

Memorial Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

(Sample Texts)



We pray, O Lord, that your servant Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who served by your will on earth as the visible foundation of your Church's unity, may be happily admitted to your blessed flock.

—Various Prayers for the Dead, For a Pope

His Holiness
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
1927-2022

Born Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger – April 16, 1927

Ordained Priest – June 29, 1951

Ordained Bishop – Archbishop of München und Freising – May 28, 1977

Created Cardinal-Priest of Santa Maria Consolatrice al Tiburtino – June 27, 1977

Appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith –
November 25, 1981

Created Cardinal-Bishop of Velletri-Segni – April 5, 1993

Confirmed Dean of the College of Cardinals November 30, 2002

Elected Pope Benedict XVI – April 19, 2005

Inaugurated Petrine Ministry – April 24, 2005

Resigned Papacy – February 28, 2013

Entered Eternal Life – December 31, 2022



The following is a suggested text for the celebration of Memorial Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The daily readings assigned for Mass of the day may be used. Alternative prayers are available in The Roman Missal (IV. Various Prayers for the Dead – For a Pope, pp. 1306-11308). Alternative Scripture readings are available from Lectionary III (Masses for the Dead, pp 849-890) Alternative Prayers of the Faithful may be used.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Brothers and sisters,
let us remember at this Mass, in a special way
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI,
who was called to his eternal reward,
and the good he accomplished
leading the Church on earth.

Let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your Body and Blood:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Presider:

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Collect

Let us pray.

O God, who in your wondrous providence
chose your servant Benedict to preside over your Church,
grant, we pray,
that, having served as the Vicar of your Son on earth,
he may be welcomed by him into eternal glory.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 29:16-19

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

You turn things upside down!
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay?
Shall the thing made say of its maker,
“He did not make me”;
or the thing formed say of the one who formed it,
“He has no understanding”?

Hope for the Future

Shall not Lebanon in a very little while
become a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field be regarded as a forest?
On that day the deaf shall hear

the words of a scroll,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.
The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord,
and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 23

R./ The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down
in pastures green;
he leadeth me
beside still waters; **R./**

Even though I walk through death's dark vale
yet shall I fear no ill;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me. **R./**

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows. **R./**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long. **R./**

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St. Peter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen[b] him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 23:39-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the

temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of the Faithful

For use at memorial Masses for the deceased pope.

Presider:

God, the almighty Father, raised Christ his Son from the dead; with confidence we ask to save his people, living and dead.

1. For Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who has fallen asleep in the Lord: may the eternal Shepherd receive him into his kingdom of light and peace. **Lord, hear us.**
2. For Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who exercised the ministry of Peter in God’s church, that even in death he may continue to inspire our eager and ready response to Christ. **Lord, hear us.**
3. For the Church, built on the faith of Saint Peter, that it may be a light to the nations and the sacrament of their salvation. **Lord, hear us.**
4. For the people of the world, that they may be delivered from seeing one another as enemies, finding instead common ground and sharing together the feast of life. **Lord, hear us.**
5. For a deeper fidelity and a greater love for the Church, that Mary, our Mother, Mother of your Church always be our model in faith and charity. **Lord, hear us.**
6. For those who have died, those who walked by the light of Christ, that joyfully entering heaven, they may behold God face to face. **Lord, hear us.**

7. We now add our own intentions in silence. For those intentions which we speak only in our hearts. (*Pause*) **Lord, hear us.**

Presider:

To destroy the shroud of death, Lord God, and to wipe away our tears, you promised a joyful feast on your holy mountain, and sent your Son, the Word made flesh, to guide us to that glory.

Hear the prayers of your people.

Bring Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and all the faithful departed to share the victory of the risen Christ, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever.

Amen.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on the offerings of your Church as she calls on you, O Lord, and by the power of this sacrifice grant that, as you placed your servant Benedict as High Priest over your flock, so you may set him among the number of your chosen Priests in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Christ our Lord.

In him the hope of blessed resurrection has dawned,
that those saddened by the certainty of dying
might be consoled by the promise of immortality to come.
Indeed for your faithful, Lord,
life is changed not ended,
and, when this earthly dwelling turns to dust,
an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

As we receive sacred sustenance from your charity, O Lord,
we pray that your servant Benedict,
who was a faithful steward of your mysteries on earth,
may praise your mercy forever in the glory of the Saints.
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**