

**FUNERALS**  
**AT**  
**MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL**  
**CHURCH**

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When someone we love dies, we want to say goodbye in a proper, fitting way. While we mourn their death, we also yearn to celebrate the life they shared with us. The Episcopal liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds its meaning in the resurrection. 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.

We at Memorial strive to recognize all these pastoral needs as one we love approaches death as well as at the time of death.

**What do I do when someone I love is dying or has died?**

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to the clergy of Memorial Church. When a family member is approaching death, it is often helpful for the clergy to be notified. There are many lovely ways to pray with a dying loved one and your clergy can help you do this.

**What do I do once my loved one has died?**

The hospital or hospice or nursing home will make arrangements for the body to be transported to the funeral home. If you need help finding a funeral home, please consult the clergy for advice. Once the body is at the funeral home, the funeral director there will help you with the obituary notice and care of the body for burial or cremation.

Arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with the Rector of Memorial Church or, in her absence, the Assistant to the Rector.

**What should I expect the burial service to be like? What choices will I have to make?**

Memorial strongly encourages that the funeral should be held in the church.

The coffin is to be closed before the service and it is to remain closed thereafter. It is appropriate that it be covered with a pall or other suitable covering. If the family wishes a viewing, the viewing should be at a funeral home. The coffin or ashes may, however, lie in vigil before or after the service in the columbarium area of the church. The Paschal candle will remain lit during this time.

Services for a funeral will be from the Book of Common Prayer. There is an option to use the Rite One Burial Office (1928 Prayer Book language) or the more current Rite Two Burial Office. The family may choose to have Eucharist at the service. A graveside service to commit the body or ashes may take place after the church service or at a later time. The Memorial columbarium is available for the interment of ashes.

There are many ways to participate in a burial service. There is a time for reflections on the loved one's life. There are readings. There is the choice of hymns. Young people may serve as acolytes. Your clergy will help you prepare for the service. Listed below are some recommendations for readings and hymns

*From the Old Testament*

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)

Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort those who mourn)

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 hands of God)

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

*A suitable psalm, hymn, or canticle may follow. The following Psalms are appropriate: 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11.*

*From the New Testament*

Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,53-58 (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 everlasting life)

*Gospels*

John 5:24:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to you)

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)

*Hymns*

Hymnal #388 O worship the King, all glorious above!

Hymnal #526 Let saints on earth in concert sing

Hymnal # 636, 637 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord

Hymnal #680 O God, our help in ages past

Hymnal #687, 688 A mighty fortress is our God

Hymnal #14,15 O God, creation's secret force

Hymnal #188, 189 Love's redeeming work is done

Hymnal #191 Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts and voice heavenward raise

Hymnal #194, 95 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now

Hymnal #447 The Christ who died but rose again

Hymnal #635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee

Hymnal #688 I to the hills will lift mine eyes

Hymnal #208 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er

Hymnal #379 God is love, let heaven adore him

Hymnal #455, 456 O love of God, how strong and true

Hymnal #457 Thou art the Way, to thee alone

Hymnal #690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Hymnal #338 Wherefore, O Father, we thy humble servants

Hymnal #357 Jesus, Son of Mary

Hymnal 526 Let saints on earth in concert sing

Hymnal #645, 646 The King of love my shepherd is

Hymnal #663 The Lord my God my shepherd is

Hymnal #664 My shepherd will supply my need

Hymnal #373 Praise the Lord! ye heavens adore him  
Hymnal #473 Lift high the cross  
Hymnal #492 Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness  
Hymnal #618 Ye watchers an ye holy ones  
Hymnal #620 Jerusalem, my happy home  
Hymnal #621, 622 Light's abode, celestial Salem  
Hymnal #623 O what their joy and their glory must be  
Hymnal #624 Jerusalem the golden  
Hymnal #625 Ye holy angels bright

### **What will the funeral cost?**

There is no cost/fee for a funeral at Memorial. It is customary to make a donation to the church at the time of the funeral as well as a contribution to the officiating clergy.

Because the service generally takes place outside of regular Sunday services, there is a fee for the organist of \$150.00. The officiating clergy will advise the family on the organist or musician.

The cost of a columbarium niche is currently \$375.00. Arrangements may be made with the clergy to purchase a niche.

The family is responsible for purchasing and arranging flowers for the service and graveside.

The Parish Hall is available for a reception following the service. The family is responsible for the catering set-up, cost and clean-up.

*It is helpful for each of us to prepare our own burial liturgy ahead of time as well as have our wills and power of attorneys up-to-date. Selection of a columbarium niche may also be arranged. The Memorial clergy is always ready to help you to put these affairs in order.*