



GUIDELINES FOR FUNERALS and MEMORIAL SERVICES

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FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

When a person is near death, the Minister of the Congregation should be notified, in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided (*page 462*).

It is appropriate that the family and friends come together for prayers prior to the funeral (*page 465*).

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation (*pages 468 & 490*).

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present (*pages 468 & 490*).

*The Funeral Service is for us, the Living,
to celebrate the life of _____*

I. MAKING PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUNERALS

Parishioners are encouraged to leave funeral requests on file with the parish office. This form may be used for that purpose. Leaving such plans makes it easier for families to plan appropriately at the time of death.

The following information may be useful to the family in making plans. If you have preferences about funeral expenses, it is helpful to spell them out here also. The clergy can provide information about limiting expenses.

Funeral and Memorial Service Arrangements Checklist

Preferred Undertaker _____
Phone _____

Cremation or Burial _____

Cemetery or other resting place _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Donations made to _____
Address _____

Other requests _____

Attorney _____
Phone _____

Location of Will _____

II. VISITATION

It is important to give people a chance to offer sympathy to the family and to share with each other at the time of death. Opportunities for visiting may include:

- A specified time for family to receive friends at home
- A time at the church
- After the service at the church
- The family may receive people in the Hoyt Room prior to the service.
- Visiting hours at the funeral home

Many people find that receiving people at the church after services either in the gym or the Hoyt Room puts the least burden on the family.

Suggested Time and Place for Visitation:

III. PUBLIC SERVICES

The principal service may be held immediately before the interment of the body or the ashes, or at time after interment. It should be scheduled at such a time (before or after the committal) that people who may wish to attend can be present.

The following guidelines should be observed.

- 1) "The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering [such as a flag for those who have served in the armed forces]" (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 468). When there are ashes, they are covered in a similar way.
- 2) Flowers are appropriate on the altar. Other arrangements in the church should be limited. A floral blanket or spray may be placed on the coffin when the pall is removed as the procession leaves the church.
- 3) Music is appropriate. Hymns selected should be general hymns of faith, hymns related to the readings, Easter or All Saints' hymns, or those appointed in the Hymnal for burial. Care should be taken that the hymns and service music are known to those who are likely to be in the congregation. A list of suitable hymns is attached.
- 4) A celebration of the Eucharist is appropriate as an expression of the union of the living and the departed in Christ in the communion of saints. All who feel God's call are welcome at the altar for communion.
- 5) Family and friends are encouraged to take an active part in the service. At this emotional time, care should be taken about choosing close relatives to read. Parts of the service which are appropriate for family and friends are:
 - Reading the lessons
 - Leading the prayers of the people
 - Bringing the bread and wine up for communion

The following checklist is provided as a service planning guide.

_____ Rite I _____ Rite II

Music at the Entrance

_____ Organ Music _____

_____ Hymn or Anthem _____

Opening Sentences (Anthems)

_____ Rite I, page 469

_____ Rite II:

_____ 1st anthem, page 491

_____ 2nd anthem, page 492

Collects

_____ Rite I

_____ Rite II:

_____ 1st Prayer, page 493

_____ 2nd Prayer

_____ 3rd Prayer

_____ Prayer for the bereaved, page 494

First Lesson (Optional, or choose one of the following) Reader: _____

_____ Isaiah 25:6-9 *The Lord will swallow up death forever.*

_____ Isaiah 61:1-3 *To comfort those who mourn*

_____ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 *The Lord is good to those who wait for him*

_____ Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 *The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God*

_____ Job 19:21-27a *I know that my Redeemer lives*

_____ Other

After the First Lesson (May be used as the Old Testament Reading. Choose one of the following)

_____ Hymn or anthem _____

_____ Psalm 42:1-7 *My soul longs for God as a deer for the water-brooks*

_____ Psalm 46 *God is our refuge and strength*

_____ Psalm 90: 1-12 *Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another*

_____ Psalm 121 *My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth*

_____ Psalm 130 *Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord*

_____ Psalm 139:1-11 *Lord, you have searched me out and known me*

_____ Other _____

Psalm _____ said or _____ sung?

