



Planning Funeral Services

"I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall not die."

~John 11:25

Christian Faith Calls

The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life that God gives in Christ through his death and resurrection.

We have prepared this booklet to help you and your family prepare in advance. It will enable your family and the parish clergy to understand your wishes and preferences. The clergy will help plan the service and will stand ready to assist in any way.

Christian burial is marked by three characteristics. First and foremost, it is an act of worship wherein we glorify God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Second, it is a time when members of the Body of Christ gather to comfort one another and to offer mutual assurance of God's abiding love. Third, it is a liturgy of celebration whereby we give thanks for a deceased loved one and commend that person to the care of Almighty God.

The earliest records of Christian burial tell us that the following elements were included:

- Prayer in the home before the burial
- A gathering of the community for a burial service, consisting of thanksgivings, psalms, hymns, readings from Scripture, and prayers for the departed and those who mourn
- Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- A procession of lights and torches to the place of burial
- The interment of the remains

As part of preparation for Christian burial, it is suggested that you talk with your clergy. It is also of great benefit to read about the service in *The Book of Common Prayer* (BCP, 468–507). The rubrics on these pages are of particular interest. It is also recommended that people familiarize themselves with prayers for “Ministration at the Time of Death” (BCP, 462–467).

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Final directions and instructions upon the death of:

Name (Sign & Print)

Date

Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #

City State Zip Code

Date & Place of Birth

Date of Baptism

Occupation

Employer

Social Security Number

Date of Last Entered Will

Location of Will

Executor's Name & Address

Notes:



Family Information

Spouse's Name

Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #

City State Zip Code

Spouse's Date & Place of Birth

Spouse's Date of Baptism

Mother's Full Name

Mother's Date & Place of Birth

Living: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Father's Full Name

Father's Date & Place of Birth

Living: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Notes:



Name, address and phone numbers of living siblings:

(Full Name)

(Full Address)

(Phone #)

Name, address and phone numbers of persons to notify upon my death:

(Full Name)

(Full Address)

(Phone #)

Notes:



Please fill out this form and return it to the parish secretary in the church office.

Name (Sign & Print)

(Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #) (City/State/Zip)

The Episcopal tradition is that church members are normally buried from the church. The Prayer Book indicates the body is to be present, although a memorial service without the body may be held. The coffin is closed and is always covered by a pall, which the church will provide.

1. I request that my service be conducted at: _____
(Name, City and State of Church)

or at: _____

The rector or clergy of said congregation shall be in charge of the services.

2. The Burial of the Dead (the funeral service) is a series of psalms, lessons, and prayers. Holy Communion with special propers (i.e., Collect, Epistle, and Gospel) may be included.

I request (check one):

☐ **The Burial of the Dead with Holy Communion** (body or urn present)

Rite I (BCP, page 469)

Rite II (BCP, page 491)

Rite I (BCP, page 323)

Rite II (BCP, page 355)

☐ **The Burial of the Dead** (body or urn present)

Rite I (BCP, page 469)

Rite II (BCP, page 491)

☐ **A Memorial Service** (body or urn not present)

Notes:

3. Other arrangements as follows (Contact parish administrator):

Altar Flowers

Musicians

Altar Flowers

Musicians

Speakers (Optional)

4. I request that the following Scriptures be read:

Old Testament (choose one):

- ☐ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
 - ☐ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)
 - ☐ Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that 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 liveth)
- Psalms: ☐ 42 ☐ 46 ☐ 90 ☐ 121 ☐ 130 ☐ 139

New Testament (choose one):

- ☐ Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
 - ☐ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (Raised in incorruption)
 - ☐ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things which are not seen are eternal)
 - ☐ 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
 - ☐ Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away all tears)
 - ☐ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
 - ☐ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
- Psalms: ☐ 23 ☐ 27 ☐ 106 ☐ 116

Notes:



5. I request that the following Gospel verse be read
(Must be included if Holy Communion is celebrated):

- ☐ John 5:24–27 (He that believeth hath everlasting life)
- ☐ John 6:37–40 (All that the Father giveth me shall 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)

6. I request that the following hymns be sung:

Music should be confident and strong, expressing the hope and faith that Christians affirm in the presence of death. The congregation should participate fully by praying, singing the hymns, and joining the responses. Easter hymns are especially appropriate. The Easter hymns are (#174–213) in the 1982 Hymnal. The hymns for Holy Communion (#300–347), the burial (#354–358), and #287, 376, 410, 556, 613–625, 637, 671, 680, and 688.

7. I prefer the following funeral home: _____ ; however, my family or attorney may make this decision.

- ☐ I wish to have my coffin open at the funeral home.
 - ☐ I do not wish to have my coffin open at the funeral home.
 - ☐ In lieu of flowers, I request that donations be made in my name to _____
-

Notes:



8. Buried: Location of cemetery plot deed, crypt deed, columbarium contract

Coffin specifications:

- ☐ Least expensive
- ☐ Mid-range
- ☐ Elaborate

Cremated:

- ☐ Before Funeral
- ☐ After Funeral

Donate entire body or certain organs (See Organ Donation Form on page 17):

- ☐ Arrangements have been made
- ☐ Please make appropriate arrangements

Please Return to Parish Administrator:

Name of Church

(Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #) (City/State/Zip)

Phone Number

Signature

Date

Notes:

