

Planning a Funeral Liturgy for Yourself or a Loved One

A Final Gift To Those We Love

Church of the Holy Comforter -- 543 Beulah Road, N.E. Vienna, VA 22180

“I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

Dear Friends in Christ,

Healthy and authentic living requires that we accept the ultimate reality of death. We do so in the confidence that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ. This document has been created as a help for when we must make funeral plans for those we love, but it will also assist in planning a funeral for ourselves, making our desires known, as a final gift for those we love. It deals with decisions and choices about the funeral service itself, the Rite of Christian Burial.

Practical advice on planning a funeral and reception can be found in the Funeral Details booklet on this website and available in the office at Church of the Holy Comforter

Liturgies of Christian Burial

The Liturgies of Christian Burial in *The Book of Common Prayer* strike a wonderful balance between the themes of joyful gratitude, sincere grief, and resurrection hope. They provide pastoral support not only for those preparing for their final days, but also for those left behind.

Our loved ones will appreciate knowing what our wishes were concerning our service, so they do not have to make these decisions hurriedly in a time of stress.

To assist you in choosing what kind of funeral you want (for yourself or a loved one), we have provided a sample Rite of Christian Burial service on page 1, followed by worksheets with suggested readings and hymns on pages 3-5. After marking your choices, copy them onto the pages marked “Liturgical Plan.” on pages 6-7. Make your desires known to Holy Comforter by leaving a copy of these instructions in the church office. Please give copies to your loved ones as well so that they know your wishes.

AN EXAMPLE OF THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL AT CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

RECEPTION OF THE BODY (*When a casket is present. Remains are placed in the Sanctuary prior to the beginning of the Liturgy. Prior to the Entrance the Celebrant will greet and immediate family who have assembled in St. Mary's Chapel and offer the prayers found on page 466 in the Book of Common Prayer. The family will then be brought to the front of the Church for the procession into the Sanctuary. The immediate should arrive no sooner than 30 minutes before the liturgy. This is to insure that the congregation is seated beforehand, and that the clergy and family can have time to prepare for the entrance. To avoid delaying the liturgy, memorial attendance books are not signed until after the funeral or at the reception.*)

AT THE ENTRANCE

Opening Anthem: "I am Resurrection and I am Life" BCP, p. 491

(Usually chanted by the Presider, though a hymn is also permissible)

Salutation and Collect BCP, p. 493

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson: *(See suggested Readings)*

Psalm: *(Here a sung psalm, hymn, choral anthem may be used)*

New Testament Lesson:

Hymn *(Here a brief hymn or solo may be sung)*

Holy Gospel:

Sermon

The Prayer Book permits a sermon, not a eulogy. This does not mean that it is inappropriate to mention significant facts about the person's life as a part of our witness to the power of Christ's resurrection.. A better time for sharing memories about the deceased is at the more informal vigil or funeral reception. The clergy are prepared to work with the family to include appropriate facts and memories about the deceased's life in the sermon.

The Apostles Creed BCP, p. 496

The Prayers BCP, p. 497

The Peace

Anthem or Organ Solo

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

The Great Thanksgiving - *Prayer A, B, C, or D beginning in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 361*

"Holy, Holy, Holy" *(Sung or said)*

The Lord's Prayer BCP, p. 364

The Breaking of the Bread

"Christ our Passover" *(Sung or said)*

COMMUNION MUSIC *Communion music should be drawn from favorite hymns. Instrumental music is also appropriate.*

Post Communion Prayer BCP, p. 498

THE COMMENDATION

BCP, p. 499

Anthem at the Commendation Procession to Columbarium

The congregation will follow the Rector and the family to the Columbarium Wall in front of the Chapel for the interment.

THE COMMITTAL

Consecration and Sealing of the Niche (if ashes)

BCP, p. 501 Final Prayers and Blessing

WORKSHEET

Suggested Readings

Select a reading from the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament and Gospel.

