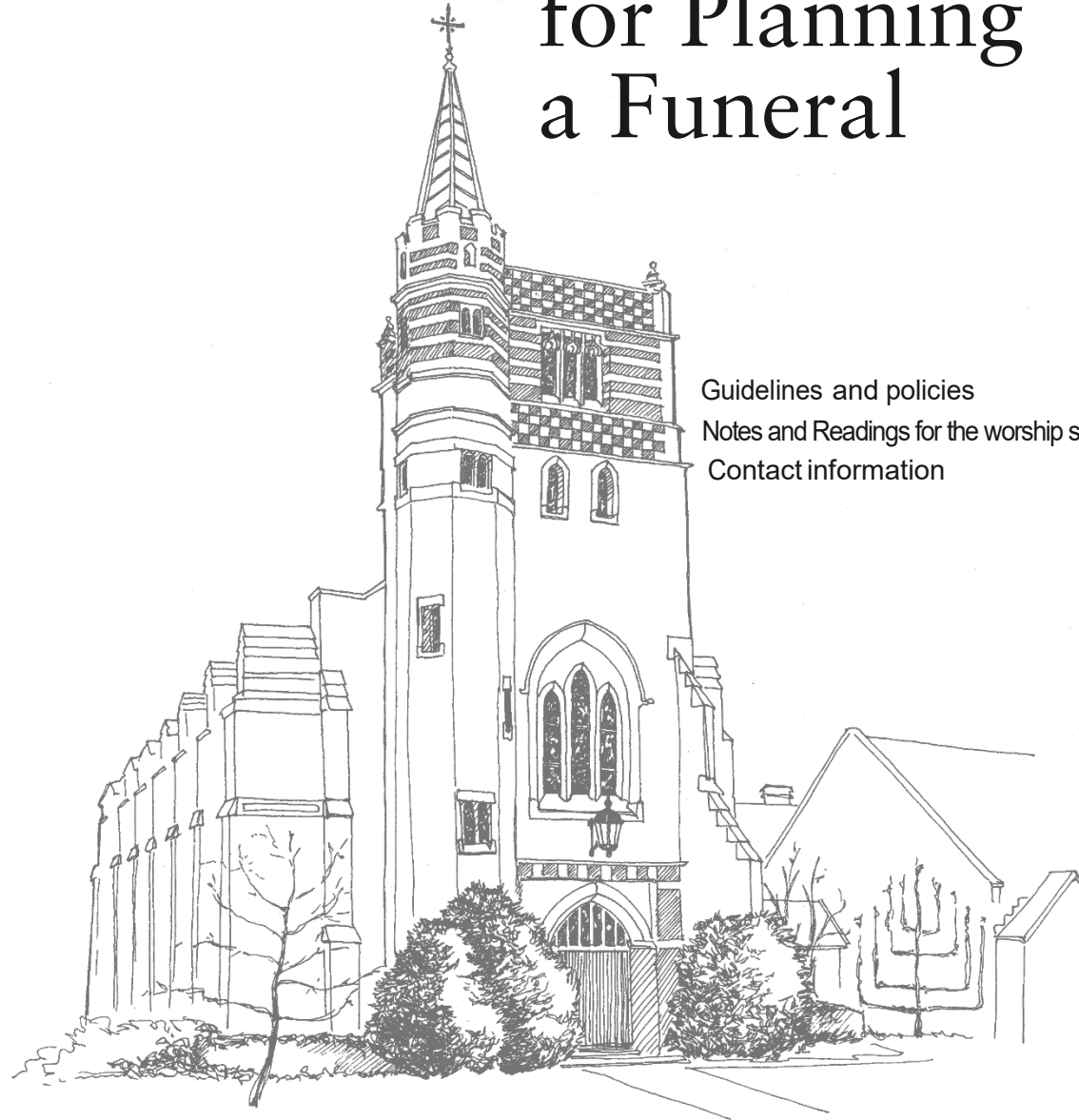


Guidelines for Planning a Funeral

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THE PARISH OF THE
EPIPHANY

A welcoming Episcopal community

70 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890
781.729.1922
www.3crowns.org

Planning Ahead

When we worship God at a funeral or a memorial service everything we do is about proclaiming the power of Easter. The service finds its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, 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.”

