?* Foster parents and adoptive parents answer those questions not merely with words, but with a lifetime of sacrifice.

The Gospel today shows Jesus welcoming children. In the world of His time, children had little status or importance. Yet Jesus places them at the center. He embraces them, blesses them, and warns others never to push them aside. In doing so, Jesus reveals the heart of God — a God who notices the forgotten, receives the vulnerable, and creates a home for the abandoned.

Our departed brother/sister lived something of that Gospel. To foster or adopt a child is to say: "You are not alone anymore." It means interrupted schedules, sleepless nights, difficult conversations, worries, patience, and countless hidden sacrifices. But above all, it means giving another person the courage to believe they are worthy of love.

There is a story of a teenager who once told his adoptive mother, "I'm sorry I caused you so much trouble growing up." The mother answered, "You were never a burden. You were a gift entrusted to me." That is how God loves us. Even when wounded, difficult, or

broken, we are never burdens in God's eyes. We remain His beloved children.

Saint John tells us today: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God." Notice that he does not say love is merely an emotion. Love is participation in God's own life. Whenever someone feeds a child, listens patiently, waits faithfully, forgives generously, or chooses commitment over convenience, the love of God becomes visible in this world.

There were surely moments when our departed brother/sister felt exhausted or unappreciated. Love often involves unseen labor. A foster or adoptive parent may never hear enough words of gratitude. Yet heaven sees every hidden act of kindness. Nothing done in love is ever forgotten by God.

Another story is told of a grown man visiting the old orphanage where he once lived. Standing before the empty building, he said quietly, "This was where I survived. But my home was where I learned I was loved." Homes built by love leave marks upon souls forever.

And perhaps that is the greatest legacy left behind today. Not possessions. Not achievements. But people who learned through this life that they were worthy of love, capable of trust, and never abandoned by God.

Today we grieve because love always grieves when separated from the beloved. Yet our faith tells us that death does not destroy what was built in love. The God who gathered this family together on earth now calls His servant into the eternal home where every tear is wiped away and every child of God belongs forever.

I close with another story. A small child once asked her adoptive father, "Did you choose me?" He smiled and answered, "No — long before I chose you, God chose both of us for each other." That is the mystery we entrust to God today. Love began in God, was shared through this precious life, and now returns to God, where every act of love finds its eternal home.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in thanksgiving for the love and generosity shown through the life of N.,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts we place upon your altar
as we remember your servant N.,
who reflected your compassion by welcoming others in love.
May this holy sacrifice bring comfort to those who mourn
and lead our departed brother/sister
into the joy of your eternal family.
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 love
you never abandon your children,

but continually gather us into your household of grace.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you revealed a love that welcomes the forgotten,
blesses the little ones, and gives dignity to every human life.

In the care shown by your servant N.,
we have seen a reflection of your fatherly and motherly tenderness,
a love that opened doors, healed fears, and created belonging.
Even in sorrow, we trust that the love planted on earth
will flower eternally 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray to the Father
who welcomes us all as his beloved children:

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 welcome one another
with the same compassion shown by Christ.
May those who feel abandoned
discover in your Church a true home of love and mercy,
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 build homes of compassion,
reconciliation, and welcome,
so that no one may feel forgotten or unloved in this 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.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Love leaves traces that death cannot erase.
The kindness shared, the fears calmed, the doors opened,
and the lives embraced remain alive before God.
In this Eucharist, Christ assures us
that every act of genuine love participates in eternity.
May we leave this celebration
resolved to welcome others
with the same tenderness we remember today.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the Bread of Life.
Grant that your servant N., who cared for others with generous love,
may now rejoice forever in your heavenly home.
Comfort all who mourn,
and help us to become instruments of your compassion in the world.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who gathers every child into his loving embrace,
grant you peace in your sorrow and hope in your mourning. Amen.

May Christ, who welcomed the little children and blessed them,
receive our departed brother/sister into the joy of eternal life. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit, who teaches us to love as God loves,
strengthen you to carry forward the legacy of compassion entrusted
to you. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace,
trusting that the love we share in Christ is never lost,
and that those who love greatly will dwell forever
in the house of the Lord.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Family is born wherever love chooses to stay.”

91. Funeral for Someone with a Gentle Spirit

Phil 4:4–9 — “Whatever is true... think about these things.”

Mt 5:1–12 — Blessed are the meek.

Theme: “The Quiet Strength of a Gentle Heart”

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story about a teacher who once placed a fragile bowl of water in the middle of a noisy classroom. The children were arguing loudly, restless and distracted. Without saying a word, the teacher simply waited. Little by little, the students noticed the still water. As the room became quiet, the surface of the bowl reflected their faces clearly. The teacher then said, “Only a peaceful heart can truly reflect what is good and beautiful.”

Today we gather to remember a person whose life carried that kind of quiet gentleness. Not loud or forceful, but calm, thoughtful, and kind. The Beatitudes we have just heard remind us that the meek are not weak; they are people whose strength is guided by humility, patience, and peace. Saint Paul encourages us to fill our minds with whatever is true, honourable, pure, and gracious. These were not simply words for our departed loved one; they became a way of living.

Gentle people often change the world quietly. They listen more than they speak. They heal wounds without drawing attention to themselves. They make others feel safe, welcomed, and valued. In countless ordinary moments, our departed brother/sister reflected the tenderness of Christ.

Yet even gentle hearts are not perfect. We all fall short in love, patience, and trust. And so, trusting in the mercy of the Lord who blesses the meek and comforts the humble, let us acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you blessed the meek and promised them the kingdom of heaven: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you revealed the strength of gentleness and the peace of forgiveness: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you lead the humble and faithful into everlasting life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who looks with tenderness upon humble and gentle hearts,
forgive us our sins, heal what is wounded within us,
strengthen us in faith and charity,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son proclaimed blessed
those who are meek and pure of heart,
grant that your servant N.
who sought to live with gentleness, kindness, and peace,
may now rejoice forever in the company of the saints.

Comfort us who mourn,
and teach us to seek what is true, honourable, and good,
so that our lives may reflect the peace of Christ.

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 entered a village during a terrible drought. The ground was cracked, tempers were short, and fear filled the hearts of the people. As he walked through the village, he noticed an elderly woman carrying small buckets of water from her well to the dry plants outside her neighbours' homes. Someone laughed at her and said, "What difference can a few buckets make?" The woman smiled and replied, "Perhaps not enough to change the whole village, but enough so that something living does not die today."

That is often how gentleness works. It may seem small, quiet, and unnoticed. Yet gentle people preserve life around them. They calm troubled hearts. They carry peace into anxious homes. They speak softly in a world that often shouts. And when we lose such a person, we realize how much goodness quietly flowed through them every day.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "Blessed are the meek." The world sometimes misunderstands meekness. People think meekness means weakness or passivity. But Jesus speaks of something much deeper. The meek are those who possess strength under control. They do not crush others. They do not seek domination. They remain patient, compassionate, and merciful even when life becomes difficult.

Our departed loved one lived much of that quiet Beatitude. Perhaps not through grand achievements known to the world, but through daily kindnesses that touched ordinary lives. A gentle word. A listening ear. Patience during hardship. Forgiveness instead of bitterness. Such things may seem small, but in the eyes of God they are treasures.

There is a story of Saint Francis de Sales, who was known for his remarkable gentleness. One day someone asked him how he remained calm with difficult people. He answered, "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrel of vinegar." Gentleness has a power that anger never possesses. It opens hearts. It heals wounds. It reflects the very heart of Christ.

Saint Paul in today's reading tells us to think about whatever is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, and gracious. What fills the heart eventually shapes the life. And when a person chooses goodness again and again, even quietly, their soul becomes a place where God's peace can dwell.

Another story tells of a grandfather who was known in his family for never raising his voice. After he died, his grandson said, "When Grandpa entered a room, it felt safer." That may be one of the greatest compliments a person can receive. Not that they were powerful, wealthy, or admired, but that their presence brought peace.

Jesus himself revealed this gentle strength. He welcomed children. He forgave sinners. He comforted the sorrowful. Even on the Cross, he spoke words of mercy. The gentleness of Christ was not weakness; it was love strong enough to endure suffering without hatred.

Today, as we commend N. to God, we thank the Lord for the gift of a life that reflected something of that gentle love. We entrust every weakness and imperfection to the mercy of God, for none of us is saved by perfection but by grace.

And perhaps the greatest tribute we can offer today is not only our tears, but our decision to continue living the goodness we received from this beloved person: to become gentler with one another, more

patient in our homes, more peaceful in our words, more attentive to those who struggle silently.

A man once planted a tree under whose shade he knew he would never sit. When asked why, he answered, "Because someone once planted one for me." Gentle people live like that. They leave peace behind them for others to rest beneath.

