

End of Life

&

Funeral Planning



Prepared by Saint Peter's Episcopal Church
Lewes DE

Always Be Prepared

- Information to carry on your person: I.D. (name, address, phone)
- Important medical information (blood type, medical issues [e.g. diabetes, allergies, etc.], date of last tetanus shot)
- Other: (organ donor contact information, etc.)
- Notification in an emergency (name, relationship, phone, address)
- Notification in the event of your death (next of kin, pastor, funeral home, etc.)

Personal Information and other important information to have at hand

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthplace: _____ Birth Date: _____

Marital Status _____ Single _____ Married _____ Widowed _____ Divorced

Spouse's name: _____

Occupation or retired from: _____

Employed by or retired from: _____

Job Title: _____

Father's Name: _____

Address & Phone (if living): _____

Mother's Name & Maiden Name: _____

Address & Phone (if living): _____

Veteran/Military Information (if applicable):

Service Branch: _____ Claim No.: _____

Name of war (if applicable): _____ Service No.: _____

Place enlisted & Date: _____ Place Discharged & Date: _____

Rank/Rate at time of discharge: _____ Location of Discharge Papers: _____

Legal Information

Location of my will: _____

Named Executor: _____ My Attorney: _____

Safety Deposit Box No. & Bank Location: _____

Key location: _____

Real Estate Owned: _____

Deed Location: _____

Location of cemetery lot or crypt deed: _____

Social Security No.:

Bank Accounts/Retirement Accounts/Investment Accounts:

Bank Name	Account Number	Type of Account (checking, savings, money market, etc.)

Name and Contact information of Financial Advisor(s):

Other information

Insurance Information

Location of insurance policies: _____

Company/and Agent: _____

Life Insurance:

Company Name	Account Number	Value	Beneficiary

Hospital/Medical Ins.: _____

Automobile Insurance: _____

Disability Insurance: _____

Other (unions/lodges): _____

Online accounts that need to be closed (email, Facebook, social media, subscriptions, etc.):

[illegible]

The who, what, when, and where of your funeral

- Prepare a list of people who should be contacted in case of a medical emergency or death
- Write an obituary or write down information needed for an obituary
- Decide where the obituary should appear
- Choose the type of service you would like (burial or cremation)
- Choose Your Details:
 - Cemetery lot location
 - Casket type/Cremation urn type
 - Vault/Sectional crypt
 - Type of service: religious, military, other
 - Your pallbearers
 - Your music selection
 - Your flowers
 - Readings at service and who will read them
- Choose the charity, church, or organization you would like donations to be made to (Please remember your church!)
- Choose your funeral and visitation location

Burial Services

People often confuse not having traditional earth burial as not having a funeral. Even if a family chooses cremation over traditional earth burial, they can still have a meaningful memorial service.

Cremation or Burial

This is one of the major decisions that needs to be made when a death occurs and it usually depends on a variety of things. If the family has traditionally chosen burial in previous generations, they may decide to choose earth burial as the family might own plots together in a local cemetery. There are certain costs associated with burial. Some of them include casket selection, plot within the cemetery and headstone in the cemetery. Each cemetery is governed by their own board of directors therefore prices and guidelines differ from one cemetery to the next. If your plots are at St. Peter's and you find you do not need them, we will buy them back.

"Disposition" is the term used by the funeral industry to describe the final handling of the deceased's remains. Although your initial decision for the disposition of the body is between burial and cremation, there are several variations on each. Whichever choice you make, the body will return to its natural elements.

Burial Choices

- Interred (earth burial)
- Entombed in a crypt within a mausoleum (above-ground burial)
- Buried at sea

Reasons For Choosing Burial

- Burial is traditional within your family, religious group, or geographical area.
- You do not like the idea of the body being "burned"
- You prefer to have the body slowly return to the elements.
- You want to erect a monument on the grave
- Perhaps you want to visit the grave in the days to come, and you find a graveyard more appealing than say, a columbarium.

