

Funeral Planning Worksheet

When planning your funeral or a funeral for a loved one, there are many choices to make. Facing some of those choices now will make the process less demanding for your loved ones later. After death, a pastor will meet with family members and review your worksheet to develop the funeral or memorial service.

This worksheet may be completed by an individual making their advance plans known, or a family planning the funeral of a loved one.

Date form completed

Funeral plan is for

Date of birth

Place of birth

Date of death

Who is planning this service?

Deceased's Spouse/Partner
Name

Name/relationships of
children and grandchildren

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Body

Cremated

Embalmed and buried

Open or Closed Casket? Note: an open casket may not be possible in some circumstances. The casket is closed during the service.

Organ/Tissue Donor

I have completed and attached transplant and/or donor documents
<https://dds.georgia.gov/organ-donor-program>

Body donated for research

I have completed and attached required donor documents as required by the receiving organization

Service

In the sanctuary at the church

In the chapel of a funeral home

Other

Funeral (body is present; service is often w/in three days

Memorial (body is not present, but remains typically are)

Visitation with family

No

Yes. At the funeral home, in the church, before the service, body present, etc)

Scripture: typically one Old Testament, one Psalm, one New Testament, and a Gospel lesson

- The pastor who officiates may choose the readings.
- My family may choose the readings.
- I have chosen the readings as indicated below:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.

Anything special about the scripture chosen?

I would like the following people to read the scriptures.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Music

- The pastor who officiates may choose the hymns/songs.
- My family will choose hymns/songs.
- I have chosen the hymns/songs as indicated below (typically 2-4)*

1.

2.

3.

*Please indicate whether you'd like organ or piano, sung by congregation, etc.

Anything special about the music?

I would like the following **special music** (vocalists, instrumentalists, etc.):
Music:

Soloists:

Remembrances or Eulogies to be shared during worship?

- No
- Yes. I would like the following to speak
 -
 -
 -

Holy Communion during worship?*

- No
- Yes.
 - I'd like the following to help serve communion
 -
 -

* All must be welcomed at the table

Special Flower Requests and any associated meaning

Military Service

- Branch of the military
- Years served / honors received

Military honors during the service?

Burial

- Cemetery plot or columbarium
 - Location:
 - Will there be a committal service?
- Ashes kept by the family
- Other

Table available for pictures and remembrances?

- No
- Yes

Slide show?

- No
- Yes

Livestream the service?

- No
- Yes

Record service and provide a private link for family?

- No
- Yes

Memorial Gifts

If gifts are given, where would you like the gifts to be given? Possible options include endowments, church, cancer society, heart association, ...

Things to be included in obituary, including favorite picture.

Note: if the obituary is to be shared online, be careful including items that are often used as passwords, i.e. high school name, pet's name. Scammers have been using this information to assume the deceased's identity. Funeral dates have also been used to target your homes while attending the service.

I would like a meal or finger food after the service:

- No
- Yes
 - Approximately how many would you expect to attend?
 - Food preferences

Other notes and preferences

(Potential) costs, in addition to burial expenses:

- Special flowers
- Musician fees
- Livestream and/or recording costs
- Honorarium for pastor
- Meal/food
- Building usage fees (custodian, set ups, etc)

Common Scripture Readings for Christian Funerals and Memorials

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27	I know that my redeemer lives
Isa. 25:6-9	God will swallow up death forever
Isa. 26:1-4, 19	God will keep them in peace
Isa. 40:1-11, 28-31	Comfort my people
Isa. 40:28-31	Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
Isa. 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25	When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
Isa. 44:6-8	I am the first and the last
Isa. 55:1-3, 6-13	Ho, everyone who thirsts
Isa. 61:1-4, 10-11	The spirit of the Lord is upon me
Isa. 65:17-25	I create new heavens and a new earth
Lam. 3:19-26, 31b-32	The Lord's steadfast love
Dan. 12:1-3	Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29	Return to the Lord with all your heart

Psalms

Ps. 16:5-11	The Lord is my chosen portion
Ps. 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Ps. 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14	The Lord is my light and my salvation
Ps. 39: 4-5, 12	Lord, let me know my end
Ps. 42:1-6a	As a deer longs for flowing streams
Ps. 43	Give judgment for me, O God
Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11	A very present help in trouble
Ps. 90:1-10, 12	Teach us to number our days
Ps. 91	The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Ps. 103	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Ps. 106:1-5	O give thanks to the Lord
Ps. 116:1-9, 15	The Lord has heard my voice
Ps. 118	Open the gates of righteousness
Ps. 121	I lift up my eyes to the hills
Ps. 130	Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
Ps. 139:1-12	Where shall I go from your spirit?
Ps. 145	I will extol you, O God my King
Ps. 146	Hallelujah! praise the Lord, O my soul