May our departed loved one now rest beneath the eternal peace of God, where every gentle heart finds its home in Christ forever.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in thanksgiving
for a life marked by gentleness, peace, and quiet kindness,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings we bring before you
for your servant N.,
whose gentle spirit reflected the compassion of Christ.
May this sacrifice bring forgiveness and peace,
and may all who gather here
learn to walk in humility, patience, 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,
through Christ our Lord.

For in your wisdom
you teach us that true greatness is found not in power,
but in mercy, humility, and gentleness of heart.
In your Son, Jesus Christ,
the meek were called blessed, the sorrowful were comforted,
and the pure of heart were promised the vision of God.

In the life of your servant N.,
you gave us a quiet witness of kindness and peace,
a reminder that goodness often works silently,
yet leaves lasting traces upon the hearts of others.

And so, with the Angels and Saints,
we proclaim your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say the prayer
that unites all God's children in trust, peace, and love:

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 from the gentle example of Christ
to live with patience, kindness, and humility toward one another,
and become instruments of peace in a wounded world,
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 carry your peace gently into the lives of others,
so that wounded hearts may find comfort
and troubled souls may discover rest in 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.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Gentleness rarely draws attention to itself,
yet its absence is deeply felt when it is gone.

Today we thank God for the quiet goodness
we received through N.

In this Eucharist, Christ strengthens us
to continue living with compassion, patience, and peace.

May the gentleness we admired in this life
become a gift we now share with others.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
we commend your servant N. into your loving hands.
May the peace of Christ, received in this Eucharist,
bring comfort to those who mourn
and strengthen us to live with gentleness, faith, and hope
until we are gathered together again in your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
bless you with peace in your sorrow
and strength in your memories. Amen.

May Christ, who blessed the meek and gentle of heart,
welcome N. into the joy of eternal life. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit
help you carry forward the quiet goodness and love
that you received from this beloved person. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

In the peace of Christ,
let us go forth carrying gentleness into the world,
trusting that love is never lost
and that those who rest in God remain forever in his care.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Gentleness is not weakness; it is love made visible in daily life. The quiet kindness we offer others may become the very peace that helps them endure their struggles.

92. Funeral for Someone Known for Hospitality

Heb 13:1–2 — “Do not neglect hospitality.”

Lk 14:12–14 — Invite the poor and the forgotten.

Theme: “At God’s Table, There Is Always Room”

The liturgy celebrates the Christian vocation of hospitality: to welcome others with generosity, dignity, and love. In the life of the deceased, open doors, shared meals, kind listening, and care for the forgotten became signs of God’s own welcome. Today we entrust this faithful servant to the eternal banquet prepared by Christ, where every tear is wiped away and every guest finds a home.

INTRODUCTION

Many years ago, a traveller arrived late one evening at a small country parish. The rain was heavy, the roads were dark, and every house seemed closed. At last he knocked on one modest door. An elderly woman opened it with a smile and said, “You must be tired. Come in first; questions can wait.” She offered soup, dry clothes, and a warm chair near the fire. The traveller would later say that, in that moment, he understood something about the welcome of God.

Hospitality is more than serving food or opening a home. It is opening one’s heart. In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us not to invite only those who can repay us, but especially the poor, the forgotten, and those who cannot return the favour. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us: “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.”

Today we remember with gratitude how N. reflected that spirit of welcome. Through simple acts of kindness, generosity, listening, and care, many experienced comfort, dignity, and friendship. Such gestures often become quiet signs of God’s love in the world.

As we gather around the Lord’s table, we also acknowledge the moments when we have failed to welcome others, when our hearts were closed by indifference, pride, or fear. Let us now ask the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you welcomed the weary and gave rest to those burdened by life: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you taught us to invite the poor, the forgotten, and the lonely to our table: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you prepare for your faithful people the eternal banquet of heaven: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who calls us to love one another with generous hearts,
forgive us for the times we failed to welcome others
with kindness and compassion.
May he heal what was selfish within us,
strengthen us in charity, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, whose Son taught us that whatever is done
in love and generosity is never forgotten in your sight,
grant that we who remember N. today
may learn to welcome one another
with open hearts and willing hands.
As you received N. into the company of your saints,
strengthen our hope in the eternal banquet of heaven,
where every guest finds peace and every tear is wiped away.

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 told the story of visiting his grandmother as a child. Her home was simple and small, yet there always seemed to be another chair added to the table. Neighbours, cousins, strangers passing through, widows from the parish—someone was always welcomed. When he asked her why she never turned anyone away, she replied, “If Christ ever comes hungry, I do not want Him to leave my door unnoticed.”

That simple wisdom echoes today’s Gospel. Jesus tells his listeners not to invite only friends or those who can repay them, but to make room for those who are often overlooked. In the kingdom of God, hospitality is not social courtesy; it is sacred love. It reflects the heart of God himself.

The Letter to the Hebrews says, “Do not neglect hospitality.” Why? Because hospitality reveals something holy. It tells another person: “You matter. You are seen. You belong.” Sometimes the greatest gift is not the food on the table but the dignity offered to another human being.

Many of us know this from our own experience of N. Perhaps it was a shared meal, a warm greeting, a visit during difficult times, or the quiet ability to make people feel comfortable and included. Some people leave behind achievements; others leave behind memories of kindness. Those memories often remain longest in the hearts of others.

There is a story about a priest who visited an elderly man in hospital. The man had little strength left, but beside his bed sat an untouched tray of biscuits. The priest asked about them, and the man smiled weakly and said, “They are for whoever visits next.” Even near the end of life, his instinct was still to offer something to another person. That is the beauty of a generous heart—it continues giving even in weakness.

Hospitality also requires sacrifice. It means making space when life already feels crowded. It means listening when we are tired, forgiving when hurt, noticing the lonely person others ignore. Jesus himself lived this way. He welcomed sinners, ate with outsiders, touched the untouchable, and promised paradise to the thief beside him. Again and again, Christ opened doors that others tried to close.

Today, as we commend N. to God, we trust that the Lord who welcomed so many during his earthly life now welcomes N. into the eternal home prepared in heaven. The banquet of God is not limited by fear, status, or wealth. There is room there for all who have learned to love.

An old custom in some homes was to keep one place at the table empty for an unexpected guest. It was a reminder that life is richer when hearts remain open. Perhaps that is the lesson N. leaves with us today: never let the table of your life become so full of yourself that there is no room left for another. For in welcoming others, we often discover that Christ himself has entered the room.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in memory of N.
and in thanksgiving for a life marked by kindness and hospitality,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings placed upon your altar
as we remember N. with gratitude and hope.
May this sacrifice of Christ,
who welcomed all who came to him,
bring comfort to those who mourn
and lead N. to the everlasting 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 Son Jesus Christ
you revealed a love that welcomes the stranger,
feeds the hungry,
and gathers the lonely into one family.
Through his life and teaching
you showed us that no act of kindness is ever lost,
and that those who open their hearts to others
reflect your own mercy in the world.

Today we thank you for the life of N.,
whose generosity and hospitality brought comfort
and friendship to many.
In moments simple and unseen,
your grace was quietly at work through words of encouragement,
shared meals, and compassionate care.

And now, with faith in the risen Christ,
we trust that you have opened for N.
the doors of your eternal kingdom,
where your faithful people rejoice forever at the heavenly banquet.

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
whose house always has room for his children.

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 welcome one another with generosity and compassion
after the example of Christ.
May our homes, our hearts, and our communities
become places where the lonely find friendship
and the weary discover hope,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
you welcomed sinners, comforted the sorrowful,
and gathered all people into the peace of your kingdom.
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 dwell in our hearts
and make us instruments of your compassion
and welcome 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.
Happy are those who welcome Christ with generous hearts
and who share his love with others.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

In every Eucharist, God gathers strangers
and makes them one family.
Around this altar we discover that heaven begins
whenever love is shared, forgiveness is offered,
and no one is left outside the door.
Today, as we remember N.,
may we carry forward the quiet ministry of hospitality
that made others feel valued, welcomed, and at peace.
For the table of Christ is always larger than we imagine,
and there is always room for one more.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God, through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Strengthen us to live with generous hearts,
ready to welcome and serve one another in love.
As we commend N. to your mercy,
grant that we may one day share together
in the eternal banquet of your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all compassion,
who welcomes his children into the joy of his kingdom,
comfort you in your sorrow and strengthen you in hope. Amen.

May Christ, who shared meals with saints and sinners alike,
teach you to live with generous and loving hearts. Amen.

And may the Holy Spirit make your homes and lives places of peace,
kindness, and welcome for all. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, carrying into the world the kindness, generosity, and
hospitality that you have remembered and celebrated today.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Hospitality is not measured by the size of a home, but by the size of
a heart. Whenever we make room for others, we make room for
God.”

93. Funeral for Someone Who Endured Persecution

2 Cor 4:7–15 — Treasure in earthen vessels.

Mt 5:10–12 — Blessed are those persecuted.

