

The Transitus Of St. Francis

Suggested Format

Opening Comments and Introduction:

Each year on October 3 at sunset, Franciscan men and women all over the world gather to commemorate a touching event in the life of St. Francis. It is called the Transitus, his passage from earthly life to everlasting life. St. Francis died on the evening of October 3 just as the brothers were singing the verse from his Canticle of Brother Sun: **“Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living person can escape.”**

Opening Song: CBWII... No. 625 – God Created Earth and Heaven

First Reading: From the Testament of St Francis

(After reading, lights are turned off and all come and place candles around the body of Francis (habit), while soft music from Brother Sun, Sister Moon begins playing)

Second Reading: “Sister Death” From Journey and the Dream, by M. Bodo

(Soft music continues for a few moments of reflection)

Song: CBWIII... No. 542 – Canticle of the Sun

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Francis poor and lowly enters heaven rich in virtue, greeted with celestial hymns. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:25-30



Homily/Reflection: Deacon/Pastoral Assistant

Prayers of the Faithful: Open intentions

Lord's Prayer: All join in

Sign of Peace: All

Closing Prayer: Pastoral Assistant

Closing Blessing: Blessing of St. Francis

Closing Song: CBWII... No. 699 – Peace Prayer (**Prayer of St. Francis**)