



A Guide to Funerals at
Grace Episcopal Church
For

(Print Full Name)

(Date of Birth)

(Date of Death)

(Service Date)

(Time)

Funerals at Grace A Guideline to Services and Details

In an effort to streamline the planning of the services—mindful of the pastoral care needed at a time of death—we offer this helpful guideline for funerals at Grace Church. Should you want to hold your loved one’s service here, please let us know. One of our clergy will be happy to meet with you to plan the details of the liturgy.

- All services will be from the Book of Common Prayer, either Rite I or Rite II
- One of the clergy of Grace Church will officiate the service. With the approval of the rector, a family friend or minister may offer remarks.
- All additional eulogies and reflections are invited in the parish hall during the reception after the service. We will set up the parish hall with microphone and podium, offering a nice space for the sharing of stories from family and friends.
- It is customary to have Holy Communion at funerals, to remind us of our connection as the Body of Christ. Extenuating circumstances may allow for funerals without Communion.

Funeral or Memorial Service

“Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has an opportunity to be present.” (BCP, p. 490)

“The coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter.” (BCP, p. 490)

Planning the Service

Suggested scripture readings are listed on pages 494 and 495 of the Book of Common Prayer *and begin on page 6 of this booklet*. Two or three readings are customary with at least one Psalm. Psalms can be found on pages 471 through 479 of the Book of Common Prayer *and on page 6 of this booklet*. Normally, members of the family or friends read the lessons.

There is a short homily after the Gospel reading in which the priest thanks God for the gifts God has given us through the life of the deceased.

It is not required that we have Holy Eucharist, but we do encourage the celebration. Holy Eucharist is the principal act of Christian worship and our chief means of offering thanks to God, thus it is especially appropriate to include Holy Eucharist at funerals. Care is given at a funeral to ensure that all baptized persons understand that they are welcome at the Lord’s Table. The celebration of the Eucharist at a funeral emphasizes the joy of Resurrection, the New Life we share in Christ, and the presence of the whole communion of saints in which the living are united to the dead.

The customary altar flowers used in the church at a regular worship service are sufficient for funeral services. These arrangements and special requests will be handled by the Flower Guild.

In lieu of flower gifts from others, memorial donations may be given in the person’s memory to the Church or to an appropriate charitable organization. In the newspaper notice we suggest that you state, “In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to...” with the recipient/organization’s full address.

Hymns may be sung by the congregation at the service. Easter hymns express the hope and faith that Christians manifest in the face of death. Suggested hymns are listed on page 8 of this booklet.

A pall is used over the casket or urn in the church.

The burial rituals of fraternal orders, military organizations, or other such associations, if used, are generally held at graveside. Please discuss military honors with the clergy prior to making arrangements.

Concerning the Body

All the funeral rites of the Church may be held with the body or ashes present or not present.

For your reflection from the Catechism (BCP, pp. 861-862)

What is the Christian hope?

The Christian hope is to live with confidence in the newness and fullness of life, and to await the coming of Christ in glory, and the completion of God's purpose for the world.

What do we mean by the coming of Christ in glory?

By the coming of Christ in glory, we mean that Christ will come, not in weakness but in power, and will make all things new.

What do we mean by heaven and hell?

By heaven, we mean eternal life in our enjoyment of God; by hell, we mean eternal death in our rejection of God.

Why do we pray for the dead?

We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve will grow in his love, until they see God as God is.

What do we mean by the last judgment?

We believe that Christ will come in glory and judge the living and the dead.

What do we mean by the resurrection of the body?

We mean that God will raise us from death in the fullness of our being, that we may live with Christ in the communion of the saints.

What is the communion of the saints?

The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.

What do we mean by everlasting life?

By everlasting life, we mean a new existence, in which we are united with all the people of God, in the joy of fully knowing and loving God and each other.

What, then, is our assurance as Christians?

Our assurance as Christians is that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Life. Amen.

Funeral Arrangements

This form may be completed by the family at the time of death or by anyone ahead of time. If completed ahead of time, please send it to the parish office where we will keep it on file.