Theme: “The Treasure That Suffering Could Not Destroy”
In the midst of misunderstanding, rejection, or persecution, God places within fragile human lives the treasure of faith. Though outwardly wounded, the faithful disciple remains inwardly strengthened by Christ, whose victory transforms suffering into witness and death into eternal glory.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a small lamp carried by a prisoner during years of hardship and humiliation. Others mocked him for protecting such an insignificant light. One day someone asked, “Why do you still carry that lamp when everything around you is dark?” He answered quietly, “Because if I lose this light, the darkness will enter me too.” The lamp did not remove his suffering, but it reminded him that darkness would never have the final word.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks words that seem difficult to understand: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.” The world often sees suffering, rejection, and opposition as signs of defeat. Yet Christ reveals that those who remain faithful in trials are precious in the eyes of God. Their endurance becomes a witness that truth and goodness are stronger than hatred.

Saint Paul echoes this in the second reading when he describes us as “earthen vessels” carrying a heavenly treasure. Human life is fragile; hearts can grow tired under burdens and injustice. Yet God’s

grace shines most powerfully through those who continue to trust Him even when life becomes difficult.

As we gather to commend our departed brother/sister to the mercy of God, we also acknowledge our own weakness and the times we have failed to remain faithful in moments of trial. Let us therefore ask the Lord for pardon and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you remained faithful even when rejected and persecuted: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you place heavenly treasure within fragile human hearts: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you strengthen those who suffer for truth and righteousness: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, strengthen us in every trial, heal the wounds carried within our fragile hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, source of strength for all who trust in you, you taught us through your Son that those who endure suffering for righteousness are truly blessed. As we mourn our departed brother/sister today, grant us the grace to carry faithfully the treasure of your love within our fragile lives, so that neither sorrow nor persecution may separate us from the hope of eternal 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 teacher once showed his students an old violin covered with scratches and cracks. Many thought it was useless because it looked worn and damaged. But when the teacher placed it into the hands of a skilled musician, beautiful music filled the room. The value of the violin was not destroyed by the marks it carried; rather, the marks told the story of what it had endured.

That image helps us understand today's readings. Saint Paul says: "We hold this treasure in earthen vessels." Human life is fragile like clay. We are easily hurt by criticism, rejection, disappointment, betrayal, or suffering. Yet God chooses fragile people to carry His grace. The treasure is not our strength; the treasure is Christ living within us.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake." These words sound strange in a world that measures success by comfort, popularity, and power. Jesus reminds us that faithfulness sometimes carries a cost. There are moments when doing what is right leads to misunderstanding, loneliness, or suffering.

There is a story of a woman who worked honestly in a place where dishonesty was common. She was mocked because she refused to join others in cheating. People laughed at her simplicity and called her foolish. Years later, when difficulties struck the company, she was the only one trusted by everyone because she had remained truthful. Her quiet perseverance became her witness.

Persecution is not always dramatic. Sometimes it appears in smaller ways: being ridiculed for faith, remaining honest when others are dishonest, forgiving when bitterness feels easier, standing for truth when silence would be safer. Such moments can wound the heart, yet they also reveal the strength that God places within His people.

Our departed brother/sister also carried life's burdens and struggles. Like all of us, there were moments of weakness, sorrow, misunderstanding, and pain. Yet today we remember not only the wounds carried in this earthly life, but also the grace of God that continued to sustain him/her through them.

A missionary once wrote from prison: "They can chain my hands, but they cannot chain my hope." That is the faith Saint Paul speaks about. Though "afflicted in every way," we are "not driven to despair." The world can wound the body, but it cannot destroy the soul that rests in Christ.

Today, as we commend our departed brother/sister to God, we are reminded that suffering is not the final chapter. Christ himself was rejected, mocked, wounded, and crucified. Yet from the cross came resurrection. The treasure hidden within the fragile vessel was revealed in glory.

Let me end with another story. After a violent storm, a family discovered that one candle in their home was still burning. Everything around it had been shaken, yet that small flame remained alive. The father gathered the children and said, "As long as this light burns, we know we are not abandoned."

That is our faith today. Death does not extinguish the light of Christ. The treasure God placed within His faithful servants cannot be destroyed by suffering, persecution, or even death itself. And so we

entrust our departed brother/sister into the hands of the risen Lord, trusting that the eternal light of Christ now shines upon him/her forever.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that this sacrifice, offered in faith by fragile yet hope-filled hearts, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, accept the gifts we place upon your altar as we remember your servant who carried the treasure of faith through the trials and burdens of earthly life. May this sacrifice strengthen us to remain faithful in every hardship and lead our departed brother/sister into the everlasting joy of your 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 your wisdom you place the treasure of your grace within fragile human lives, so that your power may shine forth through those who trust in you.

In Christ your Son, you showed us that suffering and rejection do not end in defeat, for through the Cross you opened the way to resurrection and eternal life.

And so, with hearts strengthened by this hope, we join the Angels and Saints in proclaiming your glory, as we say: 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 in 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 learn to carry with courage the burdens and trials of this earthly life, trusting that your grace is stronger than every suffering, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, you told 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. Strengthen all who suffer rejection, sorrow, or persecution, and keep alive within us the unshakable peace that no darkness of this world can destroy. 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 strength of those who suffer
and the eternal hope of all who trust in him.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Lord places heavenly treasure into fragile hearts.
Even when burdened by suffering,
the faithful are never abandoned.
Christ walks beside those who endure trials,
and His resurrection assures us
that darkness, persecution, and death
will never overcome the light of eternal life.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Strengthen us to remain faithful in times of trial,
and welcome our departed brother/sister
into the company of those
who rejoice forever in your presence.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
strengthen you in every sorrow
and fill your hearts with the hope of resurrection.
Amen.

May Christ,
who remained faithful through suffering and the Cross,
lead you safely through the trials of this life.
Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
keep alive within you the treasure of faith and peace
until the day you share eternal joy with all the saints.
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 darkness,
and that those who remain faithful to Him shall share eternal life.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Fragile lives can still carry an eternal treasure.
Those who remain faithful through suffering discover that God's light
shines most clearly where the world sees only weakness.

94. Funeral for Someone Who Died During Holy Week

Is 53:1–12 — The suffering servant.

Jn 12:23–26 — Grain of wheat falling into the earth.

Theme: “The Grain That Falls Bears Eternal Fruit”

INTRODUCTION

During Holy Week, the Church walks closely with Christ through suffering, surrender, death, and the promise of resurrection. To lose a loved one during these sacred days touches our hearts deeply, because their final journey seems mysteriously woven into the journey of Jesus himself. Today, as we gather in faith, we remember that death is never the last word for those who belong to Christ.

There is an old story of a farmer who kept a handful of wheat seeds from every harvest. One child once asked him why he buried good grain in the ground instead of keeping it safe in the barn. The farmer smiled and replied, “Unless the seed is buried, it remains only one seed. But when it is surrendered to the earth, life begins again.”

What appears to disappear is often the beginning of something greater.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies so that it may bear much fruit. Isaiah presents the suffering servant who gives himself completely in love. These readings remind us that sacrifice, suffering, and faithful endurance are never wasted in God’s hands. Even tears watered by grief can become seeds of eternal hope.

As we stand before the mystery of death and resurrection, we also acknowledge our own weakness, our fears, and the times we have resisted the way of sacrificial love. Let us therefore prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by calling to mind our sins.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you are the grain of wheat that fell into the earth to bring us eternal life. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you carried suffering with obedience and trust in the Father. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you lead your faithful servants through death into the joy of resurrection. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who transforms suffering into glory
and leads his faithful people from death into eternal life,
have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

God,
whose Son taught us
that the grain of wheat must fall to the earth
and die to bear much fruit,
grant that we who mourn today may find hope
in the mystery of Christ’s Passion and Resurrection.
As we commend your servant to your loving mercy,
strengthen our faith that life surrendered in love
is never lost in your sight.
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 brought two small pots into a classroom. One held dry grains of wheat; the other held green shoots growing from buried seeds. Holding up the dry grain, she asked, "Which is safer?" The children answered immediately, "The dry grain." Then she pointed to the green shoots and asked, "Which one is alive?" Silence filled the room before one child whispered, "The buried one."

That simple lesson lies at the heart of today's Gospel. Jesus says, "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus was speaking first about himself. Holy Week reveals a love willing to be poured out completely. On the cross, Christ appeared defeated, buried like a seed beneath the soil of suffering. Yet from that surrender came resurrection and eternal life for the world.

And today, as we mourn the death of our beloved brother/sister, these words become deeply personal. Dying during Holy Week carries a profound spiritual symbolism. While the Church remembers Christ walking toward Calvary, we entrust this loved one into the same wounded yet victorious hands of Jesus. Their final days unfolded while the Church contemplated sacrifice, surrender, and hope beyond death.

