

(Leader and Reader Text)

**Vigil Service
for a
Deceased Serran
with Lay Leader**

Prayers, readings and the quotes below are taken from *Order of Christian Funerals*, approved for use in the Dioceses of the United States of America by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and confirmed by the Apostolic See, Liturgical Training Publications, Chicago, 1989.

A First Reading, Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Reading are given in this program. Other appropriate Scripture readings may be chosen.

"The purpose of the readings at the vigil is to proclaim the paschal mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together in God's kingdom, and encourage the witness of Christian life. Above all, the readings tell of God's designs for a world in which suffering and death will relinquish their hold on all whom God has called his own. The responsorial psalm enables the community to respond in faith to the reading and to express its grief and its praise of God. In the selection of readings the needs of the mourners and the circumstances of the death should be kept in mind."(60)

The psalm may be said or sung. Music may be found in any parish hymnal.

"The opening song or entrance song should be a profound expression of belief in eternal life and the resurrection of the dead, as well as a prayer of intercession for the dead."(58) Appropriate music may be found in the Easter, Resurrection, or Christian Burial section of any parish hymnal.

Closing song (and/or silent prayer):

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King.
He has washed us in the tide
Flowing from his open side.
Praise we him, whose love divine
Gives his sacred Blood for wine,
Gives his Body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy,
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's power, Lord, set us free
Newborn souls in you to be.
Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days,
Three in One, your name we praise.**

10

VIGIL FOR DECEASED SERRANS with Lay Leader

***Presider:* May the God of hope give you the fullness of peace, and may the Lord of life be always with you.**

***All:* And also with you.**

Opening Song: The Strife is O'er

***R.* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun: Alleluia! R.**

**On the third morn he rose again,
Glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain: Alleluia! R.**

***Presider:* My brothers and sisters, we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us pray, asking God to gather _____, our brother/sister Serran, to himself.**

All pray silently.

3

***Leader:* O God, to whom mercy and forgiveness belong, hear our prayers on behalf of your servant _____ whom you have called out of this world;**

and because he/she put his/her hope and trust in you,
command that he/she be carried safely home to heaven
and come to enjoy your eternal reward.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Reader: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we
have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in
heaven.

So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at
home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not
by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body
and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether
we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment
seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to
what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

4

Leader: Blessed are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good deeds go with them.

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

Leader: May he/she rest in peace.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.

Leader: May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ
bless and console us
and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless
_____ 's family and friends who gather around him/her today:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Friends, our true home is heaven. Therefore let us pray to our heavenly Father as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

Leader: Lord, _____ is gone now from this earthly dwelling and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence. Grant that as we grieve for our brother/sister Serran we may hold his/her memory dear and live in hope of the eternal kingdom where you will bring us together again. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

A member or a friend of the family may speak in remembrance of the deceased.

8

Responsorial Psalm led by reader or by cantor:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;

whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? R.**

**There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savor the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. R.**

**O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face. R.**

**I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord. R.**

5

r: A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

Jesus told his disciples:

"Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master

finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent meditation on the Scripture.

6

Leader: Let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection:

**Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever:
Lord, have mercy.**

R. Lord, have mercy.

**Promise and image of what we shall be:
Lord, have mercy.**

R. Lord, have mercy.

**Son of God who came to destroy sin and death:
Lord, have mercy.**

R. Lord, have mercy.

**Word of God who delivered us from the fear of death:
Lord, have mercy.**

R. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls,
give peace to _____ for ever:
Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.**

**Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory:
Lord, have mercy.**

7