

In Celebration of the Life of Bishop Joseph W. Estabrook:

A Prayer Service that may be led by Catholic Representatives and Lay Leaders

The Church funeral bells ring. The assembly gathers in a dimly lit room.

Invitation to Prayer

My brothers and sisters, we believe that all the ties of friendship and affection which knit us as one throughout our lives do not unravel with death. Confident that God always remembers the good we have done and forgives our sins, let us pray, asking God to gather Bishop Joseph Estabrook to Himself.



Pause for silent prayer.

**Grant, we pray, Almighty God,
that the soul of your departed servant Bishop Estabrook,
to whom you committed the care of your family,
may, with the manifold fruits of his labors,
enter into the eternal gladness of his Lord.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever.**

-Amen

Liturgy of the Word

The assembly sits.

First Reading
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Therefore, since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. For God who said, "Let light shine out of the darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of Jesus Christ. But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.

The Word of the Lord.

-Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long
to live in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life,
to savor the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple.

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.
Of you my heart has spoken:
“Seek his face.”

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation

I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Gospel

The assembly stands.

Luke 12:35-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Jesus told his disciples: “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at any hour you do not expect, the Son of man will come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

-Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Reflection (Not a Homily)

The assembly sits.

Leader: Bishop Estabrook was a very prayerful man, a man who pointed to Jesus as His light and salvation. Bishop Estabrook was also a great leader in our Archdiocese. He served his country as a Navy Chaplain and was the Master of Ceremonies at the Mass celebrating the installation of Archbishop Ryan at the beginning of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA in 1986. He also served our church as a priest who was dedicated to young adults. His motto, "Set out into the deep," reminds us that it is sometimes the will of the Lord for us to set out into the unknown in order to find Him.

As we remember and celebrate the life of Bishop Estabrook this week, we are given an important responsibility. We must pray for Bishop Estabrook and carry out his desire that all people, no matter what age, might follow Christ by letting the glory of God shine on their faces.

Litany

Together let us turn to Christ Jesus with confidence and faith in the power of his cross and resurrection.

Leader: Risen Lord, pattern of our life for ever. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord, have mercy*

Leader: Promise and image of what we shall be. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: Son of God who came to destroy sin and death. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord have mercy.*

Leader: Word of God who delivered us from fear of death. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord, have mercy*

Leader: Crucified Lord, forsaken in death, raised in glory. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord have mercy*

Leader: Lord Jesus, gentle Shepherd who brings rest to our souls, give peace to Bishop Joseph Estabrook's soul forever. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord have mercy.*

Leader: Lord Jesus, you bless those who mourn and are in pain. Bless Bishop Estabrook's family and friends. Lord have mercy.

All: *Lord have mercy.*

(Pause for silence, then continue)

Leader: Friends, our true home is in heaven. Therefore let us pray to our heavenly Father as Jesus taught us:

“Our Father...”

Closing Prayer

Let us Pray:

**Lord Jesus, our Redeemer,
you willingly gave yourself up to death,
so that all might be saved and pass from death to life.
We humbly ask you to comfort your servants in their grief
and to receive Bishop Joseph Estabrook into the arms of your mercy.
You alone are the Holy One,
you are mercy itself;
by dying you unlocked the gates of life for those who believe in you.
Forgive Bishop Estabrook his sins,
and grant him a place of happiness, light and peace
in the kingdom of your glory for ever and ever.**

R: Amen.

