



*There will be no more death or
mourning or crying or pain.*

Revelation 21:4

Funeral Suggestions

A Planning Guide to Assist My Family

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Houston, TX 77007*

General Information

As Christians, we can look forward with joy and anticipation to the day when our Lord will call us home to Himself in heaven. We can know for certain that heaven is ours through faith in Christ's atonement for our sins on the cross. Thus, we are most certainly "spiritually" prepared for our death.

Unfortunately, many people are not prepared for their death in terms of the preparations that are necessary for the funeral and its arrangements. This little booklet will help you consider these details and provide you with a means of sharing that information with your loved ones, your pastor, and the funeral director of your choice. In fact, it is good for you to give a copy of this booklet, with the necessary information to your pastor, your funeral director, and several family members and friends of your choice.

Planning now for your funeral is important. We make plans for many things in life. Some we are never able to do. Yet death and burial are inevitable, and thus it is crucial that we also plan for it. Planning does not hasten the event.

Funeral pre-planning is necessary, first of all, as a means to let your wishes be known to all concerned.

Secondly, pre-planning your funeral enables you to give expression to your faith through choosing and ordering what is to take place.

Also, it eases the burden on your loved ones by eliminating the pressure of decision-making, particularly the need of trying to do things "the way you would have wished." By writing them down, the possibility is gone that your loved ones, because of their grief, may forget your desires.

Finally, pre-planning will give you a certain amount of peace, knowing that your affairs are in order.

Consider discussing your plans with your pastor and your funeral director. You will want not only their assurance that your plans are appropriate, but also their cooperation in respecting them at your death.

If at all possible, discuss these plans with your loved ones. Allow them to participate in the planning and express their thoughts. This brings the subject out into the open and provides loved ones with an opportunity to openly share their love and sorrow--best shared now, rather than after a death occurs.

Please bear in mind that the more complex and complete your plans become, the more tentative they must be. The events surrounding your death, or events that may occur between now and the time of your death, may necessitate changes. Therefore, from time to time, every several years, the plans in this booklet may need to be updated. As you consider your death, burial and life everlasting, may the Lord bless you.



This form is not legally binding or enforceable. Information will be sealed in an envelope and placed in a fire-proof safe at Trinity Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, for safekeeping. Trinity is not obligated or responsible for the execution of these instructions.

Suggested Cemetery: _____, _____
Name City State

Do you wish the following:

- Yes No Grave Plot?
- Yes No Mausoleum?
- Yes No Cremation? - Disposition of ashes: _____

I have already purchased a plot in _____, _____
Cemetery Name City State
Section _____ Lot # _____

Grave Monument Instructions

Grave Monument Inscription: _____

Other Instructions: _____

Do you wish for your body to be donated for the following:

- Yes No Transplant of organs?
- Yes No Medical Research?

Hospital or recipient?: _____, _____
Name City State

Suggested Memorials:

- Memorials or flowers as people prefer
- Memorial gifts instead of flowers

Memorials gifts to the following churches or organizations:

_____	_____	_____	_____
Church/Organization	Street	City	State
_____	_____	_____	_____
Church/Organization	Street	City	State
_____	_____	_____	_____
Church/Organization	Street	City	State

Additional comments: _____

Suggested Crucifer: _____ Suggested Readers: _____

Suggested Pallbearers: _____

Suggested Honorary Pallbearers (if any): _____

Check if military honors are suggested.

Funeral Hymns and Scripture Readings

Hymns and readings of the Church Year could prescribe helpful thoughts for the planning of this service. The events surrounding your death may also have an effect in changing its character.

It is therefore suggested that you choose several different scripture readings. You may wish to choose at least one hymn in each of the hymn categories listed. This will enable selection to be made, no matter what the circumstances, that will be in accord with your wishes. It may also be good if you were to list as a "must" perhaps one hymn and one scripture reading that will be used no matter what.

As with any service of worship, the pastor, in cooperation with the music director, is charged with the responsibility of final planning of the funeral service. However, you may be assured that they will take your desires fully into account.

A listing of possible funeral hymns and scripture readings follow below.