There is a story of a stained-glass artist repairing a shattered church window after a storm. People looked at the broken pieces scattered on the floor and saw only destruction. But the artist patiently gathered every fragment and fitted them into a new design. When sunlight finally shone through the restored window, the colours were even more radiant than before. God often works this way in human suffering. What seems broken beyond repair is not abandoned by him.

Isaiah's suffering servant reminds us that pain can become redemptive when united with God's love. The servant bears wounds, rejection, and sorrow, yet through those sufferings many are healed. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy completely. And every faithful Christian life, united with Christ, shares something of that mystery. The sacrifices made quietly in family life, the burdens carried patiently, the hidden acts of kindness, the endurance through illness or loneliness — none of these are forgotten by God.

A nurse once spoke about a dying patient during Holy Week who could barely speak anymore. Yet every time the crucifix was placed into his hands, his face became peaceful. Shortly before he died, he whispered, "He knows the road." That is our hope today. Christ knows the road through suffering and death because he himself walked it first.

Grief makes us feel as though something precious has been buried. And indeed, it has. But the Gospel insists that burial is not the end of the story. Seeds are not destroyed by the soil; they are transformed within it. In the same way, our beloved dead are not lost to God. The Lord who entered the tomb on Good Friday also rose on Easter morning.

Another story tells of a woman who planted bulbs every autumn though winter was harsh in her village. Someone once asked why she continued planting when everything would soon become cold and barren. She answered, "Because Spring always remembers where life was buried." What a beautiful image of Christian faith. God remembers where every life is buried, every tear shed, every prayer whispered, every act of love offered.

Today we commend our beloved departed to the mercy of God with sorrow, yes, but not without hope. Holy Week teaches us that love

stronger than death has entered the world. The cross is not the end. The tomb is not permanent. Resurrection awaits those who trust in Christ.

And so, we leave this place carrying the wisdom of the grain of wheat: what is surrendered to God is never lost. Buried in faith, it will rise again in glory.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered in faith and hope in the risen Lord who transforms death into eternal life,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings we place upon your altar
as we commend your servant into your merciful hands.
Just as your Son accepted suffering
and transformed it into the glory of resurrection,
may these sacred mysteries strengthen our hope
that death will give way to 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 in the mystery of your Son's Passion and Resurrection
you have revealed that life is transformed, not ended.
Christ, the grain of wheat fallen into the earth,
has borne the harvest of eternal salvation.

Through his suffering, hope was born;
through his death, the tomb was made holy;
through his resurrection, your faithful people are promised
everlasting joy.

In moments of grief, you remind us
that no sacrifice offered in love is wasted
and no life entrusted to you is ever forgotten.

Even through tears,
you sow the seeds of resurrection hope within our 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:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
who brings life even from the tomb.

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 place our hope in the victory of Christ
who passed through suffering into glory.
Strengthen us when grief weighs heavily upon our hearts,
and keep alive within us the promise of resurrection,
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.

As we mourn today, calm troubled hearts and deepen our trust that
those who die with you shall also 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.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The seed buried in darkness does not remain there forever. Hidden
beneath the earth, life quietly begins again. So too, Christ entered
the tomb and rose victorious. Today we entrust our beloved departed
into those same hands of mercy. What is given to God in love will
one day rise in glory.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son,
we ask you, Lord, to strengthen our faith in the resurrection.
As we have shared at this holy table,
may we one day rejoice together in the fullness of eternal life,
where sorrow and death shall be no more.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

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

Amen.

May Christ, who died and rose again during the holy mystery we now
celebrate, lead your beloved departed into eternal life.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit plant within your hearts the peace and hope that
never fade.

Amen.

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

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting that the grain of wheat buried in faith shall rise
again in glory.

Thanks be to God.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

What is surrendered to God in love is never lost; like the grain of
wheat, it will one day rise in eternal glory.

95. Funeral for Someone Who Died During Easter Octave

Acts 10:34–43 — Witnesses of the Resurrection.

Jn 20:19–31 — “Peace be with you.”

Theme: The Risen Lord Stands Among Us with Peace and Hope.”

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a small village struck by a violent storm during Easter week. Homes were damaged, fields flooded, and many families sat in darkness after losing electricity. Yet on Easter evening, the parish priest walked through the muddy streets carrying a candle lit from the Easter Vigil. One by one, families came out of their homes with candles of their own, until the whole village glowed with light. Though the storm had not disappeared, fear slowly gave way to peace because they knew they were not alone.

In today’s Gospel, the disciples are gathered behind locked doors, overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty after the death of Jesus. Into that darkness, the Risen Christ comes and speaks the words their hearts most needed: “Peace be with you.” His resurrection does not erase suffering immediately, but it transforms fear into hope and death into new life.

Today, during this Easter Octave, we commend our beloved departed brother/sister N. to the mercy of God. The Church reminds us that death is not the final word. We gather as witnesses to the Resurrection, trusting that the Lord who conquered death now opens the gates of eternal life to those who believe in Him.

As we stand before the Risen Lord, we also recognize the times when fear, doubt, and sin have kept us from living fully in His peace. Therefore, let us ask God for mercy and forgiveness.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You entered the midst of Your fearful disciples and brought them peace: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You died and rose again to open for us the way to eternal life: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You strengthen us to become witnesses of Your Resurrection: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May the merciful Lord who conquered death, calmed the fears of His disciples, and filled the world with Easter peace forgive us our sins, strengthen our hope in the Resurrection, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose risen Son stood among His disciples
bringing peace to troubled hearts
and hope to those overshadowed by death,
grant that we who gather in faith today
may be strengthened by the promise of the Resurrection
and comforted by the assurance of eternal life for Your servant N.
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 shared the story of an elderly man who was dying during the Easter season. In his final hours, his family gathered around him praying quietly. Suddenly he opened his eyes, smiled gently, and whispered, “Do not cry... He is alive.” Those were his final words. The family later said that in that moment, their sorrow was touched by peace. Death was still painful, but hope had entered the room.

That is the heart of today’s Gospel. The disciples were hiding behind locked doors after the crucifixion. Fear had taken hold of them. They thought everything was over. Yet the Risen Jesus came and stood among them, not with anger, not with disappointment, but with peace: “Peace be with you.”

This is important for us today because grief often locks the doors of our hearts. Death leaves questions, silence, and pain. We wonder why someone we love had to leave us. We struggle with the emptiness that follows loss. Yet Easter tells us that even behind locked doors, Christ still enters. He still speaks peace.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds us that the apostles became witnesses of the Resurrection. They did not merely repeat a teaching; they testified to a living encounter. Christianity exists because frightened disciples became courageous believers after meeting the Risen Lord.

There is another story of a young boy whose grandfather died during Easter week. At the funeral, the child looked confused as everyone cried. Then he asked his mother, “If Jesus rose from the dead, does Grandpa get to live too?” His mother answered softly, “Yes, with

Jesus.” The boy nodded and simply said, “Then this is not goodbye forever.”

That child understood something essential about Easter faith. The Resurrection is not only about Jesus; it is also about what God promises to all who belong to Him. Death changes our earthly life, but it does not destroy the bond we have in Christ.

Thomas, in today’s Gospel, struggled with doubt. He wanted proof. Many people today feel the same way when facing death. Faith becomes difficult when we stand beside a coffin or experience deep loss. Yet Jesus did not reject Thomas. Instead, He invited him closer: “Do not be unbelieving, but believe.”

The Lord does the same for us. He invites us to trust that love is stronger than death. Every act of kindness, every prayer, every sacrifice made in faith is not lost. In the Resurrection, God gathers all things into eternal life.

A teacher once brought seeds into a classroom and asked the children what would happen if the seeds remained safely on a shelf. “Nothing,” they answered. Then she planted them in the earth. Weeks later, green shoots appeared. What seemed buried had become alive. Jesus Himself used this image often: life comes through what appears to die.

Today we entrust N. into the hands of the Risen Christ. We do so with tears, but not without hope. Easter assures us that the grave is not the end. Christ has gone before us, and He prepares a place for those who trust in Him.

And so we continue our journey with faith. The peace Jesus gave to His disciples is the same peace He offers us now — a peace that

does not remove every sorrow immediately, but a peace that assures us that death has been conquered and eternal life has begun.

I close with the story of a candle lit during an Easter Vigil. One small flame was passed from person to person throughout a dark church. At first, the darkness seemed overwhelming. But slowly the light spread until the whole church shone brightly. The flame of Easter faith is like that. Even in moments of grief and loss, the light of the Risen Christ continues to shine, and no darkness can overcome it.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that these gifts, offered in faith and hope in the Risen Lord who brings peace to every fearful heart, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
accept these offerings placed upon Your altar
as signs of our faith in the victory of Christ over death.
May this Eucharistic sacrifice strengthen our hope,
bring peace to all who mourn,
and lead Your servant N. into 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 in the Resurrection of Your Son
You transformed the sorrow of death into the promise of eternal life.

When fear held the disciples behind locked doors,
the Risen Christ stood among them bringing peace and joy.
By His victory over the grave,
He became the hope of all who mourn
and the assurance that death no longer has the final word.