Decisions You Must Make If You Choose Burial

- Whether or not the body is to be embalmed
- Which kind of casket(or coffin) will house the body
- Whether to buy a casket, rent one, or build your own
- Whether or not the cemetery requires a vault or grave liner
- Which cemetery to use
- What kind of plot
- What kind of grave marker
- What to put on the gravestone

Cremation Services

Simply put, Cremation is the accelerated reduction of the remains to ash, through the process of heat and fire. No casket is legally required for cremation, just a simple container, which is strong enough to hold the body. This could be a box of rough boards, pressboard, or heavy cardboard. Some crematories accept metal caskets; most require the container to be combustible.

If the body is cremated:

- The remains can be stored by the family
- You may take the remains in the simple cardboard box supplied by the crematory and distribute ("scatter") them over the land or water.
- The remains can be placed in a niche within a columbarium.
- The remains can be buried in the ground in a regular plot or in a smaller cremation plot.
- The remains can be entombed in a crypt within a mausoleum.

Why People Choose Cremation

Those who choose cremation (for themselves or others) often hold the belief that it is better to honor the memory of the person, not the dead body. In the United States, in 1972, only five percent chose cremation. That number had quintupled by 1999, with over 25% choosing cremation. In Canada, the rate is already over 42%; in Great Britain, 71%; and over 98% in Japan.

Other Reasons You Might Choose Cremation

- Many people believe that a cremated body becomes one with nature more quickly. Cremation is traditional in your family, religious group, or geographical area
- You prefer the body to be returned quickly and cleanly to the elements
- You have environmental concerns
- Perhaps you are worried about the use of valuable land for cemetery space, or believe it is wrong to fill the ground with materials that won't erode ... metal coffins and concrete vaults.
- You want to keep the costs down

Selecting cremation does not mean, however, that you will have an inexpensive funeral. You might still choose an expensive casket and/or a viewing, and/or decide to have the cremated remains buried in the ground or placed in a columbarium. You may also wish to purchase a more expensive urn. These choices can bring your costs up to those of a traditional funeral.

Decisions You Must Make If You Choose Cremation

- Who will do the cremation? (a funeral home or a firm that specializes in direct cremation)
- Whether to use an urn or container
- What to do with the remains
- If you are distributing the remains
- Some jurisdictions have laws prohibiting the scattering of remains; others require a permit.
- Also, ask if there are any firms in your area that specialize in unique ways of distributing the remains, such as a plane to spread them over a mountain, or a ship to scatter them at sea.
- Think of places that were especially loved by the deceased, close to home or far away. You can walk in the woods, by a favorite lake, or on the old family farm.
- Be sure to ask permission if you want to use private property.
- What about using the remains to create new life, by planting a tree? Some survivors choose to mix the remains with the soil in flowerbeds and rose gardens at home. Every time the roses bloom, you will be reminded of your loved one. If you decide to do this, however, consider what will happen if, some day, you move away.

The Episcopal Church understands that cremation does not deny the possibility of resurrection, therefore it is a completely acceptable option for disposition of one's earthly body. Indeed, the Book of Common Prayer explicitly states that the Committal service may be used prior to cremation. (*Book of Common Prayer, page 468*) The choice is a deeply personal one, and there is no right or wrong answer between casket or cremation.

STATEMENT OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS UPON MY DEATH

Care of My Body:

_____ Donate organs (Complete other documents)

_____ as transplants _____ for research

_____ Donate body for research (with ashes returned) [Complete other documents]

_____ Autopsy

_____ none unless legally required _____ yes, if it will benefit medical research

decision to be made by _____

_____ Embalm body (usually required if unrefrigerated over 24 hours before burial)

_____ Cremate body

_____ after visitation or service _____ before visitation or service

_____ Bury body

_____ Other (burial at sea, ashes spread, above ground interment, etc.):

If burial is planned:

