

Revised: 6 September 2022

Your Name _____

ADVANCE PLANNING

for

FUNERAL SERVICES AND BURIAL

at

**Grace Episcopal Church
Muskogee, Oklahoma**

Some Perspective on Burial

It is incumbent upon all Christian people to make advance plans for their own death. While not something readily or cheerfully considered, death for a Christian does not have the terror it has for those who live without faith. Death is the gateway to a larger life in Christ, and while we mourn and will be mourned, we place our grief in the context of the Paschal mystery: that Christ has died and so shall we; that "Christ is risen" and so are we.

From the Book of Common Prayer

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.*" This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. 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.

Please complete this form out as fully as you can and return it to the church office. Feel free to make any additional notes that will help your loved ones give you the funeral service *you* want. Also, you may adjust these instructions at any time by contacting one of the priests, who will assist you in revising the document.

Personal Information

Full Legal Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Spouse: _____

Parent(s): *(if living; name, address, phone and email)*: _____

Children *(name, address, phone and email)*: _____

Siblings *(name, address, phone and email)*: _____

Important Friend(s) *(name, address, phone and email)*: _____

Are You a Veteran? Yes No

If yes, do you desire a military burial? Yes No

Location of your military records (DD-214): _____

Do You Have a Living Will? Yes No

If yes, where are copies kept? _____

Funeral Arrangements

Your answers to the following questions will help ensure that your wishes for your own funeral will be carried out. Please add as much detail as you wish; this will help the clergy and others involved in planning your funeral to follow *your* desires.

Have you made arrangements with a funeral director or do you have a preference for one?

Yes Name & Phone: _____

No

Cremation or Internment?

If you wish to be cremated, write “cremation” here: _____

I prefer to be cremated: Before the funeral service After the funeral

Pre-arrangement with: _____

Notes: _____

I would like my cremated remains placed in the following location(s) or given to the following person(s) (*please be specific*):

If you wish to be buried in a casket, write “interment” here: _____

Notes: _____

I wish to have my casket open at the funeral home

I do NOT wish to have my casket open at the funeral home

Details of Your Funeral Service

Do you wish to have a funeral service? Yes No

If yes, where do you want your funeral service to take place?

Grace, main church Grace, Bixby Chapel

Other: _____

Do you wish the casket or cremated remains present at the service? Yes No

Liturgical Notes

Do you wish to have a Eucharist? Yes No

Which of *The Book of Common Prayer* rites for burial do you desire?

Rite 1 (*BCP, page 469*)

Rite 2 (*BCP, page 491*) Eucharistic Prayer A, B, C, or D _____

Who would you like to serve as worship leaders, acolytes, and/or ushers?

If there is a casket, who would you like to serve as pallbearers?

According to *The Book of Common Prayer*, “**One or more** of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.”

If you want an Old Testament reading, select one:

- 2 Samuel 12:16-23 *The death of David’s child*
- Isaiah 25:6-9 *He will swallow up death forever*
- Isaiah 61:1-3 *To comfort those who mourn*
- Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25 *I am about to create new heavens and a new earth*
- Isaiah 6:7-14 *As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you*
- Jeremiah 31:15-17 *Rachel weeping for her children*
- Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 *The Lord is good to those who 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 lives*

Whom would you like to read? _____

If you want a Psalm, select one or two (one from each column):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 106:1-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 42:1-7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 121 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 46 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 130 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 90:1-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 139:1-11 |

Whom would you like to read? _____

If you want a New Testament reading, select one:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 18 *We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died*
- Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 *The glory that shall be revealed*
- Romans 8:31-39 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 *The imperishable body*
- 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:9 *Things that are unseen are eternal*
- 1 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*

Whom would you like to read? _____

If you’re having a Eucharist, which Gospel lesson do you want?

- Matthew 5:1-10 *Blessed are those who mourn*
- Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14 *This child is the greatest in the kingdom*
- Mark 10:13-16 *Let the little children come to me; see also Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17*

- John 5:24-27 *He who believes has everlasting life*
- John 6:37-40 *All that the Father gives me 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*

Whom would you like to lead Prayers of the People, if a deacon is not present?

