



ORDER FOR VISITING A CEMETERY

GREETING AND GATHERING

- P** The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be with you always.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Dear friends, we gather today at the grave(s) of our [brothers and sisters] whose bodies lie in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of all their sin and struggle. We give thanks to God for gathering them into the life of Christ and welcoming them among all the saints in heaven.

READINGS

- L** Paul writes in First Thessalonians:
We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words. (4:13-18)
- L** A reading from John:
“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord... “Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you

that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am there you may be also.” (11:25; 14:1-3)

- P** [name] is in Christ; and Christ is in God; and God is our all in all.

PRAYERS

- P** Let us pray:
Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all your saints. Keep our sisters/brothers, buried here, in the company of all your saints and, at the last, raise her/him up to share with all your faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- God of the living and of the dead, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope: It is our certain faith that your Son, who died on the cross, was raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Through this mystery, raise up also [name] who now live(s) and rest(s) in Christ, that he/she/they may share in the joy of the resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

- G** **Amen.**

Other prayers may be offered by the assembly.

- P** Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord.
- G** **And let perpetual light shine upon them.**
- P** May all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
- G** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** May the peace of God,
which far surpasses all our human understanding,
keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.
- G** **Amen.**
- A** Let us go in peace.