The 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 the Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The Book of Common Prayer

In one of our church’s prayers we pray that the Good Lord will deliver us from sudden death. Yet in a sense all deaths are sudden, and they come crashing in on us whether they result from a slow and lingering death, or from a split second tragedy.

At the same moment, it’s very helpful when the family has some insights into the Christian meaning of Resurrection of the Body and knows the Lord is good. This booklet will try to assist in conveying understanding.

The clergypersons in the Parish want to assist families at the time of death—to carry out pastoral responsibilities and witness to the truth of the resurrected life through this last service to the Lord. It is appropriate for the family to ask the priests for help at any point in the planning process. And it is very helpful when family members have given us written instructions for what they would like to see happen.

However, Christian faith, or lack of it, does not make arranging funerals easier. This booklet provides suggestions. After you have read this booklet, you are encouraged to fill out a confidential form which the Parish will use to serve your family, and to fulfill your wishes.

The Place of Burial

From the day that Abraham bought his family burial plot, planning habits have not changed. People have done as much advance planning as buying a plot, but little more. They seldom know the options that are available to them. The single grave earth burial, which is the most common in the United States, is a rather new burial practice. The mausoleum is closer to the cave burial with which we are familiar from the Bible. The practice of cremation is increasingly commonplace, and the Parish of the Epiphany has responded by creating a Memorial Garden where cremated remains of our members are buried. There is not a one-and-only way to bury our loved ones; regardless of the method, it's important to understand the doctrine of the resurrection of the body.

THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

It seems that our society and culture have a reluctance to address and deal with death and dying. In fact, in our common vocabulary, we have developed many words to describe the dead without having to use the term. We say things like “passed on” and “lost” without giving it much thought. But these words carry ideas that are actually inconsistent with our Christian belief of resurrection. The dead have not “passed on” with their bodies intact into some other physical realm, nor are the dead somehow “lost,” to God or to us. Rather, the dead have been raised into a new existence into the loving embrace of the One who created them. Therefore, while it is appropriate to reverently dispose of a body after death, it is this new existence that we celebrate with faith and hope during the burial rites.

In our time and culture there is a good deal of fear and anxiety about death and there is the understandable

temptation to hold on to what we know and have, namely our bodies. Saint Paul says, “flesh and blood do not inherit the kingdom of God.” (*1 Corinthians 15:50*). In this sense we understand that the resurrection of the body does not mean the resurrection of flesh and blood. We refer to our body in the Christian sense as our spirit, our identity as one of God's beloved children, the essence of what is commonly called our soul is preserved and lives forever.

The Memorial Garden

In the Cloister Garden there is an area that has been consecrated for use as a burial ground for the cremated remains of parishioners and members of parishioner's families.

In consultation with the funeral director or the crematory's staff, families are asked to have the cremated remains delivered to the Parish Office without a formal container or urn; only the ashes are buried. Inside of the church, in the hallway facing the Memorial Garden, the names of those who are interred in the Memorial Garden are listed, and a record of the burial is made in the official records of the Parish.

In lieu of individual markers and flowers, a \$100 contribution is made by the family at the time of burial. Families are asked to make an annual gift for the maintenance and beautification of the Memorial Garden.

Stewardship and Your Will

Do you have a will or a living trust? As good stewards of the treasure we have in God's world, responsible Christians should ensure the thoughtful distribution of their estate. There is joy and comfort in knowing that we have provided for our families and when possible, our church.

Your most important step in estate planning is to make a will. Your will is the document that ensures your wishes are fulfilled and provides for your loved ones. A gift to the church from your estate symbolizes your expression of gratitude for the gifts God has given you. It demonstrates the priorities of your life.

What you might not know, however, is that a planned gift to the Parish of the Epiphany can provide you with an income for life. Some types of planned gifts include:

- a bequest in your will
- a gift under a revocable trust
- a gift from a life insurance policy
- a gift through a retirement plan
- a gift of cash, securities or real estate, which will provide fixed or variable payments to you and your family.

In many cases making a planned gift can have tax saving benefits for you and your family. For more information call the Parish's Financial Administrator at 781.729.1922.

Customs for Burial at the Parish of the Epiphany

CALLING A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY

Please call the Rector or another member of the clergy staff when the time of death is imminent. It is their desire to be present to lead the prayers at the time of death. They will be able to answer your questions and assist in practical arrangements. The clergy can also help in any pastoral concerns which may arise. It is important to set a time for the funeral as soon as possible; this is coordinated with the Parish's staff, and is subject to the availability of the church building, the clergy, the musicians, and your funeral director.