A statement for the guidance of my parish and family:

The Worship Service

Services are to be conducted at (Parish Church, City or Town)

Name: _____

The Rector or Associate will be in charge of the service and all related arrangements. Funeral directors should be so informed and given the priest's phone number. It is my desire that the services be conducted as instructed by the parish priest and as provided in the Book of Common Prayer. The priest will make selections when no preference is expressed below.

Please use:

- The Burial of the Dead: Rite One (BCP, p. 469) with Eucharist
- The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two (BCP, p. 491) with Eucharist

Opening Hymn (optional) _____
See page 8 of this booklet for suggested hymns.

The Liturgy of the Word (please choose at least one Old or New Testament reading, one Psalm, and one Gospel reading):

a. Old Testament

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 25:6-9 | Reader: _____
(He will swallow up death forever) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 61:1-3 | (To comfort those who mourn) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 | (The Lord is good to those who wait for him) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 | (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job 19:21-27a | (I know that my redeemer lives) |

b. Psalm

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 42:1-7 | Reader: _____
(As the deer longs for the water) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 46 | (God is our refuge and strength) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 90:1-12 | (Lord, you have been our refuge) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 121 | (I lift up my eyes to the hills) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 130 | (Out of the depths have I called) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 139: 1-11 | (Lord, you have searched me out) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23 | (The Lord is my shepherd) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27 | (The Lord is my light and salvation) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 106:1-5 | (Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord for he is good) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116
my supplication.) | (I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of |

c. New Testament

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 | Reader: _____
(The glory that shall be revealed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 | (The imperishable body) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 | (Things that are unseen are eternal) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I John 3:1-2 | (We shall be like him) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 7:9-17 | (God will wipe away every tear) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 21:2-7 | (Behold, I make all things new) |

d. Sequence Hymn _____

e. The Gospel

- John 5: 24-27
- John 6:37-40
- John 10:11-16
- John 11:21-27
- John 14:1-6

A priest or deacon will read the Gospel.
 (He who believes has everlasting life)
 (All that the Father gives will come to me)
 (I am the good shepherd)
 (I am the resurrection and the life)
 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

f. Prayers of the People Reader: _____

The Holy Communion

a. The Book of Common Prayer assumes that all burial services include Communion.

b. Eucharistic Prayer:

When using Rite I

Eucharistic Prayer I, p. 333

When using Rite II:

A, p. 361 B, p. 367 C, p. 369 D, p. 372

c. Communion Hymns _____

Closing Hymn _____

The Music: Music is an integral part of Christian worship. The use of two or three congregational hymns at a funeral is appropriate. Below are several suggested hymns. You may select them by circling the number. If you wish to use a personal favorite, please discuss the choice with the parish priest. (List by title or first line, not by number only).

7	Christ, whose glory fills the skies	411	O bless the Lord, my soul
29	O Trinity of blessed light	440	Blessed Jesus, at thy word
302	Father, we thank thee who has planted	454	Jesus came, adored by angels
321	My God, thy table now is spread	509	Spirit divine, attend our prayers
324	Let all mortal flesh keep silence	510	Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove
328	Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord	512	Come, Gracious Spirit, heavenly Dove
337	And now, O Father, mindful of the love	516	Come down, O Love divine
344	Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing (closing hymn)	517	How lovely is thy dwelling place
357	Jesus, Son of Mary, fount of life alone	618	Ye watchers and ye holy ones
358	Christ the Victorious, give to your servants rest	625	Ye holy angels bright
376	Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	636	How firm a foundation
383	Fairest Lord Jesus	645	The King of love my shepherd is
390	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	657	Love divine, all loves excelling
397	Now thank we all our God	680	O God, our help in ages past
398	I sing the almighty power of God	688	A mighty fortress is our God

The Flowers: The Flower Guild will handle the altar flowers. If you have a flower request it can be noted when finalizing plans for the service.

Please note if you have special requests for any of the following, otherwise the church will make arrangements.

Acolytes

Chalice Bearers

Ushers

Pallbearers

Additional request for service

Other Information

Memorial Gifts

The only flowers present in the church are those at the altar. “In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to...” with the recipient/organization’s full address.

Parish: _____

Other (please list): _____

My Remains

I wish my remains to be

- buried (in a modest casket)
- cremated
- donated for research
- inurned in Grace Church Columbarium

I would like my remains to be interred in:
