GATHERING AND THE INVOCATION (+)

(PSALM 124:8) In the midst of life, we are in death; from whom can we seek help? Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

(1 CORINTHIANS 15:51, 53, 54 b-55, 57) Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. O God, you have ordered this wonderful world and know all things on earth and in heaven. Give us such faith that by day and by night, at all times and in all places, we may without fear commit ourselves and those dear to us to your never-failing love, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

(JOHN 12:24-26) Jesus said: "Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor."

(THE URN/PLAQUE IS PLACED IN THE COLUMBARIUM NICHE)

THE COMMENDATION AND PRAYERS

(REVELATION 14:13) Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labors for their deeds follow them.

Almighty God, into your hands we commend your child **NAME** in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and to this place of honor and prayer - earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Gracious God, we thank you for those we love, but see no more. We thank You for receiving into your merciful arms your servant **NAME**. Grant him eternal life, peace, and joy in Your kingdom, where with all the saints of every time and place they dwell with You forever and ever.

O Lord, support us all the day long of our troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then in your mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(PERSONAL WORDS/MUSIC)

(THE NICHE IS CLOSED)

Eternal God, you have shared with us the life of **NAME**. Before he was ours, he is yours. For all that **NAME** has given us to make us what we are, for that of him which lives and grows in each of us, and for his_life that in your love will never end, we give you thanks. As now we offer **NAME** back into your arms, comfort us in our loneliness, strengthen us in our weakness, and give us courage to face the future unafraid. Draw those of us who remain in this life closer to one another, make us faithful to serve one another, and give us to know that peace and joy which is eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Now may the Lord bless $\underline{\text{him/her}}$ and keep $\underline{\text{him/her}}$, the Lord make His face shine upon $\underline{\text{him/her}}$ and be gracious unto $\underline{\text{him/her}}$, the Lord look upon $\underline{\text{him/her}}$ with favor and grant him peace; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!