CHOOSING A FUNERAL HOME OR CREMATORY

While it is not always necessary to use the services of a licensed funeral director, their work and service to your family can be an invaluable source of support. At the Parish of the Epiphany we work willingly and cooperatively with all funeral service firms. It is our policy to support your family's decision in choosing a funeral home, and therefore we do not recommend or endorse a particular firm.

THINGS TO BE DONE

- Make a list of the people whom you need to notify of your loved one's death and funeral services.
- If a casket is to be present, choose pall bearers
- Prepare a biographical sketch: age, place of birth, cause of death, occupation, clubs, organizations, military record, and a list of surviving family members for the newspaper's obituary.
- Arrange for altar flowers. There are two vases for flowers at the altar, only.

WHEN YOU VISIT THE FUNERAL HOME

- Have in mind a day and time you would like the service
- Have a biographical sketch listing closest relatives
- Have the birth date and place of the deceased
- If a casket will be used, have the clothing of the deceased ready.
- Have a list of out-of-town newspapers to notify.
- Bring your deceased loved one's social security number.
- If the cremated remains are interred at the Parish of the Epiphany no urn is necessary.
- In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made to the Parish of the Epiphany, either to the Gifts & Memorials Fund or to the Parish's endowment. Other charities can also be designated. It's helpful to the funeral directors if you have this information when you meet with them.

THE LITURGY AT CHURCH

It is an honor and privilege to conduct funeral services at the Parish of the Epiphany. If the family wishes to have another priest take part, they should consult the Rector who will then extend the invitation. Services for non-members may be conducted from Epiphany's clergy team. We do not include farewell rites of fraternal orders; those are best done at the funeral home the previous evening.

BULLETINS AND ORDERS OF SERVICE

The order of service follows the *Book of Common Prayer*. It is planned in conjunction with the clergy person who will officiate at the service, and during the meeting decisions are made about readings, hymns, psalms, and other details. The service bulletin created by the office is an attractive, straightforward order of service. Completing the *Funeral Planning Form* will aid in planning the service leaflet. A more elaborate

publication which includes remembrances and graphics is not generally provided, but if one is desired, families may design and print one.

When the officiant is not a member of the Parish of the Epiphany's clergy staff, it is her or his responsibility to provide the service bulletin.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

At a burial service with Holy Eucharist four readings are chosen:

- 1) One from the Old Testament
- 2) One from the Book of Psalms
- 3) One from the New Testament
- 4) One from the Gospels

It's highly recommended that the family choose friends and/or other family members to read the Old Testament and the New Testament readings. At back of this booklet there is a list of suggested readings from which you can choose.

MUSIC

There is a wealth of beautiful and appropriate sacred music suitable for use in a memorial or funeral service. The most effective way to integrate the musical selections into the burial service is to meet or speak with the director of music and organist. The entire staff—clergy, music, administrative—are here to serve, and we do so by designing a worship service which honors our faith, your family, and the Church.

What's typical for funeral services at the Parish of the Epiphany?

- Music and texts which proclaim faith in the resurrection, and aspires to be the living voice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a live offering to God. Neither popular nor recorded music is used.

- Celebratory organ voluntaries before and after the liturgy. These are usually selected by the organist; requests for specific music selections should be made through the Director of Music.
- 2-4 hymns which are sung by the congregation. Hymn suggestions can be found in this booklet. This list is certainly not an exhaustive list. Again, we are here for guidance and to provide assistance.
- Our Parish Choir, including our four professional staff singers, sing at all memorial and funeral services.

What's possible, but not necessarily typical, for a funeral service at the Parish of the Epiphany?

- A soloist, appointed from one of our professional staff singers, may be hired to sing instead of the Parish Choir. The soloist and the repertoire are chosen in consultation with the Director of Music. Additional fees may apply.
- Instrumentalists, other than the organist, may be hired to play. These decisions are made in consultation with the Director of Music. Additional fees apply.