Through Him, the faithful who die in Christ
are called to share in the fullness of His Resurrection,
where every tear is wiped away
and eternal light shines forever.

And so, with Angels and Saints,
we proclaim 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 gives eternal life to His children.

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 place our hope in the victory of the Risen Christ
who conquered death
and opened for us the gates of 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,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with Your will.
May Your Resurrection strengthen all who mourn
and fill troubled hearts with lasting hope.
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.
Through His death and Resurrection
He gives us the promise of eternal life.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Risen Christ has entered once more into the midst of His people
bringing peace.
In this Eucharist, we have encountered the Lord
who conquered death and remains with us
in every sorrow and uncertainty.
As we pray for N.,
may our hearts hold firmly to the Easter promise
that those who die in Christ shall also rise with Him.
Even through tears, the light of Resurrection continues to shine.

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 grant that Your servant N., who shared in earthly life,
may now share fully in the joy and peace of Your heavenly kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation, who raised His Son from the dead,
grant you peace in your sorrow and hope in the Resurrection. Amen.
May Christ, the Risen Lord,
who stood among His disciples with words of peace,
strengthen your hearts and lead you to eternal life. Amen.
May the Holy Spirit, who breathes new life into the Church
and bears witness to the Resurrection, fill you with courage and hope
as you await the day when we shall all rise in Christ. Amen.
And may almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth in the peace of Christ, carrying within your hearts the hope
of the Resurrection and the assurance that the Lord walks with His
people even through the valley of death.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The Risen Christ does not remove every sorrow immediately,
but He enters our locked and grieving hearts with His gift of peace,
assuring us that death is not the end but the doorway to eternal life.

96. Funeral for Someone Deeply Devoted to the Sacred Heart

Eph 3:14–19 — Know the love of Christ.

Jn 19:31–37 — Blood and water flowing from Christ's side.

Theme: "Resting in the Heart of Christ: Love That Never Fails"

INTRODUCTION

There is a story of a little child who, frightened during a storm, ran into his grandfather's room in the middle of the night. The old man lifted the child close to his chest, and almost immediately the child fell asleep listening to the steady beating of his grandfather's heart. Long before explanations or answers, the child found peace simply by resting near a loving heart.

Today, as we gather in grief and faith, the Scriptures lead us to the Heart of Christ — pierced on the Cross, yet overflowing with mercy and life. From His wounded side flowed blood and water, signs of the sacraments and of the endless love God pours upon His people. Saint Paul prays that we may know "the breadth and length and height and depth" of Christ's love, a love stronger than sin, suffering, and even death.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart reminds us that God is not distant from human pain. The Heart of Jesus beats with compassion for the weary, forgiveness for sinners, and comfort for the sorrowing. In life, our departed brother/sister sought refuge in that divine love; today we entrust him/her completely to the mercy flowing from the Heart of the Saviour.

As we stand before the Lord whose Heart was opened for our salvation, let us acknowledge our sins and ask Him to heal what is wounded within us, so that we may worthily celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, Your Sacred Heart was pierced to pour mercy upon the world: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You reveal the infinite depth of the Father's love for sinners and the sorrowing: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You gather the faithful into the peace of Your compassionate Heart: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
whose beloved Son opened His Heart for the salvation of the world,
forgive us our sins, heal us with His mercy, comfort us in our sorrow,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
whose Son in His great love for humanity
allowed His sacred side to be opened upon the Cross,
grant that we who honour the mystery of His Sacred Heart
may be strengthened by Your mercy
and filled with the hope of eternal life.

As we commend our departed brother/sister to Your compassion,
comfort all who mourn with the assurance
that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

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 who spent many evenings in the hospital chapel. He rarely said long prayers. He simply sat quietly before the crucifix. One day the nurse asked him, “What do you say to God for so long?” The man smiled and answered, “Mostly I let Him love me.” That simple answer captures the heart of today’s Gospel and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Saint John tells us that when the soldier pierced the side of Christ, “immediately blood and water flowed out.” The Church has always seen this as more than a physical detail. From the wounded Heart of Jesus flows life for the world — mercy for sinners, cleansing for the broken, nourishment for weary souls. The Cross is not merely a sign of suffering; it is the revelation of a Heart that loves without measure.

Saint Paul, in today’s reading, prays that we may know “the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.” Notice that Paul does not merely say “understand” Christ’s love. Love this deep cannot be fully explained. It must be experienced. Like the child resting against the grandfather’s chest, faith is learning to rest in the Heart of Christ.

There is another story about Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, to whom the Sacred Heart devotion was revealed in a special way. She once described Jesus pointing to His Heart, saying, “Behold this Heart which has loved people so much.” The tragedy, however, is that many ignore that love. Yet Jesus continues to offer His Heart to humanity — patient, wounded, and merciful.

Our departed brother/sister found strength in that devotion. The Sacred Heart was not merely an image on a wall or a prayer repeated from memory. It was a reminder that God’s love remains

faithful in joy and suffering alike. In moments of loneliness, illness, disappointment, or fear, the Heart of Christ became a refuge.

A priest once visited a dying woman who held a worn Sacred Heart medal in her hand. She whispered, “Father, I am not afraid. I am going home to the One who has loved me all my life.” That is the hope we bring to this altar today. Death is painful because love is real. But for those who trust in Christ, death is not abandonment. The pierced Heart that welcomed sinners on Calvary still welcomes His children into eternal life.

The Sacred Heart also challenges us. If we truly believe we are loved so deeply, then our lives must become more compassionate. Harshness, bitterness, and indifference cannot remain in a heart touched by Christ. Devotion must become imitation. The Heart of Jesus teaches us patience with others, forgiveness within families, generosity toward the suffering, and tenderness toward the forgotten.

There is a final story of a little boy who once asked his mother why every picture of Jesus showed His heart outside His chest. The mother replied, “Because His love could never be kept hidden inside.” Today we entrust our departed brother/sister to that love — a love poured out from the Cross, a love stronger than death, a love that remains open forever.

And perhaps that is the greatest consolation of this funeral Mass: the Heart of Jesus still beats with mercy for His people. Into that Heart we place our grief, our memories, our gratitude, and the soul of our departed loved one, trusting that divine love never fails.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours, offered in the love flowing from the Sacred Heart of Christ, may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God, receive these offerings we place upon Your altar as we commend our departed brother/sister to Your mercy. May the sacrifice of Christ, whose Heart was opened for our salvation, bring forgiveness, peace, and eternal rest to the faithful departed, and strengthen us with the comfort of Your 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 infinite love You gave us Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose Sacred Heart was pierced upon the Cross so that mercy and life might flow upon the world. In Him the sorrowing find consolation, the sinner finds forgiveness, the weary discover rest, and the dying receive the promise of eternal life. Even in the face of death, You call us to hope, for the love revealed in Christ is stronger than the grave and endures forever.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the saints, we declare Your glory, as with one voice we acclaim:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

Gathered together in the compassionate Heart of Christ, and trusting in the love that makes us God's children, 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 place our sorrows and our hopes within the loving Heart of Your Son, who comforts the living and leads the faithful departed into eternal peace, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, 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. May the love flowing from Your Sacred Heart heal every wound of sorrow and reconcile all hearts in Your mercy. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold Him whose Sacred Heart was pierced for our salvation and
whose mercy endures forever.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The Heart of Jesus remains open for His people.

In this Eucharist, we have received the love poured out from the
Cross — a love that strengthens the weak, forgives the sinner,
and consoles the grieving.

As we remember our departed brother/sister today,
we place our trust in the promise that those who rest in Christ
shall never be abandoned.

May His Sacred Heart be our refuge now
and at the hour of our death.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these holy mysteries
You have nourished us with the Body and Blood of Your Son.

May the love revealed in His Sacred Heart
strengthen our faith, comfort our sorrow,
and bring our departed brother/sister
into the joy of everlasting peace.

Grant that we who remain on earth
may live always in the confidence of Your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation
comfort you in your sorrow
and strengthen you with the hope
that flows from the Sacred Heart of His Son. Amen.

May Christ Jesus,
whose side was opened upon the Cross,
welcome our departed brother/sister
into the fullness of eternal life and peace. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
poured forth from the Heart of Christ
as a source of grace and mercy,
fill you with courage, faith, and abiding peace
as you await the joy 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 the unfailing love of the Sacred Heart of
Christ.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The Heart of Jesus remains open to us in life, in death, and for
eternity; whoever rests in that love will never be lost.

97. Funeral for Someone Devoted to Divine Mercy

Micah 7:18–20 — God delights in mercy.

Jn 20:19–31 — “Peace be with you.”

Theme: “Peace Through Mercy”

In Christ, the Risen Lord who speaks peace to fearful hearts, we encounter the God who “delights in mercy.” The life of the departed reminds us that mercy received must become mercy shared.

