

CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND BURIAL AT THE TIME OF DEATH

Funeral Instructions

*“I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”*



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CHRISTIAN WITNESS AND BURIAL AT THE TIME OF DEATH

"I am the Resurrection and the life..."
"...whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall not die."

The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life which 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. A member of the clergy should be notified immediately of a death. 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 takes place
- A gathering of the community for a burial service consisting of thanksgivings, psalms, hymns, readings from the 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 the preparation for Christian burial, the Faithful are urged to counsel with members of the clergy. It is also of great benefit to read about the service in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) on pages 468-507. The rubrics on these pages are of particular interest. It is also recommended that people familiarize themselves with the prayers for "Ministration at the Time of Death" (BCP, pages 462-467).

FUNERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Final Directions and Instructions upon the death of

Name _____ 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 _____ Spouse's Full Name _____

Address _____ Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____ Date of Baptism _____

Father's Full Name _____

Date/Place of Birth _____ Living ___ Yes ___ No

Mother's Full Name _____

Date/Place of Birth _____ Living ___ Yes ___ No

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of living brothers and sisters

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to notify upon my death

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Social Security Number _____

Date of Last Executed Will _____ Will is located _____

Representative's name and address _____

For additional information on my assets, please refer to booklet, **Christian Considerations at Life's End, Preparing to Write a Will** located _____

My Burial Instructions

_____ keeps a file of burial instructions and requests by parishioners.
(NAME OF CHURCH)

Please fill this out and return it to the Parish Secretary in the Church office.

Full Name _____
(PRINT)

Address _____

- 1) 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.

I request that my service be conducted at _____
(NAME OF CHURCH)

or at _____
The Rector or Clergy of said congregation shall be in charge of the services.

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

I request (check one):

___ The Burial of the Dead and Eucharist.
___ 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
___ Rite I (BCP, page 469)
___ Rite II (BCP, page 491)

___ A Memorial Service

- 3) Other arrangements as follows:

Altar Flowers _____

(Contact Parish Secretary) _____

Musicians _____

Ushers _____

Pall Bearers _____

Speakers (if desired) _____

4) I request the following Scriptures be read:

The readings are: 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); 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 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 fully participate 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 Eucharist (#300-347), the burial (#354-358), and #287, 376, 410, 556, 613-625, 637, 671, 680, 688, etc.

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

Donate entire body or certain organs
 Arrangements have been made
 Please make appropriate arrangements

Comments _____

Place of interment _____

Full Address _____

Ashes may be placed in _____. (These niches may be purchased in advance.) Please contact the Parish Secretary.

7) I prefer the following Funeral Home: _____
however, my family or attorney may make this decision.

I do 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)

Knowing that all the gifts we have come from God, it is important for all parishioners to make prudent provisions for their families, to prepare wills, while they are in good health and to arrange for the disposal of their temporal goods not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses. We hope that parishioners will give serious consideration in the preparations of their wills to include a bequest to the church.

Please return to: Parish Secretary

Name of Church: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____

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

Other information for my survivors:

Signature

Date