COMMITTAL SERVICES

Committal services should be conducted at the actual place of burial or interment, at the final resting place of the body or the cremated remains, while people are gathered. The best time for committal is immediately after the service. In some cases it is not practical or pastorally sensitive to follow this sequence (service, then committal, then reception), but whenever possible, it is the recommended practice at the Parish of the Epiphany.

EULOGIES

The Episcopal Church does not provide for eulogies for three reasons:

- 1) Our service is concerned with the future more than the past.
- 2) Our salvation is based upon God's grace, not our accomplishments. We are mixture of good and bad, and a eulogy that extols our virtues does a disservice to the nature of God and humanity.
- 3) In life we are not equal, but we are equal at death. Having services that are the same reveals the sameness of God's love.

It is typical for the officiant to preach a short sermon, and for one member of the family or a friend, to offer a very brief remembrance.

FLOWERS

Flowers can be placed in two vases at the altar, and a large arrangement can be placed on the floor in front of the free-standing Altar. All other arrangements will be delivered to Hadley Hall. If boutonnieres are desired for ushers, the family arranges for them. It is generally the family's responsibility to take the vases to a florist. Altar flowers are provided by family or friends and may be arranged through a local florist. For more information contact the directress of Epiphany's flower guild, Leslie Aitken, at 617.484.8044, or speak with a member of the Parish's office staff.

GUEST BOOK

If you desire a guest book please provide one to be placed in the narthex. Guest books are often provided by the funeral director.

PALL

All caskets, while they are inside the church, are covered with the church's pall, a large cloth. The pall symbolizes our baptismal garment, and points to the fact that all of us are equal. Flowers are not placed on the casket. If cremated remains are present (and having them at church is recommended) they're placed on a stand in front of the Altar and covered with a smaller pall.

At some services family members enter the church with the casket, walking in procession with the clergy as the casket is borne into the church. When this occurs it is helpful to have family members assist in placing the pall on the casket and to have prayers said before the procession.

USHERS

Ushers are responsible for seating members of the congregation, distributing the order of service, and assisting the Sexton. Two ushers are needed for every hundred persons. If the funeral home staff is going to be present at the service, please discuss your preferences for how the duties of their staff and the ushers will be divided. Ushers should arrive at least 30 minutes before the service to receive instructions from a member of the Parish's staff.

RECEPTIONS IN HADLEY HALL

A reception in Hadley Hall (the large function room) may be held after the liturgies, but only if the space is available. The cost of the reception is the responsibility of the family. A list of suggested caterers is available in this booklet. Hadley Hall is an appropriate place for additional flowers, easels with photographs, and for friends and family to visit and to remember the deceased.

Schedule of Fees and Honoraria

The fees and honoraria associated with conducting funeral services are paid directly to the Parish of the Epiphany on the day of the service. If your family is using the services of a funeral home, it is common practice, and preferred, for their staff to prepare one checks for the following fees and to include these costs in the invoice which they prepare for you.

BUILDING USE

The minimum fee to use the church is \$200.00, and the minimum fee to use Hadley Hall (the parish's function room and kitchen) is an additional \$200.00. An additional rate of \$75.00 is applied for each hour the building is used beyond 2.5 hours. All of the building use fees are waived for families who are active members of the Parish of the Epiphany.

HONORIA FOR THE OFFICIANT(S)

The officiant's honorarium is used not as income to the clergy person, but for him or her to extend the pastoral care and mission work of the Parish of the Epiphany.

OFFICIANT FROM OTHER CHURCHES

If your family is being served by a priest or pastor from another church, or another tradition, any honorarium or payment of fee is arranged directly with him or her.

ORGANIST AND MUSICIANS

The Director of Music and Organist is your musical consultant. He will guide you through your music choices in consultation with the clergy.

The Parish Choir is available for funerals. The Parish also has a professional staff of singers, if you desire a vocal soloist.