INTRODUCTION

There is a story told of an elderly woman who kept a small image of the Divine Mercy in the corner of her home. Whenever family members argued or visitors arrived burdened with worries, she would quietly light a candle before that image and say, “Let mercy speak first.” Over the years, people forgot many things about her house, but they always remembered the peace they felt when they entered it.

Today, as we gather to commend our departed brother/sister to God, we remember a life shaped by trust in Divine Mercy. The Gospel presents the Risen Jesus entering a room full of fear and greeting his disciples with the words, “Peace be with you.” The prophet Micah reminds us that God does not cling to anger but delights in compassion and forgiveness.

At every funeral there is grief, unanswered questions, and the pain of separation. Yet today the Lord stands among us as he stood among the disciples — not to deepen fear, but to open hearts to peace, hope, and mercy stronger than death itself.

Therefore, trusting not in our own worthiness but in the boundless mercy of God, let us acknowledge our sins and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you came among your fearful disciples with words of peace and mercy: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you delight in forgiving sins and lifting the burdened heart: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Divine Mercy who leads your faithful into eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
whose mercy is greater than our weakness
and whose peace calms every troubled heart,
forgive us our sins, heal us with the grace of his Son,
and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
rich in mercy and never weary of compassion,
you revealed your love through your risen Son
who brought peace to fearful hearts
and forgiveness to sinners.
As we commend our departed brother/sister to your care,
strengthen us with the hope of the Resurrection
and teach us to live as witnesses of your mercy in the world.

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 broke an expensive vase in his grandmother's home. Terrified, he hid behind the house for hours, convinced he would be punished. Finally, his grandmother found him, held his trembling hands, and simply said, "I was looking for you because I love you more than the vase." Years later, the man would say that moment changed his understanding of God forever.

Today's readings speak exactly about that kind of mercy.

The disciples in the Gospel are hiding behind locked doors. Fear has imprisoned them. They abandoned Jesus during his Passion, and now shame weighs heavily upon them. Yet when Jesus appears, he does not begin with accusation. He begins with peace: "Peace be with you." This is the heart of Divine Mercy — God always comes searching for wounded hearts before wounded hearts think of searching for God.

The prophet Micah asks a beautiful question: "Who is there like you, the God who removes guilt and pardons sin?" God delights not in punishment but in mercy. Human beings often remember injuries for years. God remembers how to forgive.

There is another story of a prisoner during World War II who survived because a priest secretly shared his bread with him every evening. After the war, the man searched for the priest to thank him. When he finally found him, the priest said, "I only gave you what God gives me every day — mercy I do not deserve." Mercy received becomes mercy shared.

That is how many people remember our departed brother/sister. Not necessarily through grand achievements, but through acts of kindness, patience, forgiveness, prayer, and compassion. A person

devoted to Divine Mercy slowly becomes a reflection of Divine Mercy.

Saint Thomas in today's Gospel also teaches us something important. He doubted. He struggled. He wanted proof. Yet Jesus did not reject him. Instead, Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds. Even doubt became a doorway to faith because Christ approached him with mercy.

Many people carry hidden wounds into this church today — grief, regrets, strained relationships, disappointments, guilt, loneliness. The Risen Lord enters these locked rooms of the heart and still says, "Peace be with you."

A doctor once said that some medicines cure disease, but only mercy heals the person. That is why families who forgive one another often discover a peace that no wealth can buy.

At every funeral we are reminded that life is fragile. But we are also reminded that God's mercy is eternal. Death does not have the final word. Sin does not have the final word. Fear does not have the final word. Divine Mercy has the final word.

And so today we entrust our departed brother/sister into those merciful hands of Christ. We pray that every weakness may be forgiven, every wound healed, and every earthly fear transformed into eternal peace.

There is an old tradition that when a candle burns before the image of Divine Mercy, it symbolizes a soul placing its trust in Christ even in darkness. Today, though one earthly life has ended, the light of mercy still burns. And we believe that the Lord who once said, "Peace be with you," now welcomes his faithful servant into the peace that never ends.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in trust in God's unfailing mercy
and in gratitude for the life of our departed brother/sister,
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 in your mercy.
Through this sacred offering
grant peace to our departed brother/sister
and teach us to become instruments of compassion and forgiveness
in the world. 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 sent your Son into the world
to heal the broken-hearted,
to forgive sinners,
and to speak peace to those burdened by fear.

In the victory of Christ over death
you reveal that your compassion is stronger than sin
and your love more powerful than the grave.
Through him we learn that those who trust in your mercy
shall never be abandoned.

Today, as we commend our departed brother/sister
to your loving care,
we thank you for every act of kindness, forgiveness, and faith
that reflected your Divine Mercy in this 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to pray to the Father
whose mercy never fails
and whose peace sustains us even in sorrow:

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 the passing of our brother/sister
and place our trust in your compassion.
Strengthen us to become merciful toward one another
as you have been merciful to us,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.
Comfort all who grieve today,
and let your Divine Mercy heal every wounded heart.
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 to trust in his mercy.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The disciples recognized the Risen Lord not by power or judgment,
but by his wounded hands and his words of peace.
In this Eucharist, Christ again stands among us.
He knows our grief, our fears, and our longing for those we love.
Yet he continues to speak mercy into every darkness.
Today we pray that our departed brother/sister
may rest forever in that merciful heart of Christ,
where sorrow is no more and peace never ends.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
you have strengthened us with the Bread of Life
and renewed our trust in your mercy.
Grant that our departed brother/sister,
who believed in your compassion,
may rejoice forever in the peace of your kingdom,
and may we who remain
become witnesses of reconciliation, hope, and mercy.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May God, the Father of mercies,
who raised his Son from the dead,
grant peace to your hearts
and welcome our departed brother/sister into eternal light. Amen.

May Christ, the Divine Mercy,
heal every sorrow, strengthen every hope,
and lead you one day into the joy of his Resurrection. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
source of consolation and unity,
remain with you and guide you in lives of compassion and
forgiveness. Amen.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ,
trusting always in the mercy of God
and carrying his peace into the lives of others.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Mercy is the language God never tires of speaking.
Those who trust in Divine Mercy discover that even in death,
Christ still comes among us saying, "Peace be with you."

98. Funeral for Someone with Strong Devotion to St. Joseph

Gen 37:3–4,12–13a,17b–28a or Romans 4:13,16–18,22

Mt 1:18–25 — Joseph receives Mary.

Theme: Walking Quietly in Faithful Trust: With St. Joseph, Into the Father's Care"

INTRODUCTION

There is an old story of a village carpenter whose work was known throughout the region. People admired not only the beauty of the furniture he made, but also the silence with which he worked. One young apprentice once asked him, "Master, why do you never boast about your work?" The old carpenter smiled and replied, "Wood speaks best in quiet hands." Years later, when the carpenter died, people discovered that many poor families in the village had tables, chairs, and cradles secretly repaired by him during the night. His goodness had always worked quietly.

Today, as we gather to commend our dear departed brother/sister to the Lord, the Church places before us St. Joseph — the quiet and faithful guardian of the Holy Family. Joseph speaks no recorded word in the Gospel, yet his life speaks powerfully through obedience, trust, and humble service. Like Joseph, our departed loved one found strength in steady faith rather than in outward display.

In the Gospel, Joseph receives Mary into his home even when he does not fully understand God's plan. In the reading from Romans, Abraham hopes against hope and trusts God's promise. Faith often means walking forward without seeing the whole road, believing that God is already there ahead of us.

As we begin these sacred mysteries, we acknowledge that there were moments when we failed to trust God fully, moments when fear became stronger than faith, and moments when we did not love with Joseph's quiet fidelity. Let us now ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, you called St. Joseph to trust in God's plan even in uncertainty: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you strengthened the faithful to hope against hope: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you prepare an eternal home for those who walk humbly with you: Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God,
who looks kindly upon all who place their trust in him,
forgive us our sins, strengthen us in faithful hope,
comfort us in every sorrow, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who entrusted your Son and his Blessed Mother
to the faithful care of St. Joseph,
grant that we who mourn today
may learn to walk in quiet trust and steadfast hope.
As you guided your servant Joseph through uncertainty and fear,
so lead us safely through the shadows of grief
into the light of your eternal promise.
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 small chapel in the mountains during a violent storm. Inside he found an elderly caretaker calmly lighting candles before the statue of St. Joseph. The traveller nervously asked, "Are you not afraid of the storm?" The old man replied, "Storms pass. The One who guides us remains." That simple faith allowed him to live in peace even while the winds raged outside.

That spirit captures the heart of today's Gospel. Joseph's life was filled with uncertainty. Imagine his confusion when he discovered that Mary was expecting a child. He did not understand everything. Yet when God spoke to him in a dream, Joseph trusted. The Gospel simply says: "He did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." No argument. No complaint. Just faithful obedience.

