PRAYER BEFORE CREMATION

General Instructions:

This prayer service may be celebrated before the cremation of the body, either at the crematorium or at the hospital. It is appropriate to arrange a cross and candles for the service. If possible, the body should also be sprinkled with holy water and incensed.

After the body has been cremated, the mortal remains may be placed in a suitable container and brought to the church and cemetery. The funeral rites should then be conducted in the usual manner, taking the circumstances into consideration. On such occasions, the existing prayers of the funeral service are to be used.

CEL: Glory to God in the highest. *(3 times)*

ALL: Amen. *(3 times)*

CEL: And on earth, peace and hope to all people, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

CEL: Our Father in heaven,

ALL: hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Holy, holy, holy are you.
Our Father in heaven, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Angels and humankind proclaim: Holy, holy, holy are you.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day the food we need. Forgive us our debts and sins, as we forgive those who are indebted to us. Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours forever. Amen.

CEL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

ALL: From the beginning and forever. Amen.

CEL: Our Father in heaven,

ALL: Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Holy, holy, holy are you.

Our Father in heaven, heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Angels and humankind proclaim: Holy, holy, holy are you.

SER: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

CEL: O Lord our God, we worship and praise you, for you created man in your image and likeness, and though he returns to dust and ashes, you call him to eternal life. Lead this servant of yours, who has completed this earthly life in faith in the resurrection of the body and in eternal life, into everlasting light. O Lord of death and life, God of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever.

ALL: Amen.

Psalm 115:1–5, 7, 9

CEL: I love the Lord,
for he hears the voice of my supplication.

ALL: On the day I called upon him,
he inclined his ear to me.

CEL: The pains of death surrounded me;
the torments of Sheol overtook me; / distress and sorrow seized me.

ALL: Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
"O Lord, save my soul."

CEL: O Lord, you are gracious and just;
O God, you are merciful.

ALL: Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

CEL: He has delivered my soul from death
and my feet from falling.

ALL: O Lord, in the land of the living
I shall walk before you.

CEL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

ALL: From the beginning and forever. Amen.

SER: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

CEL: O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, we praise you for revealing your holy name and your living presence to your servant Moses from the midst of the bush that burned without being consumed. On the journey to the Promised Land, you went before your chosen people as a pillar of cloud by day to guide them and as a pillar of fire by night to give them light.

As this servant of yours departs from us on the journey toward eternal glory, may your saving presence and mercy be his *(her)* refuge and support. O Lord of death and life, God of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever.

ALL: Amen.

CEL: O Christ, Light of the world and Life of all, eternal praise be to you for the boundless mercy by which you were sent to us. Amen.

CEL: Peace + be with you.

ALL: And with you and with your spirit.

CEL: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint John. *(Jn 11:23–27)*

ALL: Glory to Christ our Lord.

CEL: Jesus said to Martha: "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live; and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

ALL: Glory to Christ our Lord.

Concluding Prayer

CEL: O Lord God, we praise your ineffable power, by which you sent a fiery chariot and took the prophet Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. We glorify you, who touched the lips of the prophet Isaiah with a burning coal and cleansed him from the stain of sin.

Sanctify the body of this servant of yours, which is now to be consumed by fire. Grant him *(her)* everlasting peace and eternal life, and admit him *(her)* into the blessedness of heaven, now, + always, and forever.

(The body is blessed.)

ALL: Amen.

The body is then sprinkled with holy water and incensed.