SEXTON

The Sexton will prepare the Church for the funeral and see that the florist is able to enter the building. He will also assist the funeral home with any of their needs. If a reception is held in Hadley Hall, the Sexton will prepare the hall and remain to assist the family as needed.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

For pledging members of the Parish

- \$350 Clergy Discretionary Fund Honorarium
- 250 Administrative & Sexton Fees
- 600 Music, including Organist and Choir
- 100 Memorial Garden Interment *(if applicable)*

Total fee \$1200 (with Memorial Garden, \$1300)

Make check payable to the **Parish of the Epiphany**

For non-pledging members of the Parish

- \$400 Clergy Discretionary Fund Honorarium
- 300 Administrative & Sexton Fees
- 700 Music, including Organist and Choir
- 200 Church and Building Use Fees
- 200 Use of Hadley Hall for Reception *(if applicable)*

Total fee \$1600 (if using Hadley Hall, \$1800)

Make check payable to the **Parish of the Epiphany**

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK-OFFERING

In addition to the fees and honoraria, many families are able to make additional contributions which express their gratitude and affection for the Parish of the Epiphany. The contributions are welcomed, and they are tax-deductible. They are used to support the ministry of the entire Parish.

CATERERS AND FLORISTS

Members of the family are responsible for paying the caterer and the florist. Any deliveries must be coordinated with the Parish Office 781.729.1922.

Florists

Mahoney's Garden Center
242 Cambridge Street, Winchester
781.729.5900

Pondview Florist

16 Mt. Vernon Street, Winchester
781.729.8255

Stems Florist

17 Waterfield Road, Winchester
781.729.5020

Caterer

Nancy and Lucy Maiullari
razzysbakery@gmail.com
508.566.0993

A few notes about the worship service

All funeral liturgies celebrated by the clergy of the Parish of the Epiphany will use the order outlined in the *Book of Common Prayer* (pp. 490–507). The Prayer Book offers the following instructions on funeral planning:

“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 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.”¹

It further states that “the liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised.”²

The following readings are those suggested in the *Book of Common Prayer*. Other readings from Scripture may be suggested to or by the clergy. Generally, one reading from each group (Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament and, always at the Eucharist, a Gospel reading) is chosen. The officiating clergy will normally read the gospel lesson. In consultation with the officiant, please select persons you would like to read at the service. Readers should have had at least some public speaking experience. It is recommended that the family complete the *Funeral Planning Form* prior to meeting with the clergy.

¹ BCP p. 490

² BCP p. 507

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

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-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged 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 forever. 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.

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 brokenhearted, 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.

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.

Wisdom 3:1–9

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; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. 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.

Job 19:21–27

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? "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. My heart faints within me!

PSALMS

23 The Lord is my shepherd
27 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
42:1–7 As the deer longs for the water-brooks
46 God is our refuge and strength
90:1–12 Lord you have been our refuge
106:1–5 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good
116 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication
121 I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come?
130 Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice
139:1–11 Lord, you have searched me out and known me

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

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 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.

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.

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 worshiped God, singing, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever 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 as their God; 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 READINGS

(one reading is required when Holy Communion is celebrated)

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 judgment, 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 judgment, 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.’

MUSIC

The music at funerals should be appropriate for the occasion. The music serves to support, clarify, and complement the action and words of the liturgy at all times. Traditionally, the music can suggest ideas of triumph, resurrection, strength, comfort, thanksgiving, and repose; Easter hymns are especially appropriate.

When the family of the deceased meets with the clergy, suitable hymns and music can be discussed. It is appropriate to sing hymns or have organ music according to the wishes of the family. Other favorite hymns of the deceased or family may be suggested to the clergy and music director. Suitable hymns include:

- 188, 189 Love’s redeeming work is done
- 191 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voices heavenward raise
- 194, 195 Jesus lives! thy terrors now
- 207 Jesus Christ is risen today
- 208 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o’er
- 287 For all the saints
- 314 Humbly I adore Thee
- 324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
- 325 Let us break bread together
- 335 I am the bread of life
- 358 Christ the Victorious
- 379 God is Love, let heaven adore him
- 383 Fairest Lord Jesus
- 397 Now thank we all our God
- 455, 456 O love of God, how strong and true
- 473 Lift high the cross
- 474 When I survey the wondrous cross
- 490 I want to walk

562 Onward, Christian soldiers *(not recommended for small
funerals)*
608 Eternal Father, strong to save *not recommended for small
funerals)*
618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
620 Jerusalem, my happy home
625 Ye holy angels bright
635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee
645, 646 The King of love my shepherd is
662 Abide with me
663 The Lord my God my shepherd is
664 My Shepherd will supply my need
671 Amazing grace!
680 O God, our help in ages past
687, 688 A mighty fortress is our God
690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
691 My faith looks up to thee
694 God be in my head
707 Take my life
708 Savior, like a shepherd lead us

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