Cemetery: _____

Lot in name of: _____

Section _____ Lot _____ Block _____ Plot _____

Location of cemetery plot deed: _____

Pre-Arranged Funeral with: _____

Casket selection: _____

Vault selection: _____

Grave Marker Selection: _____

Location of columbarium: _____

(if ashes are to be kept in a columbarium)

Disposition of:

- ## PERSONS TO CONTACT

[illegible][illegible]

Planning your Service

From the Book of Common Prayer:

- *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.*
- *Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has opportunity to be present.*
- *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.*

Place of service:

_____ Church _____ Funeral Home _____ Graveside only

Place of visitation: _____ Church _____ Funeral Home _____ None

Church Name:

Address & Phone:

Priest's Name:

Scripture Readings (see list of Suggested Funeral or Memorial Service Scripture Readings):

Hymns (see list of suggested hymns):

Celebration of Holy Communion at service: _____ yes _____ no

Preferred Prelude and Postlude (if possible):

Soloist: _____ no _____ yes

Solo(s) desired:

If the service is held at the church it is assumed that a pall will be used and ceremonies or tributes of social or fraternal societies cannot be accommodated within the service. Contact the priest and the individual societies for information about how these ceremonies can be conducted at the funeral home or before/ after the funeral service.

Desired pallbearers

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Desired honorary pallbearers

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)

Memorial Luncheon/Reception

I would like a memorial reception at St. Peter's _____ Yes _____ No

I would like a memorial reception elsewhere: _____
(Specify preferred location)

I do not want a memorial reception: _____

Special notes concerning memorial reception (if applicable): _____

Obituary Planning

General Information needed for an obituary: (leave blank that which either does not apply, or which you do not wish to share.)

Date of Birth: _____ Date of death: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Place of death: _____

Parents: _____

Siblings: _____

Spouse: _____

Children: _____

Survived by: _____

Predeceased by: _____

Education: _____

Career: _____

Hobbies: _____

Civic organizations: _____

Funeral/Memorial Place and Time: _____

Memorial gifts may be made to : _____

Where do you want your obituary published: _____

Suggested Funeral or Memorial Service Scripture Readings:

Old Testament

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the LORD will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the LORD God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Job 19:25-27a

“O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Psalms/Canticles

Psalm 23 (*King James Version*)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’
Your face, LORD, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.
Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my
adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the
LORD
in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Psalm 42:1-7

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?
My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
‘Where is your God?’
These things I remember, as I pour out my
soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of
God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.
Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth
should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of
the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its
tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the
city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be
moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms tot-
ter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the
earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
‘Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.’
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalm 90

LORD, you have been our dwelling-place
in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the
world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
You turn us back to dust,
and say, ‘Turn back, you mortals.’
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past,
or like a watch in the night.
You sweep them away; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.
For we are consumed by your anger;
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
For all our days pass away under your wrath;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are seventy years,
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;
even then their span is only toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
Who considers the power of your anger?
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due
to you.
So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.
Turn, O LORD! How long?
Have compassion on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast
love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have af-
flicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon
us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!

Psalm 91:9-16

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling-place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning
you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a
stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will tram-
ple under foot.
Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pas-
ture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 116

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
‘O LORD, I pray, save my life!’
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.
For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.
I walk before the LORD
in the land of the living.
I kept my faith, even when I said,
‘I am greatly afflicted’;
I said in my consternation,
‘Everyone is a liar.’
What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving-
maid.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 106

Praise the LORD!
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever.
Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD,
or declare all his praise?
Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times.
Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor
to your people;
help me when you deliver them;
that I may see the prosperity of your chosen
ones,
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your na-
tion,
that I may glory in your heritage.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Psalm 118

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!
Let Israel say,
‘His steadfast love endures forever.’
Let the house of Aaron say,
‘His steadfast love endures forever.’
Let those who fear the LORD say,
‘His steadfast love endures forever.’
Out of my distress I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me in a broad
place.
With the LORD on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?
The LORD is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in mortals.
It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in princes.
All nations surrounded me;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
They surrounded me, surrounded me on every
side;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
They surrounded me like bees;
they blazed like a fire of thorns;
in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the LORD helped me.
The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of
the righteous:
‘The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.’
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.
Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD;

the righteous shall enter through it.
I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD’S doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the LORD.
We bless you from the house of the LORD.
The LORD is God,
and he has given us light.
Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.
O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
LORD, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the LORD
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Psalm 139:1-18

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O LORD;

give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;

answer me in your righteousness.

