

Funeral Planning



Information

Readings

Hymns

ST. THOMAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Funerals at St. Thomas

This booklet has been prepared for you by St. Thomas Church to answer the most frequently asked questions about Christian burial. The Church wants to help Christians preparing for their own deaths, and friends and family facing the challenge of burying someone they love. Please know that our clergy and staff are friendly resources who are here to help you in any way they can.

Dying is the process of returning to the earth from which we came, and of turning toward God from whom we came. Death is the sacramental moment of our returning. At burial, the Christian community gathers to celebrate its faith.

The burial is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, Christians, too, shall be raised. Christian burial reflects 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.” [Romans 8:38]. We offer prayers for the dead, asking God’s help in their transition from life on earth to life in heaven.

Alongside our Resurrection hope, our human grief remains. 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 the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we who continue in this life grieve our loss. Therefore, our liturgy also asks God to comfort those who mourn.

The *Book of Common Prayer* notes that Christians are normally buried from their parish church. This implies that either their bodies or their cremated remains will be present for the burial liturgy, and then committed to a permanent place of rest. Our physical bodies, Scripture tells us, are temples of the Holy Spirit, visible signs of our spiritual presence in the world. It is fitting that they be honored in Christian burial.

In Anticipation of Death

Although our society routinely avoids speaking about death, the Church does not. Over the centuries we have gathered scriptures, songs, and prayers that enfold the pain and trauma of separation and loss within a larger vision. The Church is not afraid to speak of death because we are a community of faith, hope, and love.

It is prudent to begin thinking about your own funeral well beforehand. Thoughtful foresight lets the liturgy express your Christian faith authentically, while helping family and friends to know your personal wishes. The parish clergy are pleased to meet with you to review the options available for prayers, hymns, and Scripture readings appropriate for burial.

It is also prudent to discuss with your doctor, and put into writing, the types of medical treatment you want in case of debilitating illness.

At the Time of Death

Before making any arrangements for the body, please confirm with the clergy what services will be needed from a mortician. Often these are fewer than expected.

People's Memorial Association in Seattle (206-325-0489) is a nonprofit organization that provides simple, affordable services. More elaborate arrangements can be made using the funeral homes listed in the telephone directory or on the internet.

The parish office will prepare a bulletin with the order of service, the names of pall bearers, readers, ushers, and others assisting with the service. A second bulletin from the mortuary is not needed. The parish will also arrange for musicians when requested by the family to do so.

The parish clergy, organist, and staff are here to help you with all aspects of planning and celebrating Christian burial. Please call on us whenever the need arises.

About the Funeral

The church or chapel is the appropriate place for funerals. It is customary for the remains to be present for the service, either in an urn (for ashes) or a coffin.

Flowers are symbols of resurrection and are always appropriate at funerals. However, because urns and caskets are covered with a cloth called a pall, which symbolizes our equality before God in death (and recalls the white garment of baptism), floral casket sprays are not used. A family arrangement may be placed at the urn or on a stand near the altar. Additional floral displays are unnecessary, but if they are delivered to the church, they may be placed on the shelves in the narthex (entry hall). Flowers from the narthex or the stand in the church may be taken to the cemetery or the reception. Flowers are also appropriate at the reception, but many families prefer to recommend charities, including St. Thomas, that well-wishers may want to support instead of sending flowers.

The family usually gathers in the Vesta Loyd Parlor in the Ebsworth Life Center before the service, although some prefer to be seated in the front pews as they arrive. At the appointed time, the procession forms in the narthex, led by the crucifer. The family is appropriately included in the procession.

You will find the form for the Burial of the Dead in the *Book of Common Prayer* on pages 468–507. It is appropriate for family members to participate in the service by reading lessons or prayers. Music in the service will be sacred in character. Secular music is never appropriate.

The Eucharist is an appropriate part of the service, making the funeral similar to Sunday services at St. Thomas. All baptized persons are welcome to receive the bread and wine at this special time, an occasion of solidarity and solace for all who grieve. Sharing Communion among those who mourn is itself an occasion for comfort and hope and reminds us again of the Heavenly Banquet that surpasses all limits of time and space. In the Eucharist all Christians, the living and the dead together, join in celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus.

At the conclusion of the service, it is customary for the family to follow the crucifer and clergy out in procession. When the Committal takes place in the St. Thomas columbarium, the family goes to the columbarium for the Committal, while the guests go to the Great Hall for the reception. If the burial is in a local cemetery, the family and guests follow the funeral coach in procession there.

Remembrances

Remembrances or eulogies are not customary in the Episcopal Church. The focus of Christian burial is properly on Christ's victory over the powers of darkness and death. It is an Easter service. Because those present already know the one who has died, review of years past is not necessary. If it is desired to share such remembrances, please communicate with the officiating clergy.

