

Funeral Pre-planning Sheet

If you are interested in voicing any requests about the details of your funeral, please fill in this form and return it to the church office.

The Celebration of the Life and Ministry Of One Who Has Died

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection of Christ. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

Any worship service requires preparation. The clergy make the final plans for all church services according to the canons of the Church, the rubrics of the Prayer Book, and the custom of the parish. It is helpful, though, to have the family's help in selecting the day and time of the service, a few meaningful and appropriate Scripture readings and hymns, and also to decide whether a Celebration of Holy Communion should be part of the liturgy. Some of this planning can be done in advance and kept on file in the parish office. Our having done so is a great comfort and convenience to a grieving spouse and family at the death.

I. Some hymns we might use at such liturgies include the following. You might consider 1 or 2 of these, or add the name and number of some other favorite hymn from our hymnal (The Hymnal 1982):

Abide with me (662)	Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy (482)
All my hope on God is founded (665)	Love divine, all loves excelling (657)
Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks (178)	Morning has broken (8)
Alleluia, sing to Jesus! (460)	My Shepherd will supply my need (664)
Amazing grace (671)	Now thank we all our God (397)
Be Thou my vision ((488)	O God our help in ages past (680)
Eternal Father, strong to save (608--Navy hymn)	O Jesus, I have promised (655)
Fairest Lord Jesus (383)	Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven (410)
For all the saints (287)	Rock of ages, cleft for me (685)
Guide me, O thou great Jehovah (690)	The King of Love my shepherd is (645, 646)
I am the bread of life (335)	The First Song of Isaiah
Jerusalem, my happy home (620)	The strife is o'er, the battle done (208)
Jesus lives! thy terrors now (195)	We know that Christ is raised (296)
Joyful, joyful we adore thee (376)	When I survey the wondrous cross (474)
Lift high the cross (473)	Ye watchers and ye holy ones (618)

If a Requiem Choir were available, would you prefer to have them sing?

Are there any other requests regarding music (organ music, vocal soloist)?

II. The Prayer Book gives a list of suggested readings from which we generally choose the most appropriate two or three:

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>Epistle</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Isaiah 25.6-9	Romans 8.14-19, 34-35, 37-39	John 5.24-27
Isaiah 61.1-3	1 Corinthians 15.20-26 35-38, 42-44, 53-58	John 6.37-40
Lamentations 3.22-26, 31-33	2 Corinthians 4.16 – 5.9	John 10.11-16
Wisdom 3.1-5, 9	1 John 3.1-2	John 11.21-27
Job 19.21-27a	Revelation 7.9-17 Revelation 21.2-7	John 14.1-6

III. Other points to consider:

The Rite One service (traditional language) is beautiful and dignified as ever, but keep in mind that the Rite Two service (contemporary language) is noticeably brighter, more hopeful in tone, and can be more pastorally-sensitive.

Our Burial Rite is first and foremost a worship service, appropriately and firmly focused on the glory of God and our proclamation of the Resurrection. While we gather to give thanks for the one who has died, and to mourn this passing, it is not our custom to add-in eulogies or non-traditional musical selections. (Depending on circumstances, this can be more fitting at the less-formal graveside service.)

According to our tradition a Christian is properly buried from his or her church, whether or not the body (or ashes) is present. While a funeral home's chapel might seem convenient or more simple, it can be difficult to carry out our liturgy with appropriate dignity in an unfamiliar liturgical space.

Obviously the services of a professional funeral director are necessary, and generally quite helpful. However, the clergy of the church, in pastoral consultation with the family, are always ultimately responsible for the day, time, place, conduct, and form of the funeral liturgy and graveside prayers.

IV. Your comments or other requests:

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____