

UNVEILING OF A TOMBSTONE;

In the name of the Father ...

The grace of our Lord Jesus-Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Brothers and Sisters,

The blessing of a tombstone helps us to remember with affection and love the person buried in this tomb.

By our prayers this morning we want to commend our brother/sister to God's mercy. We believe that he/she is called to share eternal life in God's presence where he/she can intercede for us.

United as friends and family around him/her, we pray that he/she obtains for us all protection from all evil and guidance in this life.

In this rite of blessing, we use Holy water in order to recall our baptism that unites us to Christ our saviour. The candles that we shall light are a sign of the light that we receive from Christ in our minds and in our hearts.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the resurrection and the life. We ask you that our Brother/Sister buried here may rest in peace and enter your kingdom in heaven and, seeing you face to face, may live eternally in your presence.;

Scripture reading: Rom8, 35, 37-38

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that; neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of God.

Litany

The minister leads those present in the following litany.

Dear friends, our Lord comes to raise the dead and comforts us with the solace of his love. Let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

Assisting minister:

Word of God, Creator of the earth to which N. now returns: in baptism you called him/her to eternal life to praise your Father for ever:

Lord, have mercy.

Assisting minister:

Son of God, you raise up the just and clothe them with the glory of your kingdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Assisting minister:

Crucified Lord, you protect the soul of N. by the power of your cross, and on the day of your coming you will show mercy to all the faithful departed:

Lord, have mercy.

Assisting minister:

Judge of the living and the dead, at your voice the tombs will open and all the just who sleep in your peace will rise and sing the glory of God:

Lord, have mercy.

Blessing of water and candles.

God our Father, Bless this water: You have made it a servant of your loving kindness: through water you set your people free, and quenched their thirst in the desert.

By water, made holy by Christ in the Jordan, you made our sinful nature new in the bath that gives rebirth.

Let this water reminds us of our own baptism. We ask this through Christ our lord.

God our Father, Bless these candles: They are a sign of the Light of Christ received by those who believe in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

Signing the tombstone

Blessing this tombstone, we ask for our brother/sister eternal joy in heaven.

The minister then may remove the cloth from the stone saying the following words:

Jesus said to Martha, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; 'Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

The minister then may sprinkle the tombstone with blessed water; the nearest relative of the dead person may light the candles and put them at the sides of the stone saying:

Eternal rest grant unto him /her, O Lord.

And let perpetual fight shine upon him/her.

May he /she rest in peace.

Amen.

May his /her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

He/she may read the words written on the stone, sprinkle it with blessed water and then the other relatives can sprinkle it in turn.

All present people may kneel down and the closest relative may say his/her own prayer or they may pray in silence for a while. The minister then close the blessing saying together:

Our Father...

Final Blessing

(by a priest or a deacon only)

May the peace of God, which is beyond all understanding; keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.