You may also invite everyone in the family and close friends and colleagues to write whatever they would like about the loved one. These remembrances can be included in the service bulletin or collected in a separate booklet with a history of the loved one's life with pictures if desired. In this way, people feel included and have an opportunity to say what they would like to say. Attendees are able to read these remembrances during the pre-service time, and they usually take them home to read at leisure. Plus, family and friends have these remembrances as a wonderful keepsake and comfort.

A Word About Cremation

Cremation, an ancient practice anthropologists have discovered in many ages and places past, is gaining popularity in our day. St. Thomas has a columbarium for the convenience of members of the parish and community who may wish to use it for loved ones or themselves. Call the parish office for more information about purchasing a niche in a columbarium at St. Thomas.

Accordingly, we treat the deceased body reverently, not simply out of respect for the departed person, but out of reverent awe in the presence of God's handiwork. Whether we burn or bury the body, it passes from our sight, but it can never pass from God's sight.

Receptions in the Great Hall

We are pleased to offer the Great Hall for family and friends to gather following the burial liturgy. The family may bring prepared foods to the church, or we will provide the names of a caterers who have experience providing reception services at St. Thomas. The parish has tables and chairs, dishes and flatware available for use. The parish staff will be pleased to answer any questions about the preparation of a reception.

Guidelines for Florists

Flowers are symbols of resurrection, so they are always appropriate at Church funerals.

The family may place an arrangement at the urn or on a stand near the altar. Additional floral displays are unnecessary, but if they are delivered to the church, they may be placed on the shelves in the narthex (entry hall). Please inform the church of your choice of florist so we can coordinate delivery.

Selecting the Service Date

St. Thomas Church does not schedule funerals in the week between Christmas Day and New Year's Day and the week after Easter due to office closures and staff vacations.

Fees and Donations

The following fees/donations are expected if St. Thomas facilities or staff are used for a funeral or reception. All fees for services and facilities should be paid by check, to St. Thomas Church, at the parish office within five days of the service, if possible. In cases of financial hardship, financial resources are available.

Church or Chapel	No charge to St. Thomas members (non-members \$1510)
Clergy	Free-will donation. Funds will go to the clergy person's discretionary account.

The following donations/fees are to be made by check, payable to St. Thomas:

Great Hall	\$480 (non-members \$950)
Organist	\$350 (non-members \$400)
Soloist	\$250 (non-members \$300)
Communion	\$50
Coordinator	\$100
Facility Staff	\$50 per hour (for events outside regular hours)
A/V Technician	\$25 per hour (for service Livestreams, reception slideshows/audio)

Catering

St. Thomas does not provide catering for receptions. Here is a list of caterers we recommend:

Twelve Baskets Catering
425-576-1000
twelvebasketscatering.com

Linda Manca's Catering
(425) 462-9379
mancascatering.com

Madres Kitchen
206-227-7478
madreskitchen.com

Lisa Dupar & Co. Catering
425-881-3250
duparandcompany.com/lisa-dupar-catering/

Please notify the church of your choice of caterer so we can coordinate reception setup needs.

Planning for Death: A Checklist

- Keep your will current, with copies on file at your attorney's office, in your safe deposit box, and at the church.
- Designate the charitable organizations to which friends and family may donate in memory of your life and work. It is always appropriate to include your parish church.
- Select a funeral home and a place for burial. The St. Thomas staff will be pleased to discuss the parish columbarium niches and other choices with you.
- Arrange with your doctor for a Living Will. Discuss it with your family; leave copies with your doctor, in your attorney's office, in your safe deposit box, and at the church.
- Meet with the parish clergy to plan your funeral liturgy ahead of time.
- Review this booklet and the arrangements you have made with trusted friends and family.

Pastoral Care for Families

We recognize that this is a season of grief for families and loved ones. Along with the details of planning a funeral, our clergy are here to provide pastoral care for the family of those who have died. We hope to walk with you, not only through the planning, but of finding the hope of new life in the midst of loss and grief. Our clergy are available, whether or not you will be holding a funeral at St. Thomas, and they would be delighted to be present in this difficult season.

To schedule time with one of our clergy, please call the church office at 425-454-9541.

THE READINGS

From the New Revised Standard Version

THE OLD TESTAMENT

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (25:6-9)

[He will swallow up death forever]

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (61:1-3)

[To comfort those who mourn]

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all whom mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations (3:22-26, 31-33)

[The Lord is good to those who wait]

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject for ever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom (3:1-5, 9)

[The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God]

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

A Reading from the Book of Job (19:21-27a)

[I know that my Redeemer lives]

Job answered, "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? 'O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

THE PSALMS

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Psalm 27 continued

Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

Psalm 42:1-7

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me,
"Where now is your God?"
I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.
The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.