Do not enter into judgement with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.

For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground,
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.

I remember the days of old,

I think about all your deeds,

I meditate on the works of your hands.

I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

Answer me quickly, O LORD;
my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me,
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,
for in you I put my trust.

Teach me the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.

Save me, O LORD, from my enemies;
I have fled to you for refuge.

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.

Let your good spirit lead me
on a level path.

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life.

In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.

In your steadfast love cut off my enemies,
and destroy all my adversaries,
for I am your servant.

Psalm 149

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Let Israel be glad in its Maker;

let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;

he adorns the humble with victory.

Let the faithful exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their couches.

Let the high praises of God be in their throats

and two-edged swords in their hands,

to execute vengeance on the nations

and punishment on the peoples,

to bind their kings with fetters

and their nobles with chains of iron,

to execute on them the judgement decreed.

This is glory for all his faithful ones.

Praise the LORD!

New Testament

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

'Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God,

and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,

nor any scorching heat;

for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,

and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

Revelation 21:2-7

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Gospel

John 5:24-27

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:37-40

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.’

John 10:11-16

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

John 14:1-6

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Guidance for Music for Christian Funerals

The funeral or memorial service is foremost a service of worship and a liturgy of the Church. Musical selections ought to reflect this dimension of public prayer.

Prelude:

Music can be music with special meaning to the deceased or family members. Consider chorale preludes based on favorite hymn tunes.

Service:

Hymns should be hymns of baptismal remembrance, resurrection hope, supportive of the lessons chosen or sermon theme, or the strength of God's promises. They should be well-known across denominations so all participants are able to sing them.

Solo Music:

A soloist can contribute to the liturgy by singing a Psalm setting and Lord's Prayer as well as a solo that contributes to the participants focus on God's Word and promises.

Hymn Suggestions

Hymn #	First Line
(The Hymnal 1982)	
688	A mighty fortress is our God
662	Abide with me: fast falls the eventide
191	Alleluia, alleluia! hearts and voices heavenward raise
208	Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er
671	Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
488	Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
695	By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered
358	Christ the Victorious, give to your servants
487	Come my way, my truth, my life
608	Eternal Father, strong to save (alternative lyrics: 579)
355	Give rest, O Christ
379	God is Love, let heaven adore him
690	Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
636	How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
637	How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
335	I am the bread of life
304	I come with joy to meet my Lord
668	I to the hills will lift mine eyes
429	I'll Praise my Maker while I've breath
635	If thou but trust in God to guide thee
354	Into paradise may the angels lead you
624	Jerusalem the golden
620	Jerusalem, my happy home

Hymn #
(The Hymnal 1982)

First Line

194	Jesus lives! thy terrors now
195	Jesus lives! thy terrors now
357	Jesus, Son of Mary
376	Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
693	Just as I am, without one plea
526	Let saints on earth in concert sing
621	Light's abode, celestial Salem
482	Lord of all hopefulness
188	Love's redeeming work is done
189	Love's redeeming work is done
356	May choirs of angels lead you
664	My Shepherd will supply my need
14	O God, by creation's secret force
15	O God, by creation's secret force
680	O God, our help in ages past
455	O love of God, how strong and true
623	O what their joy and their glory must be
388	O worship the King, all glorious above!
373	Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him
492	Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness
447	The Christ who died but rose again
663	The King of love my shepherd is
457	Thou art the Way, to thee alone
439	What wondrous love is this
338	Wherefore, O Father, we thy humble servants
625	Ye holy angels bright
618	Ye watchers and ye holy ones

[illegible]

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