

# PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL SERVICE

## A WAY TO EXPRESS YOUR VALUES

I am the resurrection  
“I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall not die.”

—*John 11:25*

The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life that God gives in Christ through his death and resurrection.

We have prepared this booklet to help you and your family prepare in advance. It will enable your family and the parish clergy to understand your wishes and preferences. The clergy will help plan the service and will stand ready to assist in any way.

Christian burial is marked by three characteristics. First and foremost, it is an act of worship wherein we glorify God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Second, it is a time when members of the Body of Christ gather to comfort one another and to offer mutual assurance of God’s abiding love. Third, it is a liturgy of celebration whereby we give thanks for a deceased loved one and commend that person to the care of Almighty God.

The earliest records of Christian burial tell us that the following elements were included:

- Prayer in the home before the burial
- A gathering of the community for a burial service, consisting of thanksgivings, psalms, hymns, readings from Scripture, and prayers for the departed and those who mourn
- Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- A procession of lights and torches to the place of burial
- The interment of the remains

As part of preparation for Christian burial, it is suggested that you talk with your clergy. It is also of great benefit to read about the service in *The Book of Common Prayer* (BCP, 468–507). The rubrics on these pages are of particular interest. It is also recommended that people familiarize themselves with prayers for “Ministration at the Time of Death” (BCP, 462–467).



# MY FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS

*Final directions and instructions upon the death of*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

File this information where it will be found easily upon your death. It is suggested that you file this with your local church or your attorney and notify your heirs that this form has been completed for their information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Baptism

\_\_\_\_\_  
Father's Full Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Living  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Place of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's Full Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Living  Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Place of Birth

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Occupation

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Employer

---

Social Security Number

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Date of last executed will

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Location of will

---

Executor's name and address

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Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of living brothers and sisters:

Full Name	Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #	City/State/Zip Code	Phone Number
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Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons to notify upon my death:

*Attach additional pages if necessary.*

Full Name	Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #	City/State/Zip Code	Phone Number
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# MY BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out this form and return it to the parish secretary in the church office.

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Full Name (please print)

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(Street Address, PO Box, and/or Apartment #)

(City/State/Zip Code)

*The Episcopal tradition is that church members are normally buried from the church. The Prayer Book indicates the body is to be present, although a memorial service without the body may be held. The coffin is closed and is always covered by a pall, which the church will provide.*

1. I request that my service be conducted at \_\_\_\_\_  
Name, City and State of Church

or at \_\_\_\_\_.

The rector or clergy of said congregation shall be in charge of the services.

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2. The Burial of the Dead (the funeral service) is a series of psalms, lessons, and prayers. Holy Communion with special propers (i.e., Collect, Epistle, and Gospel) may be included.

I request (check one):

- The Burial of the Dead with Holy Communion (body or urn present)
- Rite I (BCP, page 469)                       Rite I (BCP, page 323)
- Rite II (BCP, page 491)                       Rite II (BCP, page 355)
- The Burial of the Dead (body or urn present)
- Rite I (BCP, page 469)
- Rite II (BCP, page 491)
- A Memorial Service (body or urn not present)

3. Other arrangements as follows (Contact parish administrator):

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Altar flowers

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Musicians

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Ushers

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Pall bearer

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Speakers (if desired)

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4. I request that the following Scriptures be read:

Old Testament (choose one)

- Isaiah 25:6–9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
- Isaiah 61:1–3 (To comfort all that mourn)
- Lamentations 3:22–26, 31–33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)
- Wisdom 3:1–5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)
- Job 19:21–27a (I know that my Redeemer liveth)

Psalms  42  46  90  121  130  139

New Testament (choose one)

- Romans 8:14–19, 34–35, 37–39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- 1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 35–38, 42–44, 53–58 (Raised in incorruption)
- 2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9 (Things which are not seen are eternal)
- 1 John 3:1–2 (We shall be like him)
- Revelation 7:9–17 (God shall wipe away all tears)
- Revelation 21:2–7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Psalms  23  27  106  116

Gospel (must be included if Holy Communion is celebrated)

- John 5:24–27 (He that believeth hath everlasting life)
- John 6:37–40 (All that the Father giveth me shall 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 mansions)

5. I request that the following hymns be sung: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Music should be confident and strong, expressing the hope and faith that Christians affirm in the presence of death. The congregation should participate fully by praying, singing the hymns, and joining the responses. Easter hymns are especially appropriate. The Easter hymns are (#174–213) in the 1982 Hymnal. Also suggested are the hymns for Holy Communion (#300–347), the burial (#354–358), and #287, 376, 410, 556, 613–625, 637, 671, 680, and 688.

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6. I prefer to be:

Buried: Location of cemetery plot deed, crypt deed, columbarium contract

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Coffin specifications:

Least expensive    Mid-range    Elaborate

Cremated:

Before Funeral    After Funeral

Ashes may be placed in \_\_\_\_\_. (These niches may be purchased in advance.) Please contact the parish administrator.

Donate entire body or certain organs (See Organ Donation Form on page 13):

- Arrangements have been made  
 Please make appropriate arrangements

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place of interment \_\_\_\_\_

Full address \_\_\_\_\_

7. I prefer the following funeral home: \_\_\_\_\_;  
however, my family or attorney may make this decision.

I wish to have my coffin open at the funeral home.       I do not wish to have my coffin open at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, I request that donations be made in my name to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
or for [SPECIFY]:

\_\_\_\_\_  
or to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Institution or Charity

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Address

Please return to the Parish Administrator:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of church

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone

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8. Other information for my survivors:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Be sure to keep a copy of your completed form for your own records.*