Psalm 46 continued

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.

Psalm 90:1-12

Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, *
“Go back, O child of earth.”
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?
So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Psalm 106:1-5

Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?
Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!
Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;
That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

Psalms 116

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.
Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”
Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.
The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.
For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.
I believed, even when I said,
“I have been brought very low.” *
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”
How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.
O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.
I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the Lord’s house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

Psalms 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

Psalm 121 continued

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm 139:1-11

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans (8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39)

[The glory that shall be revealed]

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

A Reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians (15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58)

[The imperishable body]

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

But someone will ask, 'How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?' Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

A Reading from the Second Letter to the Corinthians (4:16-5:9)

[Things that are unseen are eternal]

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if

indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

A Reading from the First Letter of John (3:1-2)

[We shall be like him]

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (7:9-17)

[God will wipe away every tear]

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

A Reading from the Book of Revelation (21:2-7)

[Behold I make all things new]

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

THE GOSPELS

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (5:24-27)

[He who believes has everlasting life]

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

"Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man."

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (6:37-40)

[All that the Father gives me will come to me]

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (10:11-16)

[I am the good shepherd]

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (11:21-27)

[I am the resurrection and the life]

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (14:1-6)

[In my Father's house are many rooms]

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Suggested Hymns for Funerals

All of the following hymns are located in The Hymnal 1982 unless otherwise indicated.

174-213: Any hymn from the Easter section
178: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord"
287: "For All the Saints"
293: "I Sing A Song of the Saints of God"
296: "We Know that Christ is Raised and Dies No More"
304: "I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord"
335: "I Am the Bread of Life"
336: "Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus"
339: "Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness"
343: "Shepherd of Souls"
366: "Holy God We Praise Thy Name"
376: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"
379: "God Is Love"
383: "Fairest Lord Jesus"
388: "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"
390: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
397: "Now Thank We All Our God"
410: "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"
423: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
439: "What Wondrous Love Is This"
460: "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"
473: "Lift High the Cross"
477: "All Praise to Thee"
482: "Lord of All Hopefulness"
488: "Be Thou My Vision"
493: "O For A Thousand Tongues"
517: "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling-Place"
618: "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"
620: "Jerusalem, My Happy Home"
623: "O What Their Joy and Their Glory Must Be"
625: "Ye Holy Angels Bright"
635: "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"
637: "How Firm a Foundation"

Suggested Hymns for Funerals — LEVAS II

38: "The Old Rugged Cross"
54: "Nearer My God to Thee"
60: "How Great Thou Art"
69: "In the Garden"
99: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"
101: "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"
104: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
106: "Take My Hand, Precious Lord"

109: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
141: "Shall We Gather by the River"
188: "It is Well With My Soul"
213: "Children of the Heavenly Father"
641: "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"
644: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"
645/646: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"
657: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
658: "As Longs the Deer for Cooling Streams"
662: "Abide with Me"
663: "The Lord My God My Shepherd Is"
669: "Commit Thou All that Grieves Thee"
671: "Amazing Grace"
680: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
685: "Rock of Ages"
688: "A Mighty Fortress is our God"
690: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
691: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Solos in The Hymnal 1982

314: "Humbly I Adore Thee"
357: "Jesus, Son of Mary"
676: "There is a Balm in Gilead"
694: "God Be in My Head"

Brown Song Book

"Surely the Presence"
"Alleluia"
"In Christ Alone"
"First Song of Isaiah"

Hymns or Solos – Gather (R. C. Hymnal)

430: "Be Not Afraid"
433: "On Eagle's Wings"
455: "The Lord is My Shepherd"
461: "You Are Mine"
524: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Hymns in Lutheran Book of Worship

294: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"
314: "Who is this Host Arrayed in White"
352: "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

Other Solos

“*Ave Maria*” – Bach/Gounod or Schubert

“*Come Sweet Death*” – J. S. Bach

“*Bist du bei mir*” – J. S. Bach

“*O Saviour, Hear Me*” – Gluck

“*I Know that My Redeemer Liveth*” – G. F. Handel (*Messiah*)

“*The Trumpet Shall Sound*” – G. F. Handel (*Messiah*)

“*Te Deum*” – G. F. Handel

“*The Call*” – R. Vaughan Williams (#487, 1982 *Hymnal*) “O

Rest in the Lord” – Mendelssohn

“*Litany*” (*Rest in Peace*) – Schubert

“*Thy Holy Wings*” – arr. John Ferguson (#741 in WOV)

“*Children of the Heavenly Father*” – arr. John Ferguson

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