

# RUBRICS

## The Funeral

~ Page numbers refer to the Archdiocese's Service Book ~

*The Bishop is vested in cassock, exorasson, epitachelion, small omophorion and epanokalymavkhon; he may also don the mandyas and pateritsa. The Priest is vested in cassock, exorasson and epitachelion; he may also don the phelonion. The Deacon is vested in his cassock, sticharion and orarion.*

*If no Bishop or Deacon is present, the Priest says the parts assigned to them, omitting only those parts in brackets [ ].*

*The casket is carried into the church temple (feet first), preceded by the processional Cross, the Taper-bearers and the Deacon with the censer. Following the casket come the Priests (junior to senior) and all the people. All the while the Choir chants "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us." It is placed upon the solea with the feet of the Departed toward the east and the head to the west. An icon or cross is placed on it (near the head of the Departed) so that it can be easily venerated by the faithful.*

*When the time comes to begin the service, the curtain and holy doors are opened. The Priests exit the sanctuary through the holy doors and stand in order of seniority to either side of the holy doors, facing west. The Deacon exits the sanctuary through the holy doors and stands on the solea, at the head of the casket, facing east. An Altar Server brings out the lighted censer and incense and stands near the Deacon. The Bishop comes to stand at an analogion which has been set in the open holy doors, facing west.<sup>1</sup>*

*After bowing to the Bishop, the Deacon lifts his orarion with the first three fingers of his right hand and intones:*

**[DEACON:** Master, bless.]

**BISHOP:** Blessed is our God ... (p. 186)

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**READER:** (*Psalm 90*) Whoso dwelleth ... (pp. 186-187)

**CHOIR:** (*Tone 5 heirmologic*) Blessed art Thou, O Lord ... (pp. 187-189)

*The Deacon takes up the censer, asks the blessing of the Bishop, and then, standing at his place to the head of the casket, censes the Departed while intoning the following petitions:*

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<sup>1</sup> If a Bishop is not present, the senior-most Priest presides from the analogion and the other Priests stand on either side of him in order of their seniority.

**DEACON:** Again and again, in peace ... (p. 189)

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the repose of the soul ...

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

**DEACON:** That the Lord God will establish ...

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

**DEACON:** The mercies of God ...

**CHOIR:** Grant this, O Lord.

*The Deacon gives away the censer, and bows to the Bishop.*

**BISHOP:** For Thou art the Resurrection ... (p. 189)

**CHOIR:** Amen.

**[PRIEST(s):** For Thou art the Resurrection ... (p. 189)]

**[CHOIR:** Amen.]

**CHOIR:** (*Tone 5 heirmologic*) Give rest with the just ... (p. 190)

Glory ...

And all things done with knowledge ...

Both now ...

O Christ our God who from the Virgin ...

(*Tone 6 heirmologic*) There is none holy ... (p. 190)

Truly, all things are vanity ...

Glory ... Both now ...

O all-holy Theotokos ...

As I behold the sea of life ...

*The Deacon takes up the censer, asks the blessing of the Bishop, and then, beginning at his place at the head of the casket, censers the four sides of the casket while following Kontakion is chanted:*

**CHOIR:** (*Tone 8 heirmologic*) With the Saints give rest ... (p. 191)

**READER:** Thou alone art immortal ... (p. 191)

**CHOIR:**           *(Tone 6 heirmologic)* It is not possible ... (p. 191)

*The Deacon takes up the censer, asks the blessing of the Bishop, and then, standing at his place to the head of the casket, censens the Departed while intoning the following petitions:*

**DEACON:**       Again and again, in peace ... (p. 192)

**CHOIR:**         Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

**DEACON:**       Again we pray for the repose of the soul ...

**CHOIR:**         Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

**DEACON:**       That the Lord God will establish ...

**CHOIR:**         Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

**DEACON:**       The mercies of God ...

**CHOIR:**         Grant this, O Lord.

*The Deacon gives away the censer, and bows to the Bishop.*

**BISHOP:**       For Thou art the Resurrection ... (p. 192)

**CHOIR:**         Amen.

**[PRIEST(s):**    For Thou art the Resurrection ... (p. 192)]

**[CHOIR:**         Amen.]

*While it is appointed that the following troparia are to be chanted, it is customary that the first seven are simply said:*

*(Tone 1 heirmologic)* What earthly sweetness ... (p. 192)

*(Tone 2 heirmologic)* Woe is me! What manner of ordeal ... (p. 193)

*(Tone 3 heirmologic)* All mortal things are vanity ...

*(Tone 4 heirmologic)* Where is desire for the world ...

*(Tone 5 heirmologic)* I called to mind the Prophet ...

*(Tone 6 heirmologic)* Thy creating command ...