1. Old Testament

- _____ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- _____ 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 hands of God)
- _____ Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)
- _____ Other

2. Psalm or canticle

- _____ Psalm 23
- _____ Psalm 27
- _____ Psalm 42: 1-7, 46
- _____ Psalm 90: 1-12
- _____ Psalm 106: 1-5
- _____ Psalm 121
- _____ Psalm 130
- _____ other

3. New Testament

- _____ Romans 8: 14-18, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- _____ 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
- _____ 2 Corinthians 4:16—5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
- _____ 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- _____ Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- _____ Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)
- _____ Other

Gospel:

- _____ 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 rooms)

Suggested Hymns

174-213	Any hymn from the Easter section	493	"O For A Thousand Tongues"
178	"Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks To The Risen Lord"	517	"How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling-Place"
287	"For All The Saints	618	"Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"
293	I Sing A Song Of The Saints Of God"	620	"Jerusalem, My Happy Home"
296	"We Know That Christ Is Raised And Dies No More"	623	"O What Their Joy And Their Glory Must Be"
304	"I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord"	625	"Ye Holy Angels Bright"
335	"I Am The Bread Of Life"	635	"If Thou But Trust In God To Guide Thee"
336	"Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus"	637	"How Firm A Foundation, Ye Saints Of The Lord"
339	"Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness"	641	"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"
343	"Shepherd Of Souls"	644	"How Sweet The Name Of Jesus Sounds"
366	"Holy God We Praise Thy Name"	645/646	"The King Of Love My Shepherd Is"
376	"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"	657	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
379	"God Is Love"		
383	"Fairest Lord Jesus"		
388	"O Worship The King, All Glorious Above"	658	"As Longs The Deer For Cooling Streams
390	"Praise To The Lord, The Almighty"	662	"Abide With Me"
397	"Now Thank We All Our God"	663	"The Lord My God My Shepherd Is"
410	Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven"	669	"Commit Thou All That Grieves Thee"
423	"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"	671	"Amazing Grace"
439	"What Wondrous Love Is This"	680	"O God, Our Help In Ages Past"
460	"Alleluia, Sing To Jesus"	685	"Rock Of Ages"
473	"Lift High The Cross"	688	"A Mighty Fortress is our God"
477	"All Praise To Thee"	690	"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
482	"Lord Of All Hopefulness"	691	"My Faith Looks Up To Thee"
488	"Be Thou My Vision"		

Wonder, Love, and Praise

- 811 "Be not afraid"
- 810 "Eagle's wings"
- 762 "I am the bread of life"
- 742 "Loving Spirit"
- 827 "O Lord hear my prayer"
- 791 "Peace before us"
- 764 "Taste and See"

Solos in The Hymnal 1982

- 314 "Humbly I Adore Thee"
- 357 "Jesus, Son Of Mary"
- 676 "There Is A Balm In Gilead"
- 694 "God Be In My Head"

Other Solos

- "Ave Maria"—Bach/Gounod—Schubert
- "Come Sweet Death"—J.S.Bach
- "O Saviour, Hear Me"—Gluck
- "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"—G.F. Handel (*The Messiah*)
- "The Trumpet Shall Sound"—G.F. Handel (*The Messiah*)
- "Te Deum"—G.F.Handel
- "The Call"—R. Vaughan Williams (#487 1982 Hymnal)
- "O Rest In The Lord"—Mendelssohn
- "Litany" (Rest In Peace)-Schubert "Thy Holy Wings"—arr John Ferguson

Liturgical Plan for Funeral at Church of the Holy Comforter

Please leave a copy of this plan with the Church Office.

Name (person for whom the funeral will be held): _____

Family/Personal Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Ashes present? Yes ___ No _____

Closed casket present? Yes ___ No _____

Place of Interment: _____

Personal Preferences for the Liturgy:

_____ Rite I (*traditional language*) BCP p. 468

_____ Rite II (*contemporary language*) BCP p. 491

Eucharist: Yes _____ No: _____

If you prefer a specific Eucharistic prayer, please circle one:

If Rite I: Eucharistic Prayer I or II

If Rite II: Eucharistic Prayer A, B, C, or D

Organ music: _____ Other music _____

Choices for Readings and Music

Opening

1. Anthem chanted_____ Spoken_____

If no Anthem, please choose an Opening Hymn: __

2. Old Testament Lesson:_____Read by:_____

3. Psalm/Hymn/Solo:_____

4. New Testament Lesson:_____Read by:_____

5. Hymn:_____

6. Gospel:(Read by clergy in a service of Holy Eucharist.):_____

7. Sermon: The Prayer Book permits a sermon, not a eulogy. The clergy are prepared to work with the family to include appropriate facts and memories about the deceased's life in the sermon.

Permission may be granted for personal comments from a friend or family member on a case by case basis by the Rector.

8. Offertory music: _____

9. Communion hymns (*two or three*): _____

- !0. Closing Hymn: _____

11. Postlude: _____

Will there be military or other honors?

Additional requests:

Prepared by:

Date: