

Prayer Service at the Place of a Suicide

SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R: *Amen*

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Praised be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies, and the God of all consolations!

We gather here on holy ground. It is here that (Name) passed from this world
into God's loving and merciful arms.

In this moment of sorrow the Lord is in our midst
and consoles us with his word:

Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted.

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding,
listen to the prayers of your faithful people:
that those weighed down by grief may find reassurance
in your infinite goodness and tender mercies.

Through Christ our Lord.

R: *Amen*

READING

The minister or one of those present proclaims the reading. One of the following may be used

Luke 19: 1-10

Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town.

Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a
wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was;
but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature.
So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus,

who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him,
"Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying,
"He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,
"Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor,
and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house
because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.
For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

OR

Luke 24: 1-12

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb;
but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were puzzling over this, behold,
two men in dazzling garments appeared to them.
They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.

They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
He is not here, but he has been raised.
Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee,
that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified,
and rise on the third day."

And they remembered his words.

Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others.

The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; the others who accompanied them also told this to the apostles, but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them.

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, bent down, and saw the burial cloths alone; then he went home amazed at what had happened.

REFLECTION

A brief reflection rooted in the readings is offered remembering the love and mercy of Christ. If the story about Zacchaeus was used, note that "today salvation has come to this house" through the prayers offered for their loved one. If the resurrection story is used, highlight the promise of the resurrection: "He is not here, but he has been raised." Christ's resurrection overcomes all death, even death by suicide. Conclude by reminding those gathered that the Church teaches we should not despair of the eternal salvation of the person who died and that the Church prays for those who have taken their own lives.

PRAYER OF BLESSING AND SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

Lord, we rejoice in the victory of your Son over death;
by rising from the tomb to new life he gives us new hope and promise.
Grant that (Name) who died here may rest in peace
until you awaken (him/her) to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.
Then (Name) will see you face to face and in your light will see light
and know the splendor of God, for you live for ever and ever.

Solemnly sprinkle with Holy Water the spot where the person died by suicide

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us pray together as Jesus taught us.

Our Father ...

Make the Sign of the Cross over the spot where the person died and pray

Eternal rest grant unto (him/her), O Lord,

R: *and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.*

May (he/she) rest in peace.

R: *Amen*

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

R: *Amen*

Go in Peace.

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