*(Tone 7 heirmologic)* When in the beginning ... (p. 194)

**CHOIR:**         *(Tone 8 stichiraric)* I weep and I wail ... (p. 194)

**CHOIR:**         *(Tone 6 heirmologic)* Remember us, O Lord ... (pp. 194-196)

*The Reader comes to the solea, asks the blessing of the Bishop, goes to stand near the Deacon and faces east. The Deacon lifts his orarion and intones:*

**DEACON:** Let us attend. (p. 196)

**READER** The Prokeimenon. Blessed is the way ... (p. 196)<sup>2</sup>

**DEACON:** Wisdom. (p. 196)

**READER:** The Lesson from the Epistle ... (p. 196)

**DEACON:** Let us attend. (p. 196)

*The Reader turns to face the congregation and chants the appointed Epistle:*

**READER:** Brethren: I would not have you to be ignorant ... (pp. 196-197)

*At the conclusion of the Epistle, the Reader turns to face the Bishop who blesses him, saying:*

**BISHOP:** + Peace be to thee that readest. (p. 197)

*The reader responds by intoning the following:*

**READER:** And to thy spirit. Alleluia. (*thrice*)

**CHOIR:** Alleluia. (*thrice*)

**READER:** Blessed is he whom Thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord. (p. 197)

**CHOIR:** Alleluia. (*thrice*)

*The Deacon lifts his orarion and intones:*

**DEACON:** Wisdom. Attend. Let us hear the holy Gospel. (p. 197)

*The Bishop blesses the congregation, saying:*

**BISHOP:** + Peace be to all. (p. 197)

**CHOIR:** And to thy spirit. (p. 197)

**BISHOP:** The Reading from the Holy Gospel ... (p. 197)

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<sup>2</sup> Some appoint that the Prokeimenon is chanted in a special tone 3 melody (as are the Megalynaria on the 9<sup>th</sup> Ode of the Canon of Hypapante on February 2<sup>nd</sup>).

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (p. 197)

*The Deacon lifts his orarion and intones:*

**DEACON:** Let us attend. (p. 197)

**BISHOP:** The Lord said to the Jews which came unto Him ... (pp. 197-198)

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (p. 198)

*The Deacon takes up the censer, asks the blessing of the Bishop, and then, standing at his place, censens the Departed while intoning the following petitions:*

**DEACON:** Have mercy on us, O God ... (p. 198)

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

**DEACON:** Again we pray for the repose of the soul ...

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

**DEACON:** That the Lord God will establish ...<sup>3</sup>

**CHOIR:** Grant this, O Lord.

*The Deacon gives away the censer, bows to the Bishop, lifts his orarion and intones:*

**DEACON:** Let us pray to the Lord. (p. 198)

**CHOIR:** Lord, have mercy. (*once*).

**BISHOP:** Our Lord Jesus Christ ... (pp. 198-199)<sup>4</sup>

**CHOIR:** Amen. (p. 199)

*The clergy may be seated while the eulogy/homily is preached.*

*Following the eulogy/homily (and announcements, if any) the clergy resume their places for the Dismissal.*

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<sup>3</sup> Some direct that this be divided into two petitions (“That the Lord God will establish ...” and “The mercies of God...”), with the first petition followed by a triple “Lord, have mercy” and the second by “Grant this, O Lord.”

<sup>4</sup> Some direct that this Absolution may only be said by a Bishop, in which case the preceding Ektenia would end with the usual exclamation “For Thou arte the Resurrection...”

**BISHOP:** Glory to Thee, O Christ our God ... (p. 186/463)

**CHOIR:** Glory ... Both now ...  
Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)  
Master, bless.

**BISHOP:** May He who rose again from the dead ... (p. 199)

**CHOIR:** Memory eternal. (*thrice*)<sup>5</sup>

**BISHOP:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers ... (p. 200)

**[PRIEST:** Through the prayers of our holy master ... ]

**CHOIR:** Amen.

*The Bishop, followed by all the clergy in order of seniority and then by the people, comes to stand on the solea, venerates the icon or cross on the casket, and gives the Last Kiss to the Departed. It is traditional that Psalm 50 "Have mercy on me, O God" (Cf. Service Book, pp. 66-67) or the Stanzas of the Last Kiss (Cf. Hapgood, pp. 389-391) be chanted all the while.*<sup>6</sup>

*After the final person has given the Last Kiss to the Departed, the clergy again assemble at the casket. The Bishop then, in the form of a Cross, strews earth upon the body, saying:*<sup>6</sup>

**BISHOP:** The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. (p. 200)

*He then pours pure olive oil over the earthen-Cross, saying:*

**BISHOP:** The round world, and they that dwell therein. (p. 200)

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*The casket is carried out of the church temple (feet first), preceded by the processional Cross, the Taper-bearers and the Deacon with the censer. Following the casket come the Priests (junior to senior), the Bishop and all the people. All the while the Choir chants "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us."*

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<sup>5</sup> Some direct that while "Memory eternal" is chanted the Bishop (or a Priest) censes the Departed.

<sup>6</sup> Some direct that this be done at the conclusion of the Trisagion Prayers of Mercy which are said before the beginning of the Funeral Service.

*The casket is carried to the grave (feet first), preceded by the processional Cross, the Taper-bearers and the Deacon with the censer. Following the casket come the Priests (junior to senior), the Bishop and all the people. All the while the Choir chants "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us." Then the Trisagion Prayers of Mercy are served before the Departed is committed to the earth where he will await the Second Coming.*

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