



A Guide to Funerals at  
ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FOR

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(Print Full Name)

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(Address)

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(Phone numbers)

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(Email)

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(Date of Birth)

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(Place of Birth)

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(Date of Death)

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(Service Date)

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(Time)



Dear Friends in Christ,

The death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which our faith is built. As those marked as Christ's own forever, we know that his death and new life constituted one event, one massive expression of God's love. As you plan your funeral or that of a loved one, we hope you return to this truth again and again on the pages that follow.

Few things you do in life will ever state more clearly what you believe than the thoughts you register here. Know that a priest of All Saints' is available as you make your way through these pages, should you so desire. We want to be as helpful as possible as you make these important plans.

Peace and blessings to you.

The Rev. Dr. Simon J. Mainwaring  
Rector

**PLANNING YOUR FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**AT ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Atlanta, Georgia

*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.*

*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."*

Book of Common Prayer, Page 507

***Advance Preparation***

It is wise to make preparations before death occurs, including:

The selection of a burial lot, or other directions for the disposal of the body, such as donations or cremation. Spaces in the cemetery are available for a modest fee, substantially less than public cemeteries.

The making of a will. It is "the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses." (BCP, p. 455)

A statement, in writing, of your wishes regarding burial arrangements.

## *AT THE TIME OF DEATH*

### *Call Your Parish Priest*

When there is a death in your family or a family member is near death, call the church. We want to support you and share with you at your time of loss.

### *Prayers and Readings: Near death or at the time of death*

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) provides prayers for the time when a person is near death (p. 462), and at the time of death (p. 462-463). When possible, the family and friends join together in the Litany (p. 462) led by the parish priest or by a lay person if the priest cannot be present.

### *Prior to the Funeral or Memorial Service*

Prior to the funeral it is appropriate that family and friends come together for prayers. The Prayers for a Vigil (BCP p. 465-466) may be used. The psalms found on pages 471-479 (BCP) may be used with these prayers or they may be used for prayer and meditation. You may also find it helpful to read and meditate on the Scripture passages suggested on pages 494 and 495 (BCP).

Bereaved persons may wish to have hours at the funeral home or at home to receive visits of love and condolence from family and friends. Time and place may be announced in the newspaper notice.

## *Funeral or Memorial Service*

“Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has 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. Two or three readings are customary with at least one Psalm. 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. We do not do eulogies in the burial service, although stories and memories may be appropriately shared by family and friends at the reception.

The norm of Episcopal practice, as reflected in the Prayer Book, is to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. The principal act of Christian worship and our chief means of offering thanks to God, the Holy Eucharist is especially appropriate at funerals, as at all major events or passages in life. 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.

It may be appropriate, in some circumstances, not to include a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

At the graveside, earth is cast upon the coffin or the ashes.

The customary arrangement of flowers used in the church at a Eucharist are often desired (but are not required). These may be ordered from the All Saints’ Flower Guild or from a florist. Money which would otherwise be spent on flowers may be given in the person’s memory to the Church or to an appropriate charitable organization. In the newspaper notice, “In lieu of flowers; memorial gifts may be sent to...” will help relatives and friends. Floral pieces are not used in the church, but can be used at the reception if there is to be one.

The Organist/Choirmaster, or Assistant Organist, play for funerals and chooses appropriate repertoire for the pre-service music (while people are entering prior to the service.) If desired, it is appropriate to have hymns sung by the congregation, and the clergy or organist can assist in the selection of such hymns. The music at a funeral expresses the hope and faith that Christians manifest in the face of death. The use of secular music is not permitted.

A pall is used over the casket or ashes.

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

### *The Body*

The body may be honored in ways other than traditional burial. It is commended as good stewardship to donate one's body or organs for medical, teaching, or research purposes. Cremation is also acceptable, and the church provides a memorial garden for the burial of the ashes. All the funeral rites of the Church may be held in the Church with the body or ashes present or not present.

### *Fees*

The parish has no fee for the worship service for communicants in good standing. For services for others, when approved, there will be a \$475 fee for the organist, vergers, sexton and facilities. Spaces in the memorial garden do entail a charge of \$1,000. Additional information is provided in the cemetery brochure.

