

FORM OF
CONSECRATION OF A CHURCH-YARD
TOGETHER WITH A CHURCH

Before or after Service in the Church, the Bishop, Clergy, and the people, shall walk round the portion of ground which is to be consecrated, and the Bishop, standing in some convenient place, shall say the following Prayer.

O GOD, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that there is a difference between the spirit of a beast, that goeth downward to the earth, and the spirit of a man, which ascendeth up to God who gave it; and likewise, by the example of thy holy servants in all ages, hast taught us to assign peculiar places, where the bodies of thy saints may rest in peace, and be preserved from all indignities, whilst their souls are kept in the hands of their faithful Redeemer: Accept, we beseech thee, this charitable work of ours, in separating this portion of ground to that good purpose: and give us grace that, by the frequent instances of mortality which we behold, we may seriously consider how frail and uncertain our own condition is, and may so number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom: that in the midst of life thinking upon death, and daily preparing ourselves for the judgment that is to follow, we may have our part in the resurrection to eternal life, with him who died for our sins and rose again for our justification, and now liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*