Do you want reflections by family members, friends and/or church members after the homily is completed? _____

What kind of music do you desire at your service?

- Organ only Hymns
- Choir Other _____
- None Soloist _____

Do you want any particular hymns or songs? (Select up to five) _____

For the service bulletin, would you like to include any special prayers or quotes? _____

Do you desire a graveside committal service in addition to the service in the church?

- Yes, for all who wish to attend
- Yes, for family and close friends only
- No

Will there be military honors? Yes No

Military honors take place after the conclusion of the church service.

Will there be other honors? Yes No

What are your wishes about a reception? _____

In lieu of (or in addition to) flowers, would you prefer that contributions be made to:

- Grace Episcopal Church General Fund
- Other: _____
- Other: _____

Other notes about the service (flowers, etc.):

What biographical information about your life would you want to print in the service leaflet:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

Funeral Customary

The Rector is director of the funeral and makes all final decisions about any matter pertaining to the service. Normally the Rector must be involved with the deceased, the family, and the funeral home well before death, but if circumstances are otherwise, the clergy should be the first contact for the family, before any funeral plans are made among themselves or with funeral homes.

The Eucharist is the normal conclusion for the Office of the Burial of the Dead, but the Rector may, in special circumstances, offer the option of using only the Burial office. The Eucharist is the Church's principal means for communion and mutual strength among the living and the dead.

Tradition is that funerals are not scheduled on Sunday, or on important feasts of the church year.

The following guidelines are norms for the Episcopal Church: as well as Grace Episcopal Church.

1. The **Book of Common Prayer** orders the service. Families are urged not to request departures from these services. The Rector, consulting with the family, will select the appropriate worship actions from the Prayer Book.
2. The incumbent Rector presides at the office or at the Eucharist. Guest ministers, including former Rectors or ministers from other denominations, are welcome after permission is obtained from the incumbent. If approved, the invitation is extended to the guest minister by the Rector, on behalf of the congregation and family. The Rector determines the roles and responsibilities of visiting ministers and all laity.
3. Lay Readers may read scripture lessons.

Flowers and decoration:

The only flowers in the sanctuary, chancel, or nave are the normal arrangements for a Eucharist. The Director of the Altar Guild at Grace Church will oversee and arrange all altar flowers. Florists or funeral directors must consult with the Altar Guild Director before bringing arrangements into the church. The altar arrangement(s) should be of modest size. All other floral offerings, such as wreaths and banks of flowers, may be placed only in the parish hall. Grace Church's narthex is not large enough to accommodate large arrangements. Large flower arrangements will not be allowed in the nave or altar area. No flowers may be placed on the organ console.

All caskets remain closed while in the church or narthex and are covered with a pall. The casket will not be open at any time while in the church building—before, during, or after the service.

Clergy/organist reimbursement:

The rector is the officiant for the service. Honorariums paid to the rector should be made out to Grace Episcopal Church and will be considered donations to the rector's discretionary fund. In the absence of an incumbent Rector, the family should pay travel expenses and an honorarium for the priest, who will be designated by the Bishop.

Reimbursement for the organist is based upon the American Guild of Organists standard rates. In 2019 it is \$150 for a funeral service.

Parking:

There is ample parking in the south parking lots (Broadway and 6th) as well as across the street from the church. There is a drop off lane in front of the church for those needing assistance.

Service Bulletins:

The Grace Church office will print bulletins in quantities estimated by the family. The family may choose to re-print the obituary on the last page or not.

Supervision of the service on the day of the funeral

The Rector remains the person in charge at the church and at the burial site. Funeral directors should know this in advance and not try to “orchestrate” the service, as may be the norm in other denominations.

The family normally enters the church with the casket, as part of the entrance procession or the family may be seated immediately before the service begins.

The congregation enters the church as they would for any service. The funeral director should not stand at the entrance or manage the seating. Members of Grace Church will serve as ushers and distribute service bulletins.

The casket moves from the church directly to the hearse. The Rector will discuss this part of the service with the family and funeral director in advance.

Cremation: If the body is cremated, the office and Eucharist may be celebrated without the ashes present. If the ashes are present, they are brought into the church in procession, just as a casket would be.

