



FUNERAL GUIDELINES FOR TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Christian funeral is a difficult, yet reverent, mix of grief and joy. Joy, because we are confident in the promise from God 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.”* Consequently, the Liturgy for the Dead is properly an Easter Liturgy. It finds all meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

Such joy, however, does not make our grief unchristian. Quite the contrary, our grief is an expression of our love. 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 sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

At the time of death, people turn to the Church for rituals which allow them to recognize their loss, express their grief, remember and give thanks for the life of the one who has died, mark the end of relationships which exist in this life, allow them to seek strength and comfort in their faith, and provide dignity and meaning to the end of life. The rites of the Church are appropriate at several junctures in the passage from life into death. Long before death is a reality, the church can help people plan for the funeral and address other issues and concerns. Near the point of death, the Church can be present in a ministry to the dying person and his or her family and friends with Last Rites. After death, there is the funeral service and committal of the body to a final resting place.

At Trinity, our clergy, staff, and lay volunteers will do all that we can to provide a fitting and meaning-filled funeral for your loved one. We recognize that, upon the death of one we love, there are many arrangements to be made and concerns to be settled. Therefore, we will strive to make your experience here as easy and well-supported as possible.

At the Time of Death

Please call the Parish Office (970) 330-1877 to report a death. This is the most direct way to receive pastoral care at the time of death.

About Grief

All funerals are services in thankful memory for the life of the deceased. The Book of Common Prayer states that the body (casket or ashes) will be present for this thanksgiving. Trinity clergy and those who have accomplished serious training on the reality of grief agree that this not only provides a way to honor the dead, but also begins the process of accepting the reality of death and a movement toward the healing of grief. Nonetheless, please know that a Memorial Service, the Burial Office without casket or ashes, is also acceptable.

The Pall

The Book of Common Prayer prescribes that the casket or urn be covered with a pall (an embroidered cloth provided by the parish) during the service. The use of the pall symbolizes a great truth at the heart of the church's ministry: that we are all equal in God's sight. Over the years, a pall has covered the remains of the celebrated and the unknown, each of whom is loved by God. If flowers or a flag is covering the casket when it arrives in the Narthex, the Altar Guild respectfully removes the covering for the service and replaces it as the casket is taken from the Church. Additionally, once the casket has been received on Church property it is to remain closed.

Flowers

The family will need to contact Palmers Flowers – Greeley (970) 352-4027 to arrange for altar flowers. All altar flowers must be built to fit our custom rectangular holders. If flowers are not built to fit the holders, then the flowers will be used in the most proper way available. No extra adornment of flowers, pictures, or mementoes are allowed in the Church. Those items may be placed in the Narthex or the Parish Hall for the reception. If the family wishes the altar to be bare with no flowers at all, that is also an option. Funeral flowers may be taken by the family after the service.

Music

Music makes a vast contribution to the richness and meaning of the service. An organist for hire is typically available to play for funerals. If desired, a soloist, and/or instrumentalists may be available for an extra fee. Hymns are strongly encouraged from *The Hymnal 1982*, *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* to be included in the design of the service as congregational singing helps in the grieving process and allows one to participate more fully in the service. Listed in this document are suitable hymns which may be sung at appropriate points in the service. Only sacred music (music written for Christian worship) is allowed.

Scripture

The Burial Office generally includes four lessons, one from the Old Testament, one from the Psalms, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels. One or two Psalms may be used after one or more of the lessons. They may be said by the whole congregation in unison or read by a reader designated by the family. Non-scriptural readings are generally discouraged. However, readings which relate to the sacred may be used, but only after consultation with and permission from the officiating priest. Scriptural suggestions are included with this document.

Homily

Following the reading of the Gospel lesson, a homily (a brief sermon) may be preached by the priest in consultation with the family. The homily in Christian traditions grows both out of the lessons chosen for the service and the life of the deceased. In the service, we come together before God with our grief, our questions, our hopes, and our most valued feelings as Christians. Thus, to bring together the life of the deceased with the hope of the Church, it is especially important for family members and friends to share with the officiating clergy those aspects of the deceased's life for which we are giving thanks.

A brief remembrance (no longer than five minutes) may be offered by a pre-arranged family member or friend. The best remembrances are written in advance and help those gathered to remember the best character qualities of the deceased—the ways in which the person helped family and friends see God's love and grace.