Second Lesson (Choose one of the following) Reader: _____

_____ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 *Nothing can separate us from the love of God*

_____ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-45, 53-58 *The body raised in glory*

_____ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 *Things unseen are eternal*

_____ Revelation 7:9-17 *God will wipe away every tear*

_____ Revelation 21:2-7 *Behold, I make all things new*

_____ Other _____

After the Second Lesson (Choose one of the following)

_____ Hymn or Anthem _____

_____ Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd*

_____ Rite I: The 1928 Prayer Book version (page 476 top) or

_____ King James version (page 476 bottom)

_____ Psalm 27 *The Lord is my light and my salvation*

_____ Psalm 106: 1-5 *Remember me, O Lord with the favor you have for your people*

_____ Psalm 116 *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living*

_____ Other _____

Psalm _____ said or _____ sung?

Gospel (Choose one of the following)

_____ John 5:24-27 *He who believes has everlasting life*

_____ John 6:37-40 *All that the Father gives me will come to me*

_____ John 10:11-16 *I am the good shepherd*

_____ John 11:21-27 *I am the resurrection and the life*

_____ John 14:1-6 *In my Father's house are many mansions*

_____ Other _____

Homily

_____ Preacher: _____

_____ Share thanksgiving to God for _____

Creed

Prayers of the People

_____ Vigil Prayers, page 465

_____ Rite I Prayers, page 480 (may also be used with Rite II)

_____ Rite II Prayers, page 497

_____ Other Prayers (when there is no Eucharist):

for the departed _____

for the bereaved _____

for the congregation _____

Celebration of the Eucharist

- _____ No celebration
- _____ Rite I
- _____ Rite II

Preparation of the Bread and Wine for the Eucharist

- _____ Organ Music _____
- _____ Hymn or Anthem _____
- _____ Persons bringing up the Bread and the Wine: _____

Eucharistic Prayer

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| _____ Rite I: Eucharistic Prayer I | _____ Rite I: Eucharistic Prayer II |
| _____ Rite II: Eucharistic Prayer A | _____ Rite II: Eucharistic Prayer B |
| _____ Rite II: Eucharistic Prayer C | _____ Rite III: Eucharistic Prayer D |

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

- _____ said
- _____ Sung Hymnal, S _____

Hymns or anthem during Communion:

Anthem at the Final Commendation of the deceased (if body or ashes are present)

- _____ said (pages 482-483 or page 499)
- _____ Hymn 358 *Christ the Victorious*
- _____ *Nunc Dimittis* (Song of Simeon, Rite 1: page 51; Rite II: page 93)

Final hymn or anthem _____

Other requests (such as pallbearers, officiating clergy, and special circumstances)

A LIST OF SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR FUNERALS

The following list suggests hymns that seem especially suitable, but other hymns may be suitable as well. If “favorite” hymns are chosen, care should be taken that their themes are appropriate for a funeral.

Metrical Versions of the Psalms

between the lessons and the Commendation at the end of the service

Psalm 23	645/646 664	The King of love my shepherd is My Shepherd will supply my need
Psalm 42	658	As longs the deer for cooling streams
Psalm 46	687/688	A mighty fortress is our God
Psalm 90	680	O God our help in ages past

Anthem at the Commendation

358 Christ the victorious

Easter Hymns

178 Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord
180 He is risen, he is risen
194 Jesus lives, thy terrors now
208 Alleluia! The strife is O'er

All Saints Hymns

287 For all the saints, who from their labors rest
526 Let saints on earth in concert sing
618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
620 Jerusalem, my happy home
625 Ye holy angels bright

Communion Hymns (A Selection)

- 303 I come with joy to meet my Lord
- 335 I am the bread of life
- 339 Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness
- 357 Jesus, Son of Mary, fount of life alone

Other Hymns

- 390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
- 397 Now thank we all our God
- 447 The Christ who died and rose again
- 482 Lord of all hopefulness
- 487 Come my way, my truth, my life
- 488 Be thou my vision
- 490 I want to walk as a child of the light
- 517 How lovely is thy dwelling place
- 522 Glorious things of thee are spoken
- 623 O what their joy and their glory must be
- 636/637 How firm a foundation
- 671 Amazing Grace
- 686 Come, thou fount of every blessing
- 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
- 692 I heard the voice of Jesus say