Selecting Readings for Episcopal Funerals

The Book of Common Prayer and Enriching Our Worship 3: Burial Rites for Adults together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child list readings from Holy Scripture that are appropriate for funeral and memorial services. Generally, one reading from the Old Testament, another from the New Testament, one or more psalms, and a gospel reading (required if Holy Communion is part of the service) are selected. *With the approval of the rector, one selection from another appropriate source might be included.*

From the Old Testament (choose one)

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-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged 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 forever. 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.

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 brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who 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.

Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25 [*I am about to create new heavens and a new earth*]

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 [*The Lord is good to those who wait for him*]

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 forever. 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.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 [*The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God*]

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.

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 forever! 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."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 [*For everything there is a season*]

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. God has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Psalms (choose one or two)

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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 23 King James Version

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely 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

1 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?
2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
5 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;
6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
7 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.
8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
10 Harken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face."*
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
15 Show me your way, O Lord; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.
17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
18 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

1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.
2 My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
3 My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"
4 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,
5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *

among those who keep holy-day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *

and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 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

1 God is our refuge and strength, *

a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *

and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and foam, *

and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *

the holy habitation of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; *

God shall help her at the break of day.

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *

God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

8 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, *

what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 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.

11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; *

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

12 The Lord of hosts is with us; *

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Psalm 90: 1-12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *

from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, *

from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *

"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *

and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *

we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *

we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *

and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 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.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Psalm 106: 1-5

1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 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.

Psalm 116

1 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.

2 The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

9 I believed, even when I said, “I have been brought very low.”*
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

10 How shall I repay the Lord *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *

and call upon the Name of the Lord.
16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,
17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130

1 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.
2 If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
5 My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm 139: 1-11

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.
3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?
7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

New Testament (select one)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14,18 [*We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have died*]
But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 [*The glory that shall be revealed*]
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.

Romans 8: 31-39 [*Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*]
What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 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? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' 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.

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 [*The imperishable body*]
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 dishonor, 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 labor is not in vain.

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 [Things that are unseen are eternal]

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.

1 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.

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 worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever 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 center 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.”

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 as their God; 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.”

Gospel Reading (select one, especially if having communion)

Matthew 5: 1-10 [*Blessed are those who mourn*]

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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 judgment, 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 judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”

John 6:37-40 [*All that the Father gives me will come to me*]

Jesus said, “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.”

John 10:11-16 [*I am the good shepherd*]

Jesus said, “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.”

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."

John 14:1-6 [*In my Father's house are many rooms*]

Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

Additional Readings for the Burial of a Child

2 Samuel 12:16-23 (*the death of David's child*)

Isaiah 66:7-14 [*As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you*]

Jeremiah 31:15-17 [*Rachel weeping for her children*]

Matthew 18: 1-5, 10-14 [*This child is the greatest in the kingdom*]

Mark 10:13-16 [*Let the little children come to me*]; see also Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17

Beyond Eagles' Wings

Memorial Music Planning

Musical resource suggestions:

The 1982 Hymnal

Hymns from other denominations

Selections from *Requiems*: Faure, Rutter, Brahms, Mozart, Verdi

Various spirituals

Secular music can make a great sound track for any visual/video display either prior to the service or during the reception. The following websites are great resources for both listening and sheet music. The first six are streaming listening sites and the last two are both listening and resources for ordering the actual music.

www.youtube.com

<http://www.naxos.com>

<http://www.king.org>

<http://www.pandora.com>

<http://www.garritan.com>

<http://www.npr.org/music>

<http://www.jwpepper.com>

http://www.giamusic.com/sacred_music

Suggested Hymns For Funerals From The Hymnal 1982

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, Ye Saints Of The Lord"*
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"*

Other Solos

"Ave Maria"-- Bach/Gounod--Schubert
"Come Sweet Death"--J.S.Bach
"O Saviour, Hear Me"--Gluck
"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"--G.F.Handel (The Messiah)
"The Trumpet Shall Sound"--G.F.Handel (The 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

Suggested Hymns For Funerals--LEVAS

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"*

Brown Song Book

"Surely the Presence"
"Alleluia"
"In Christ Alone"
"First Song of Isaiah"
"On Eagle's Wings"

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"*