Attending the Family

Approximately a half hour prior to the service, family and close friends are asked to gather in the Library. After being greeted by a Priest, they will be conducted to the front pews of the Church. At the conclusion of the service, family and friends in the front of the Church are escorted out, in advance of the congregation's departure. On occasion, a family may choose to process down the center aisle behind the casket or cremains.

The Trinity Memorial Garden & Columbarium

Trinity offers In-ground Burial Plots and Columbarium Niches for past and present communicants of the parish. In-ground Plots and Columbarium Niches are available at two price levels: \$1,100 for a single and \$1,300 for a double. The price includes original right of use, inurnment of the cremated remains, and a granite marker or engraving of a faceplate. The cremated remains must be in an urn – either the container from the crematorium, an urn purchased through a funeral home, or an urn purchased from Trinity. The cost of our urn is \$90. To schedule an appointment to discuss your interest in any of these options, contact Rachel Thompson in the Parish Office, (970) 330-1877.

Service Fees

It is the policy of Trinity Episcopal Church that no member will be charged for the use of the church for a funeral. There are some expenses for which we ask the family to cover. Non-members are asked to pay \$250 for the use of the church in addition to the fees below.

Officiating Priest's Honorarium **\$150 - 300**

It is standard to give the priest an honorarium. The amount is at your discretion.

Organist Fee **\$150**

An organist will be hired to play for the service.

(Professional musicians (instrumentalist or soloist) may be hired by the Church at your request – fees range upward from \$150 per person. These additional musicians are not always available. If a rehearsal is required, an additional \$50/hour will be charged.)

Altar Flowers

It is customary to provide flowers for the worship space. The Church works with Palmers Flowers - Greeley for our flower arrangements. All altar flowers may be taken by the family after the service.

Payment will be arranged directly with the florist.

Printed Order of Service **\$25 for the tri-fold bulletin** **Free for the simple card style**

There are two options: a simple card with the order of service or a tri-fold bulletin that will contain the liturgy. Because of the nature of the liturgy and the amount of space available on the printed page, there is no alteration to the bulletin. Any pictures, obituaries, poems, etc. may be printed by the family or funeral home.

Reception in the Parish Hall **Donation to Trinity Episcopal Church**

The Church will furnish the space appropriately, and provide linens for the tables, cookies, coffee, lemonade, and water. If you desire a more extensive offering, we can suggest options for you to bring in catering.

Payments go directly to the Priest, Musicians, and Florist. Remaining fees are paid directly to Trinity Episcopal Church. All payments should be made prior to the service.

FUNERAL CHECKLIST AT TRINITY

Elements of the Liturgy:

Rite I (traditional language)	Burial service (with body/cremains)
Rite II (contemporary language)	Memorial service (without body/cremains)
With Holy Eucharist	Grave side service only
Without Holy Eucharist	Interment

Scripture readings to choose from: A passage from the Gospels is always included if there is Holy Eucharist.

Old Testament:

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

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in forever)

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)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-9 (For everything there is a season)

Psalms

23, 27, 42: 1-7, 46, 90: 1-12, 106: 1-5, 116, 121, 130, 139: 1-11

New Testament:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
 I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
 II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
 I 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)

Gospel Readings:

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)

Additional resources are available for the burial of a child.

Possible hymns to consider (general three):

The Hymnal 1982 (H):

180 He is risen	487 Come my Way, my Truth, my Life
182 Christ is alive	516 Come down, O love divine
207 Jesus Christ is Risen Today	517 How lovely is thy dwelling place
208 The strife is o'er, the battle done	541 Come, labor on
287 For all the saints, who from their labors rest	618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones
293 I sing a song of the saints of God	620 Jerusalem, my happy home
304 I come with joy	635 If thou but suffer God to guide thee
335 I am the bread of life	636 How firm a foundation
362 Holy, holy, holy	657 Love divine, all loves excelling
376 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	664 My Shepherd will supply my need
383 Fairest Lord Jesus	665 All my hope on God is founded
390 Praise to the Lord	671 Amazing grace
410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven	680 O God, our help in ages past
439 What wondrous love	688 A mighty fortress is our God
473 Lift high the cross	690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
482 Lord of all hopefulness	

Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP):

810 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord (On Eagle's Wings)
 812 I, the Lord of sea and sky (Here I Am)

Lift Every Voice and Sing II (LEVAS II):

103 Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus
 106 Precious Lord, take my hand
 188 When peace like a river (It is well with my soul)
 189 Great is thy Faithfulness
 213 Children of the heav'nly Father (Swedish folk melody)

Trinity Episcopal Church

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