This is why so many people love St. Joseph. He teaches us that holiness is often quiet. The world celebrates loud achievements, but God often works through hidden fidelity — through people who pray quietly, work honestly, care for their families faithfully, and carry burdens without seeking attention.

Our departed brother/sister loved St. Joseph because he/she recognized something deeply beautiful in him: strength wrapped in humility. Like Joseph, he/she understood that faith is not always dramatic. Sometimes faith is simply continuing to love, continuing to pray, continuing to trust even when life becomes difficult.

There is another story told about a father teaching his child how to cross a river during the rainy season. The child was frightened by the rushing water. The father said, "Do not look at the water. Hold my hand and keep walking." The child crossed safely not because the river became calm, but because the father remained steady.

That is what Christian faith means. Romans tells us that Abraham “hoped against hope.” Joseph also hoped against hope. And today we are invited to do the same. Death feels like a rushing river. Grief unsettles the heart. Questions remain unanswered. But God asks us not to stare only at our fears. He asks us to hold his hand.

St. Joseph reminds us that God guides people step by step. Joseph never saw the entire plan. He simply obeyed the next instruction God gave him: receive Mary, protect the child, flee to Egypt, return home. One faithful step at a time.

Perhaps that is the message our departed loved one leaves behind today. We do not need to understand everything to trust God. We only need to remain faithful in the next step before us.

There is a final story about a craftsman who spent years building a beautiful wooden door for a monastery chapel. When someone admired the work, the craftsman quietly replied, “I made it strong enough for people to lean on when they are tired.” That is what Joseph became for Jesus and Mary — someone dependable to lean on. And in many ways, our departed brother/sister tried to become such a person for others as well.

Today we entrust him/her into the hands of the Heavenly Father. The faithful protector who guided Joseph through every uncertainty now opens the doors of eternal life to all who trust in him. Storms pass. Earthly journeys end. But the One who guides us remains forever.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that this sacrifice, offered in faith and trust like the quiet obedience of St. Joseph,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these gifts we place upon your altar
as signs of our trust in your loving providence.
As St. Joseph faithfully cared for your Son on earth,
may your mercy now embrace our departed brother/sister
and bring him/her safely into your eternal dwelling.
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 gave to the Church
the example of St. Joseph,
a faithful and humble servant
who trusted your will even in darkness and uncertainty.
You taught us through his quiet obedience
that holiness is found not in worldly greatness
but in steadfast love and faithful service.

In him, your Son found earthly protection,
Mary found faithful companionship,
and the poor and weary found a patron and guide.
And today we trust that you welcome into your kingdom
all who place their hope in you.

Therefore, 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,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
who guides his children safely through every storm.

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 place our trust in you with the faithful heart of St. Joseph.
Strengthen us when grief weighs heavily upon us,
and lead us safely toward the eternal home
you have prepared for your faithful servants,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, 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.

Teach us to trust quietly in your providence,
even when life's path is hidden from our eyes.

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 him we find strength to trust beyond fear and hope beyond sorrow.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful Lord,
St. Joseph walked through life without fully seeing the road ahead,
yet he trusted that you would guide him safely.
Today, amid grief and remembrance,
teach us the same quiet confidence.
May our departed brother/sister now rest
in the eternal shelter of your love,
where every fear is stilled
and every faithful journey finds its home.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these sacred mysteries,
we humbly ask you, Lord,
that through the example and prayers of St. Joseph
we may grow in steadfast faith and peaceful trust.
May our departed brother/sister,
who hoped in your mercy during this earthly life,
come to rejoice forever in your heavenly kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May he strengthen you with the faithful courage of St. Joseph.
May he comfort you in sorrow, guide you in uncertainty, and fill your hearts with enduring hope.

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 as St. Joseph trusted,
that the Lord who guided your loved one through this earthly life
will now lead him/her into eternal rest.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“Faith does not require seeing the whole road ahead;
it asks only that we place our hand in God’s and take the next step.”

99. Funeral for a Builder / Tradesperson

1 Cor 3:9–15 — We are God’s building.

Mt 7:24–27 — Wise man builds on rock.

Theme: “Built on the Rock: A Life Shaped by Faithful Hands”

INTRODUCTION

There is something deeply moving about watching a builder at work. Long before a house rises, there is measuring, digging, levelling, and laying foundations that no one will ever see. Yet the strength of the whole structure depends on what is hidden beneath the ground. Good builders know that what lasts is not built quickly, but carefully.

Today, as we gather to pray for our departed brother/sister, we remember someone whose life was spent building — perhaps homes, walls, roads, furniture, or places where others could live and flourish. Through patient labour, skilled hands, and quiet dedication, he/she helped shape the lives of many people. Yet beyond the visible work, there was also the building of relationships, trust, family, and faith.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks about the wise man who built his house upon rock. Storms came, winds blew, and rains fell, yet the house stood firm because its foundation was secure. Saint Paul reminds us that we are “God’s building,” and that Christ Himself is the true foundation upon which every faithful life must rest.

As we bring before the Lord the unfinished parts of our lives and the weaknesses that sometimes weakened the foundations of our discipleship, let us ask God for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You are the firm foundation that never fails:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You build Your people into a dwelling place of hope and love: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You prepare for the faithful an eternal home in Your Father's kingdom: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May Almighty God, who patiently rebuilds what sin has damaged and strengthens the weak foundations of our lives with His mercy, forgive us our sins, heal our hearts, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
You are the everlasting foundation
upon which every faithful life is built.
In Your goodness, receive Your servant N.
who laboured faithfully in this world
with willing hands and generous heart.
Grant that, having built his/her life upon Christ,
the solid rock of our salvation,
he/she may now dwell forever
in the eternal home You have prepared.

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 carpenter once told a young apprentice, "The most important part of a building is the part nobody notices." The apprentice looked confused, so the old carpenter took him to a house under construction. Pointing beneath the ground, he said, "The foundation will never be admired by visitors. Nobody will compliment it. But if it is weak, the whole house will fall."

Years later, that apprentice understood exactly what the old man meant.

Jesus says much the same thing in today's Gospel. The wise man built his house upon rock. Storms came — and storms always come — but the house stood firm because it had a solid foundation.

Today we remember a man/woman whose life was spent building. Builders and tradespeople understand realities that many others overlook. They know patience. They know precision. They know that strength comes from small faithful actions repeated day after day. They know that shortcuts eventually reveal themselves.

A mason once said that every wall tells the truth. If the line is crooked, time will expose it. If the work is careless, cracks will appear. But if the work is honest and sound, it will endure.

That is true not only for buildings but also for life.

Saint Paul tells us: "We are God's building." God Himself is at work in every human life, shaping, strengthening, correcting, and restoring. The tools are often ordinary: daily work, caring for family, keeping promises, enduring hardship, forgiving others, praying quietly, carrying responsibilities without complaint.

Many builders leave behind structures of brick, timber, steel, or stone. But the greater work is often invisible. A parent builds confidence in a child. A spouse builds trust in a marriage. A faithful worker builds stability for a family. A good neighbour builds community. A believer builds hope.

There is a story of a stonecutter who spent years carving blocks for a cathedral. Someone asked him, "Why are you taking such care with the back side of the stone? No one will ever see it." The stonecutter replied, "God will see it."

That is the spirit of faithful work. Much of what is holy in life is unseen by the world. Quiet sacrifices. Long hours. Honest labour. Small acts of kindness. Hidden prayers. God sees them all.

Yet today's Gospel also reminds us that every earthly structure is temporary. Houses age. Wood weakens. Paint fades. Roads crack. Even the strongest buildings eventually crumble. But the life built upon Christ endures forever.

And perhaps that is the deepest comfort for us today. Our departed brother/sister was not simply building for this world alone. Every act of goodness, every honest effort, every loving sacrifice became part of something eternal. Christ, the true foundation, receives all that was built in faith.

There is another story about an old builder who was asked to construct one final house before retiring. Tired and eager to finish, he rushed the work and used poorer materials than usual. When the house was completed, the owner handed him the keys and said, "This house was my gift to you."

The builder was devastated. Had he known the house was for himself, he would have built differently.

In many ways, every day of our life is part of the house we are preparing for eternity. Christ invites us to build carefully: with faith, integrity, mercy, patience, and love. And today we entrust our departed brother/sister to the mercy of God, trusting that the Lord who began the good work in him/her now brings it to completion in the eternal home not made by human hands.

May Christ, the solid rock, hold him/her forever in peace.
Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered with gratitude for a life of faithful labour
and steadfast love,
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord God,
receive these offerings
which we place upon Your altar
for Your servant N.
As he/she laboured with human hands
to build what was useful and lasting,
may these sacred mysteries
build us up in faith and hope,
until we come to the eternal dwelling
prepared by Christ our Lord.

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 labour,
and in every honest work
Your goodness shines forth.
You entrusted the earth to human hands,
that through skill, perseverance, and service
Your children might share in the work of creation.

