

ABSOLUTION OF THE DEAD

This ceremony, sometimes called The Dismissal of the Body, is used after the Mass at a funeral. It is also sometimes used after other Requiem Masses and occasionally after the Office of the Dead, even though no Requiem Mass has been said at the time.

Laying aside the chasuble and maniple, the Priest puts on a black cope and goes to stand at the foot of the bier. The first prayer is omitted if the body be not present.

ENTER not into judgment with thy servant, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no man living be justified, unless thou grant him remission of all his sins. We therefore beseech thee, Let not the sentence of thy judgment press hard upon him, whom the reasonable prayer of thy faithful Christian people commendeth unto thee: but grant that by the succour of thy grace, he who while living was sealed with the sign of the Holy Trinity, may be counted worthy to escape thine avenging judgment. Who livest and reignest, world without end. R. Amen.

This Responsory is then sung or said.

DELIVER me, O Lord, from death eternal in that day of trembling: when heaven and earth shall be shaken: when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

- V. Trembling taketh hold upon me, and fearfulness, as the sifting draweth on and the wrath to come: when heaven and earth shall be shaken.
- R. Ah, that day, that day of anger, of calamity and misery; Ah that great day, and exceeding bitter! When thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.
- V. Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord: and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Deliver me, O Lord, from death eternal in that day of trembling: when heaven and earth shall be shaken: when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

The Priest having put incense into the censor and blessed it, the following is said:

Priest. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Priest. Lord, have mercy upon us.

And the Priest says aloud:

OUR Father.

While the Lord's Prayer is being silently repeated, the Priest goes around the bier, sprinkling it with holy water, thrice on each side; and then in like manner he censures it, thrice on each side. Then he says aloud,

V. And lead us not into temptation.

R. But deliver us from evil.

V. From the gate of hell.

R. Deliver *his* soul, O Lord.

V. May *he* rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive: receive our humble petitions, for the soul of thy servant N. (thine handmaid N.), whom thou hast bidden to depart out of this world: deliver *him* not into the hand of the enemy, neither forget *him* forever; but command thy holy Angels to receive *him* and bring *him* into the country of paradise; that forasmuch as *he* hoped and believed in thee, *he* may not suffer the pains of hell, but possess the joys of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Then the Priest, making the sign of the cross over the bier, says:

V. Rest eternal grant unto *him*, O Lord.

R. And let light perpetual shine upon *him*.

V. May *he* rest in peace.

R. Amen.

Again making the sign of the cross over the bier, the Priest says:

MAY his soul, ✠ and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. R. Amen.

While the body is being borne from the church to the grave, the following anthem may be said or sung:

MAY the Angels lead thee into Paradise; and the Martyrs receive thee at thy coming and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem. May the choirs of Angels receive thee, and mayest thou, with Lazarus once poor, have everlasting rest.