### *Reception*

The Guild of the Good Shepherd will coordinate a simple reception. The Guild can provide simple flowers for the reception. If the family prefers more elaborate flowers, you may hire one of the florists listed under "Flowers" or the florist of your choice.

Please contact the church office 404-881-0835 at the earliest possible time if a reception is planned at the church.

*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 him as he 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, and 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.





b. **Psalm** Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

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

c. **New Testament** Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

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

d. **After the NT lesson** Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

- Hymn \_\_\_\_\_
- Silence
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- Psalm [One of the above]

e. **The Gospel** Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

- John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
- John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives will come to me)
- John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
- John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
- John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

#### 4. The Holy Communion

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

I would like the following people to present the offerings of bread and wine to the deacon or celebrant at the offertory:

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- b. Eucharistic Prayer:

When using Rite I    Eucharistic Prayer II, p. 340

When using Rite II:     A, p. 361     B, p. 367     C, p. 369     D, p. 372

**Music:** Music is an integral part of Christian worship. The use of between one and three congregational hymns at a funeral is appropriate. Below are several suggested hymns. You may indicate preferences by circling the number of the hymn. You may also list the name (first line of text) and number of any other desired hymn found in the *Episcopal Hymnal 1982* or other authorized Episcopal hymnal supplements.

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| 208 – Alleluia! The strife is o’er           | 624 – Jerusalem, the Golden            |
| 376 – Joyful, joyful we adore thee           | 637 – How firm a foundation            |
| 390 – Praise to the Lord, the almighty       | 645 – The King of love my shepherd is  |
| 482 – Lord of all hopefulness                | 657 – Love divine, all loves excelling |
| 490 – I want to walk as a child of the light | 671 – Amazing Grace                    |
| 618 – Ye watchers and ye holy ones           | 680 – O God our help in ages past      |
| 620 – Jerusalem, My Happy Home               | 688 – A mighty fortress is our God     |

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6. **Flowers:** If the service is to take place within a day or two of a Sunday, then the Sunday flowers can be used for the funeral. The following florists are available to assist you with flowers, or you are welcome to use the florist of your choice.

Jeryl Johnson            404-584-7303

Alvin Moore              678-984-7936

Carithers Flowers      770-980-3000

When working with an outside florist, please note that the flowers should be no taller than 36”,

**7. Acolytes**

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**8. Ushers**

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**9. Pallbearers**

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**Additional requests for service**

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**OTHER INFORMATION**

**1. Memorial Gifts**

The only flowers present in the Church are those at the altar. In place of flower gifts from others, memorial donations may be made to:

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

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## My Remains

- a. I wish my remains to be
- buried (in a modest casket)
  - cremated
  - donated for research
  - an organ to be donated for transplant

I would like my remains to be interred in:

\_\_\_\_\_

My preference for a funeral home, director, or crematorium is:

\_\_\_\_\_

Have any pre-arrangements been made with them? \_\_\_\_\_

If you presently own a cemetery plot, where is it and what is the lot number?

\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not presently own a cemetery plot, where do you wish to be buried?

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any special instructions regarding your grave maker? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything special you wish to wear or have buried or cremated with you?

\_\_\_\_\_

Name, address and phone number of clergyperson(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Will and Lawyer

a. My will is on file at: \_\_\_\_\_

My lawyer is: \_\_\_\_\_

It is "the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions for the well-being of their families and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able to leave bequests for religious and charitable purposes." (BCP, p. 445)

My executor/trix is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Information**

a. My next of kin is (name, address, phone):

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b. Other immediate family members are:  
(name, address, phone; attach sheets, if necessary)

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c. Others to be notified of my death are:  
(name, address, phone; attach sheets, if necessary)

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d. Family members to be notified of any memorials are:  
(name, address, phone; attach sheets, if necessary)

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Names and birth places of parents:

Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mother: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other: (You may want to attach papers that provide information such as bank accounts, safety deposit box, location of insurance policies, credit cards to cancel, list of assets and liabilities, etc.)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*These instructions should be placed on file at the parish office  
and a copy given to a close friend or relative.*



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