In the life of Your servant N.,
You gave the dignity of labour
and the grace to build what served others well.
Yet beyond every earthly structure,
You taught us through Your Son
to build our lives upon the rock of faith,
so that when the storms of life descend,
our hope may remain secure.

And even though death comes to every earthly home,
You promise to prepare for the faithful
an eternal dwelling in Your kingdom,
where no labour is lost
and no foundation will ever fail.

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,
let us pray to the Father who prepares for His faithful children
an eternal home built upon Christ the cornerstone.

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 build our lives upon the solid rock of Christ,
whose promises endure when every earthly structure fades,
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.
Strengthen us when the storms of life arise,
and keep our hearts firmly grounded in Your love and truth.
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.
Christ is the sure foundation and the eternal home of all who trust in Him.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

Every builder knows the satisfaction of seeing completed work. Yet even the finest earthly achievements eventually pass away. What remains forever is the life built in love, faith, sacrifice, and trust in God.

Today we commend our departed brother/sister into the hands of Christ, the cornerstone that never fails. May the Lord now welcome him/her into that eternal dwelling where labour is rewarded, burdens are lifted, and peace has no end.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through these sacred mysteries
You have nourished us with the Bread of Life.
Strengthen our faith,
that we may continue to build our lives upon Christ,
the unfailing foundation of hope.
May Your servant N.,
who has departed from this earthly life,
come to the eternal home of peace and joy
prepared for all Your faithful people.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all consolation,
who is our secure foundation in every trial,
strengthen your hearts in faith and hope. Amen.

May Christ Jesus,
the cornerstone rejected yet raised in glory,
lead your departed brother/sister
into the eternal dwelling of peace. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
the giver of comfort and peace,
renew your hearts with courage and trust
as you await the joy 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 that the Lord who builds His people in love now welcomes His faithful servant into the house of eternity.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

The strongest foundations are often unseen.
A faithful life is built quietly — through honest work, steadfast love,
patient sacrifice, and trust in God.
When life is built upon Christ, no storm can destroy it.

100. Funeral for a Fisherman / Sailor

Ps 107:23–32 — Those who sail the sea.

Lk 5:1–11 — The miraculous catch.

Theme: “Christ, the Lord of the Sea, Guides Us Safely Home.”

INTRODUCTION

There is something deeply humbling about the sea. Those who spend their lives upon it know both its beauty and its danger. A fisherman or sailor learns quickly that no one truly controls the waters. The sea can be calm one moment and fierce the next. Yet generation after generation still launch their boats, trusting the winds, reading the skies, and hoping for safe return. In many ways, life itself is like that journey upon the sea.

Today the Scriptures speak directly to that experience. The Psalm tells us of those who “go down to the sea in ships,” who witness both the storms and the wonders of God. The Gospel shows Simon Peter and his companions exhausted after a fruitless night, only to discover that when Christ enters the boat, emptiness becomes abundance and fear becomes mission.

We gather today to commend our beloved departed into the hands of the Lord who rules both sea and storm. Through many tides and seasons of life, Christ journeyed with him/her — in calm waters, in hardship, in labour, in hope, and in love. Even now, the Lord does not abandon His faithful servant but calls him/her to the eternal harbor of peace.

Yet all of us know that we have not always trusted the voice of Christ. At times we have sailed according to our own direction and forgotten the One who guides us safely home. Therefore, with humble hearts, let us acknowledge our sins and ask the Lord for mercy and peace.

PENITENTIAL ACT WITH KYRIE INVOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, You calmed the storms and strengthened those who feared upon the waters: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You called fishermen to leave their nets and follow You in faith: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You lead Your faithful people to the safe harbor of eternal life: **Lord, have mercy.**

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, calm every storm within our hearts, strengthen us in faith as we journey through the seas of life, and bring us to the eternal harbor prepared for Your faithful servants, and bring us everlasting life. Amen.

COLLECT

O God,
Lord of the oceans and guide of all who journey through the uncertainties of life,
You called Your disciples from their boats
to place their trust completely in Your Son.
Grant that we who mourn today
may find comfort in the promise of Christ’s presence,
and may Your servant, whom You have called from this world,
be welcomed into the calm waters of eternal 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

Many years ago, an old fisherman was asked what the sea had taught him after a lifetime upon the water. He paused for a moment and said, “The sea taught me two things: how small I am, and how much I must trust.” Those words capture beautifully the spirit of today’s readings.

In the Gospel, Simon Peter and the others are experienced fishermen. They know the lake. They know the currents. They know when fish should come and when they should not. Yet after working all night, they return empty-handed. Tired, disappointed, and discouraged, they begin washing their nets. Then Jesus steps into Peter’s boat and tells him, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets.”

What a difficult moment that must have been. Peter could easily have replied, “Lord, we already tried. We know this lake better than You.” But instead, he says those beautiful words: “At your word I will lower the nets.”

And that changes everything.

A sailor once described how, during a violent storm at sea, the crew could no longer see the shoreline, the stars, or even one another clearly. Yet the captain remained calm because he trusted the compass. “When you cannot see,” he said, “you must trust what guides you.” Faith often works like that. There are moments in life when we cannot see clearly — moments of grief, illness, failure, loneliness, or death itself. Yet Christ remains our compass.

The Psalm today speaks of sailors caught in storms. Their courage melts away as the waves rise. Then they cry out to the Lord, and He stills the tempest and brings them safely to harbor. That image

speaks powerfully today. Our beloved departed surely knew storms in life — hardships, sacrifices, disappointments, perhaps dangers known only to family and close friends. Yet through it all, God remained present.

There is another story told among fishermen. A young deckhand once asked an older sailor, “How do you stop being afraid of storms?” The older man replied, “You do not stop respecting the storm. You simply learn to trust the One who is greater than the sea.”

That is exactly what Simon Peter learns. When he sees the miraculous catch, he falls before Jesus and says, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” Peter suddenly realizes that he is standing before someone greater than the waters themselves. But Jesus does not reject him. Instead, He calls him forward: “Do not be afraid.”

Those words echo through this funeral liturgy today: Do not be afraid.

Death can feel like the final storm. It can leave families feeling adrift, uncertain, and wounded by separation. Yet the Christian faith proclaims that Christ has already crossed those dark waters before us. Through His death and resurrection, He has opened the passage to eternal life.

One elderly sailor nearing death once told his family, “For years I guided my boat by the lighthouse. Now I believe the lighthouse is guiding me home.” That image is beautiful for us today. Christ is that unfailing light. He guided our beloved through life, and now He guides him/her beyond the horizon we cannot yet see.

And so today we do not simply remember a fisherman or sailor. We remember a child of God, someone called by Christ, someone

whose earthly voyage has reached its resting place. The nets are laid down. The labour is finished. The sea is calm. And we entrust him/her into the hands of the Lord who says to every faithful soul: "Do not be afraid."

May Christ, the Lord of wind and wave, bring His servant safely into the eternal harbor where every storm is stilled and every tear is wiped away forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that these gifts, offered with faith and hope
in the Lord who guides us through every storm,
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 trust in Your Son,
who called His disciples from the waters
and remained with them through every storm.
Grant that Your servant,
whom You have called from this earthly voyage,
may now enter the peace 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.

For in Your wisdom You placed the seas within their boundaries
and taught humanity to journey across the waters
with courage and trust. In Your Son, Jesus Christ,
You entered the boat of human life itself,
sharing our labour, calming our fears,
and guiding us through the storms of sin and death.

In Him, despair is transformed into hope,
and death becomes the passage to eternal life.
For those who trust in Him
are not abandoned upon troubled waters,
but are led safely into the harbor of everlasting 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:

INVITATION TO THE OUR FATHER

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching,
let us pray with confidence to the Father
who guides His children through every storm and leads them
toward the peace of 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 journey through the uncertain seas of this world under the
guidance of Christ, our sure and faithful light,
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.
Calm the storms within our hearts and lead all who mourn into the
quiet confidence of Your loving 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 calls us to trust Him in the deep waters of life
and who leads His faithful people to eternal peace.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

SHORT MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

The sea eventually returns every boat to shore.
So too every human life returns at last to God.
Today we place our trust in Christ,
who stood in Peter's boat,
who calmed the storm,
and who now receives His servant into eternal peace.
May the Lord who guided this earthly journey
now grant everlasting rest in the harbor of heaven.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord our God,
through this holy sacrament
You strengthen us with the presence of Your Son,
who remains with His people in every trial and storm.
Grant that Your servant,
who has completed the voyage of this earthly life,
may rejoice forever in the peace of Your heavenly kingdom,
and comfort all who mourn with the hope of resurrection.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
who walked upon the waters and calmed the sea,
strengthen you in every sorrow and fill you with His peace.

May He guide you safely through the storms of this life
and lead you one day to the eternal harbor of heaven.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, trusting in Christ,
the Lord who guides His people safely home.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

“The storms of life do not last forever.
When Christ is in the boat, no journey is without hope,
and no faithful soul is lost at sea.”