**A SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS**

We meet today to remember those we have known and loved who have died,

to renew our trust and confidence in Christ, and to pray that together we may be one in him, through whom we offer our praises to the Father.

As a father cares for his children:

**so the Lord cares for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows of what we are made:

**he remembers that we are but dust.**

Our days are like the grass:

**we flourish like a flower of the field.**

When the wind goes over it, it is gone,

**and its place shall know it no more.**

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him:

**and his righteousness on children's children.**

**THE ACCLAMATION**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls

you uphold us in life and sustain us in death:

to you be glory and praise for ever!
For the darkness of this age is passing away

as Christ the bright and morning star

brings to his saints the light of life.
As you give light to those in darkness
who walk in the shadow of death
so remember in your kingdom your faithful servants

that death may be for them the gate to life
and to unending fellowship with you;
where with your saints you live and reign
one in the perfect union of love
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’

So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,

confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God of mercy,

We acknowledge that we are all sinners.

We turn from the wrong we have thought and said and done,

And are mindful of all that we have failed to do.

For the sake of Jesus who died for us,

Forgive us all that is past,

And help us to live each day

In the light of Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

All    **Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

Christ, have mercy.

All    **Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:

Lord, have mercy.

All    **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us our sins,

and bring us to everlasting life.

All    **Amen.**

**COLLECT**

Merciful Father;

Hear our prayers and comfort us;

Renew our trust in your Son,

Whom you raised from the dead;

Strengthen our faith

That all who have died in the love of Christ

Will share in his resurrection;

Who lives and reigns with you,

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**BIBLE READINGS**

**First reading: 1 Corinthians 15.50-58**

**CANTICLE**

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all: in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead: the first fruits of those who sleep.

For this perishable body must When this perishable body puts

For as by man came death: by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Second Reading: John 14.1-6, 27**

 **AN ADDRESS**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,

source of all being and life,

the one for whom we exist?

***All***   **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

who took our human nature,

died for us and rose again?

***All***   **We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God

and makes Christ known in the world?

***All***   **We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

***All***   **This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you comforted your disciples when you were going to die:

now set our troubled hearts at rest
and banish our fears.
You are the way to the Father:
help us to follow you.
You are the truth:
bring us to know you.
You are the life:
give us that life,
to live with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray for the coming of God’s kingdom.

You sent your Son to bring good news to the poor,

sight to the blind,

freedom to captives

and salvation to your people:

anoint us with your Spirit;

rouse us to work in his name.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to bring help to the poor

and freedom to the oppressed.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to tell the world

the good news of your healing love.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to those who mourn,

to bring joy and gladness instead of grief.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Send us to proclaim that the time is here

for you to save your people.

Father, by your Spirit

**bring in your kingdom.**

Lord of the Church,

**hear our prayer,**

**and make us one in mind and heart**

**to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**THE COMMEMORATION**

You, Christ, are the King of Glory.

The eternal Son of the Father.

You overcame the sting of death

And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory

We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,

bought with the price of your own blood;

and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Hear us, O merciful Father,
as we remember in love
those whom we have placed in your hands.

As we remember those who have died and affirm that they are in God’s keeping, we light candles and hear their names.

*The names of those to be remembered are read aloud.*

**A time of silence and reflection**

God of all consolation,
in your unending love and mercy

you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

Show compassion to your people in their sorrow.

Be our refuge and our strength
to lift us from the darkness of grief
to the peace and light of your presence.

Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying for us,

conquered death and by rising again, restored life.

May we then go forward eagerly to meet him,

and after our life on earth be reunited with our brothers and sisters

where every tear will be wiped away.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

May God give to you

and to all those whom you love

his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next;

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon *you* and remain with *you* always. **Amen**