New Testament

Rom. 5:1-11	Hope does not disappoint
Rom. 6:3-9	Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live with him
Rom. 8:14-23, 31-39	Nothing can separate us from the love of God
Rom. 14:7-9, 10b-12	Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-26	Christ raised from the dead, In Christ shall all be made alive
1 Cor. 15:35-44	The natural body and the spiritual body
1 Cor. 15:50-57	We shall all be changed
2 Cor. 4:16-5:1	Visible things are temporary, invisible things eternal
2 Cor. 5:1-10	From God we have a house not made with hands
Eph. 1:11-2:1, 4-10	Saved by grace through faith
Phil. 3:7-11	Knowing him and the power of his resurrection
Phil. 3:20-21	Our citizenship is in heaven
Col. 3:1-17	Set your minds on the things that are above
1 Thess. 4:13-18	The comfort of Christ's coming
2 Tim. 2:8-13	If we died with him, we shall also live with him
Heb. 2:14-18	Christ was tested in every way
Heb. 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2	Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses
1 Peter 1:3-9	Without seeing Christ, you love him
1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6	Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison
1 John 3:1-3	We are children of God
Rev. 7:2-3, 9-17	These are they who have come out of the great tribulation
Rev. 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13	Rest for the saints
Rev. 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5	A new heaven and a new earth
Rev. 22:1-5	The Lord God will be their light

Gospels

Matt. 5:1-12a	Blessed are those who mourn
Matt. 11:25-30	I will give you rest
Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14	A child is the greatest in the kingdom
Matt. 25:1-13	Wise and foolish bridesmaids
Matt. 25:31-46	The Last Judgment
Mark 10:13-16	Let the little children come
Mark 16:1-7	The resurrection of Christ
Luke 7:11-17	Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain
Luke 18:15-17	We enter the kingdom only as children
Luke 23:33, 39-43	Today you will be with me in Paradise
Luke 24:1-9	The resurrection of Christ
John 3:16-21	God so loved the world

John 5:24-29	Whoever hears and believes has eternal life
John 6:37-40	I will raise them up on the last day
John 6:47-58	Whoever believes in me has eternal life
John 10:11-16	I am the good shepherd
John 11:17-27	I am the resurrection and the life
John 11:38-44	Lazarus raised from the dead
John 14:1-6, 25-27	I go to prepare a place for you; Let not your hearts be troubled

Common Hymns for Christian Funerals and Memorials
From “*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*” (ELW)

629 Abide with Me
377 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!
779 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
468 Around You, O Lord Jesus
362 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing
838 Beautiful Savior
425 Behold the Host Arrayed in White
728 Blest Are They
656 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
732 Borning Cry
781 Children of the Heavenly Father
607 Come, Ye Disconsolate
855 Crown Him with Many Crowns
790 Day by Day
422 For All the Saints
427 For All Your Saints, O Lord
879 For the Beauty of the Earth
770 Give Me Jesus
428 Give Thanks for Saints
543 Go, My Children, with My Blessing
564 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven
721 Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil
483 Here Is Bread
637 Holy God, Holy and Glorious
414 Holy God, We Praise Your Name
413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!
856 How Great Thou Art
636 How Small Our Span of Life
485 I Am the Bread of Life

619 I Know That My Redeemer Lives!
815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
769 If You but Trust in God to Guide You
630 In Heaven Above
429 In Our Day of Thanksgiving
867 In Thee Is Gladness
628 Jerusalem, My Happy Home
621 Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense
595 Jesus Loves Me!
697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee
592 Just as I Am, without One Plea
409 Kyrie! God, Father
660 Lift High the Cross
765 Lord of All Hopefulness
730 Lord Our God, with Praise We Come
767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me
750 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
596, 597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song
782 My Shepherd, You Supply My Need
622 Neither Death nor Life
839, 840 Now Thank We All Our God
500 Now We Remain
447 O Blessed Spring
760 O Christ the Same
627 O Day Full of Grace
880 O God beyond All Praising
632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
786 O Holy Spirit, Enter In
542 O Living Bread from Heaven
313 O Lord, Now Let Your Servant
308 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
351, 352 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
441 Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand
787 On Eagle's Wings
381 Peace, to Soothe Our Bitter Woes
843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

418 Rejoice in God's Saints
423 Shall We Gather at the River
426 Sing with All the Saints in Glory
878 Soli Deo Gloria
488, 489 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness
654 The Church's One Foundation
502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
778 The Lord's My Shepherd
531 The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
342 There in God's Garden
826 Thine the Amen
391 This Joyful Eastertide
327 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow
613 Thy Holy Wings
451 We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus
449 We Know That Christ Is Raised
487 What Feast of Love
666 What Wondrous Love Is This
639 When We Are Living/Pues si vivimos
581 You Are Mine