

Planning for Christian Burial & Memorial Services



Church OF THE
Epiphany

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Faithful Stewards of Your Good Gifts from The Episcopal Church
Foundation

A Note on Christian Burial

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, p. 507

Is grief unchristian?

Grief is a natural feeling for us to have when we lose a beloved family member or friend. The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that "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 our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn." (BCP, p. 507)

When should the priest be notified of a death?

When a person is near death, the Minister of the Congregation should be notified, in order that the ministrations of the Church may be provided.

If at all possible, the priest should be notified prior to death in order that the ministrations of the church, including a final confession and an anointing with holy oil, may be provided. It also allows the priest to attend to the pastoral needs of the family in advance of death.

The Book of Common Prayer further advises, "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." (BCP, p. 490)

If the above is not possible, the priest should be notified as soon as possible to tend to the pastoral needs of the family and to make arrangements for the funeral.

Burial or Cremation?

Either choice is suitable in the eyes of the church. The decision of burial or cremation is one, among others, that is wisely made in consultation with those who will survive you. It is appropriate that the ashes of a cremated person should be interred or deposited in consecrated ground such as a niche in the Memorial Garden here at Epiphany.

Music

Music is an important part of how we pray. Often, the words of hymns, anthems, and canticles help us to express our prayers that are otherwise difficult for us. During the funeral itself, Church of the Epiphany only allows sacred music. Other music can be played during the reception.

Funeral Services

It is customary that a funeral service be scheduled between 3 and 7 days after death. There are a few different options to consider when planning a funeral liturgy for a loved one (or for yourself if you are doing pre-planning):

- The Vigil Service - Also known as a wake or a visitation, the vigil service is held in the church, funeral home, or home the evening before a funeral service. In our tradition (though not in popular culture), sitting vigil is most properly done in the church rather than the funeral home. It can also be done in someone's home. The church's practice is that the vigil is not a time of socializing but a time to lift the deceased up in prayer. Therefore, it is usually a good idea to have a room set aside for socializing and visiting with the family.
- The Burial Office - The burial office is our liturgy for a funeral service, and it is most appropriately done in the church for baptized members of the parish. If, for pastoral reasons, it is better to have the funeral in a funeral home, the clergy will work with you and the funeral home to plan the liturgy appropriately. The burial office is the liturgy used for a funeral or a memorial service with the difference being whether or not a body (or cremains) is present.
- The Committal - The Committal is a short liturgy that immediately follows the burial office. We use this liturgy at the graveside when we are placing our beloveds in their final resting place.

Should the service include Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is the principal act of worship in The Episcopal Church and therefore is most appropriate for a funeral service for all baptized Christians. A decision about whether or not to include Holy Communion is made in consultation with the priest when planning the service.

When can a funeral be scheduled at Church of the Epiphany?

In keeping with Christian tradition and practice, we recommend that a funeral be scheduled 3 to 7 days after death. Though the practice originated out of purely practical concerns, it is a good practice to continue as it helps us to find closure and to grieve. It also helps us to be reminded of the wonder of God's grace and of the hope of the resurrection. Families are encouraged to consider weekdays for the ease of scheduling musicians. Saturday morning is an option for those times when immediate family members are coming from out of state. Funerals cannot be scheduled on Sundays.

What are the fees associated with a funeral at Church of the Epiphany?

Fees for clergy and facilities may be made by check payable to Church of the Epiphany-Tempe and given to the clergy person officiating the funeral. Fees for musicians, caterers, or other outside vendors should be made directly to those persons. Fees may not be paid in advance and are subject to change.

	Active Members*	All Others
Clergy	Discretionary	\$250
Music	\$150	\$250
Flowers	\$150	\$200
Altar Guild.	\$50	\$150
Reception**	\$150	\$450

**Active Members are those who have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God at Church of the Epiphany for at least one year*

***Includes the use of the parish hall, tables chairs, and table linens*

Memorial Gifts or Flowers?

Memorial gifts can be made for whatever purpose the deceased desired or at the desire of the family. A notation about where people can make a memorial gift can be included in the bulletin if provided to the church in advance. It is suggested that memorial gifts go towards Epiphany's memorial fund or to a charity.

In lieu of sending flowers, families are encouraged to inform friends to make a memorial gift. The only flowers that will be brought into the nave are those appointed for the adornment of the altar. All others will be placed in the narthex or in the parish hall for the reception..

How may family participate in the funeral service?

It is most appropriate for family to help with reading the readings from the Old Testament and the Epistle. It is also appropriate for family members to bring forward the bread and wine for Holy Eucharist if that is being included in the service.

Eulogies or testimonies about the deceased are not appropriate within the context of the burial office. Instead, arrangements can be made for those to be done prior to the start of the funeral service or after the funeral service during the reception. The homily is delivered by the celebrant and focuses on the hope we find in the resurrection of Christ.

Organizational Rites

Fraternal or other organizational rites are not added to or mingled with the liturgy of the church. If such a service is desired, it should happen before the liturgy of the church. The vigil (or wake), if held in a funeral home or private home, is an appropriate setting for these services.

MY BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS

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

Full Name (please print)

(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, State 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, 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 II (BCP, page 491)
- 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):
 Rite I (BCP, page 469) Rite II (BCP, page 491)

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

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Altar flowers

Musicians

Ushers

Pall bearer(s)

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:

(Choose three or four)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 180 He is risen | <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Holy, holy, holy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 473 Lift high the cross | <input type="checkbox"/> 645 The King of love |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 182 Christ is alive | <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 482 Lord of all hopefulness | <input type="checkbox"/> 657 Love divine, all loves excelling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 208 The strife is o'er, the battle done | <input type="checkbox"/> 383 Fairest Lord Jesus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 516 Come down, O love divine | <input type="checkbox"/> 671 Amazing grace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 293 I sing a song of the saints of God | <input type="checkbox"/> 390 Praise to the Lord |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 541 Come, labor on | <input type="checkbox"/> 680 O God, our help in ages past |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 304 I come with joy | <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones | <input type="checkbox"/> 688 A mighty fortress is our God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 335 I am the bread of life | <input type="checkbox"/> 439 What wondrous love |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Jerusalem, my happy home | <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah |

Other hymns: _____

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

- Arrangements have been made.

- Please make the appropriate arrangements.

Comments: _____

Place of interment: _____

Full address: _____

7. I prefer the following funeral home:

Funeral home name: _____;
however, my family or attorney may make this decision.

- I have prepaid arrangements Please make the appropriate arrangements

I prefer the visitation:

- At the funeral home At the church

For a visitation at a funeral home:

- I wish to have my coffin open I do not wish to have my coffin. open

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

- Church of the Epiphany Endowment Fund in support of Epiphany's mission and ministry
 Church of the Epiphany Memorial Fund in support of Epiphany's worship ministry

or for [SPECIFY]

or to:

Name of Institution

Full Address

Please return to the parish administrator:

Church of the Epiphany-Tempe
2222 South Price Rd.
Tempe, AZ 85281

8. Other information for my survivors:

Attach additional pages as needed.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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