Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Blessing of a Columbarium

First Sunday in Christmas
December 28, 2014
10:00 am

The fourth day of Christmas
in the two thousand and fifteenth year of our salvation

GREETING

The leader greets the assembly with these or similar words.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
we are gathered to ask God's blessing
as we dedicate this columbarium to the glory of God
with thanksgiving.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
giver of life and conqueror of death, be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER

Let us pray.
God of the living and of the dead,
you have made your people to be a pilgrim Church,
to be welcomed by you into its eternal home.
Be with us now as we gather to set apart this columbarium.
May this place,
prepared in the sure and certain hope
of resurrection,
never cease to remind us of the life that we are to share in Christ,
who will transform our earthly bodies to be like his in glory,
for he is Lord forever and ever.
Amen.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 23 (ICEL)

The Lord is my shepherd,
I need nothing more.

You give me rest in green meadows,
setting me near calm waters, where you revive my spirit.
You guide me along sure paths, you are true to your name.

HYMN

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Though I should walk in death’s dark valley,
I fear no evil with you by my side,
your shepherd’s staff to comfort me.
You spread a table before me as my foes look on.
You soothe my head with oil; my cup is more than full.
Goodness and love will tend me every day of my life.
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

READINGS

One or more scripture passages are read.
A brief reflection may follow.

Each reading concludes: Word of God, word of life.
The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

The valley of the dry bones
Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lazarus’ Tomb
John 11:38-44
May prayers be offered here continually,
in constant praise of your mercy,
and in hope of resurrection.

You are our life and resurrection.

Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed,
you destroyed death and made holy the graves of all your saints. As you raised up your Son Jesus, the first fruits of those who sleep,
so also by your Spirit give us a share of that new life which you have promised.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.* Amen.

**DISMISSAL**  

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.