Suggested Funeral Scriptures (not exclusive)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job 19:21-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 40:28-31 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 12:23-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 1:21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 61:1-3 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:1-6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 46 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lamentations 3:22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:31-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 1:3-9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 90 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:13-16 (children's) | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 121 | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 7:11-17 | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 14:7-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 4:15-18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 130 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 5:24-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15:1-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 7:9-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 139 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 6:37-40 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15:12-26 | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 21:2-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 10:11-16, 27-28 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15:35-57 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah 25:6-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> John 11:21-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confirmation verse _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Favorite Bible Story _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others _____ | | | |

Suggested Funeral Hymns

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> As With Gladness Men of Old (stanzas 1, 4, 5) | <input type="checkbox"/> O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (stanzas 1, 4, 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Peace and Joy I Now Depart (stanzas 1, 2, 4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Now Sing We, Now Rejoice | <input type="checkbox"/> Once in Royal David's City |

Lent

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christ, the Life of All the Living | <input type="checkbox"/> O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (stanzas 1, 4, 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to Dark Gethsemane | <input type="checkbox"/> There Stands A Fountain Where for Sin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus, Refuge of the Weary | |

Easter

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> At the Lamb's High Feast (stanzas 1, 5, 6, 7, 8) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won (stanzas 1, 2, 4, 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I Know That My Redeemer Lives | <input type="checkbox"/> This Joyful Eastertide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense | |

Ascension

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing (stanzas 1, 5, 6, 7) | <input type="checkbox"/> On Christ's Ascension I Now Build |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draw Us to You | |

Liturgical Chant

- Lord, Now Let Your Servant Depart in Peace

Comfort

- Be Still, My Soul
- Blest Be the Tie That Binds
- If You But Trust in God to Guide You
- In God, My Faithful God
- The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want
- The Will of God Is Always Best
- What God Ordains Is Always Good

Death, Resurrection, Life Eternal

- Abide with Me
- Amazing Grace
- Behold a Host Arrayed in White
- By All Your Saints in Warfare (stanzas 1, 3)
- Children of the Heavenly Father
- For All the Saints
- For Me to Live Is Jesus
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- How Great Thou Art
- I’m But a Stranger Here
- Jerusalem the Golden
- Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
- Jesus, Still Lead On
- Nearer, My God to Thee
- Oh, How Blest Are You
- Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng (stanzas 1, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- Rock of Ages
- The Church’s One Foundation

Children’s Hymns

- I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb
- Jesus Loves Me, This I Know
- Jesus, Shepherd, in Your Arms

Others _____

Musical Selections _____

Thoughts I would like shared only with my family at the time of my funeral:

Thoughts I would like shared with the congregation at the time of my funeral:

Other suggestions for my funeral service:

Information for An Obituary

Full Legal Name: _____

Address: _____, _____, _____
Name City State Zip Code

Parents

Father's Name: _____

Father's Birthplace: _____, _____
City State

Mother's Maiden Name: _____

Mother's Birthplace: _____, _____
City State

Living (check response):

Yes No

Yes No

Spouse

Spouse's Name (include maiden name): _____

Marital Status: _____ Wedding Date: _____

Place: _____, _____
Church, Home, etc. City State

Living (check response):

Yes No

Children (name, spouse and city)

Living (check response):

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Names of grandchildren:

Names of great-grandchildren:

Brothers and Sisters (name, spouse and city)

Living (check response):

- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No

Member of professional group, club or other organization:

Activities in the community (job, church, volunteer service, etc.):

Hobbies and/or Interests:

Helping Those Who Care for Me

It is wise to update this information regularly so it reflects your final wishes.

In the event of my death, please contact:

Name Relation Phone

Street Address City State

Name Relation Phone

Street Address City State

Name Relation Phone

Street Address City State

Employer/Former Employer: _____
Name Phone

Street Address City State

Social Security number: _____ Medicare number: _____

My physician: _____
Phone

My health insurance is: _____
Phone

My will is located: _____

My living will is located: _____

(A living will designates someone who can make medical decisions as you would have wished.)

My lawyer is: _____
Name Phone

Street Address City State

Have you designated a durable power of attorney to someone? Yes No

If yes: _____
Name Phone

(A durable power of attorney authorizes another person to act in your stead, either for financial or healthcare decisions. It may cover all your affairs or be limited to just certain matters.)

My safe-deposit box is located: _____
Bank, Financial Institution, etc. Phone

Street Address City State

The key is located: _____ Key number: _____

My military records are located: _____

My financial records are located: _____

My income-tax records are located: _____

My financial advisor or tax-return preparer is: _____
Name Phone

Street Address City State

My property deeds are located: _____

My house and car, keys, etc. are located: _____



My banks/credit unions are:

_____	_____
Name	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Name	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Name	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Name	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Name	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State

My insurance policies are located:

_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State

My loans are:

_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State

My investments are:

_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State
_____	_____
Company	Phone
_____	_____
Street Address	City, State

Where are your family photos, heirlooms, and any other irreplaceables? Are they in a metal file?

Location: _____

The person who knows about this form and its location and who has discussed it with me is:

My Signature

Date



Be faithful
until death,
and I will
give you
the crown
of life.

Revelation 2:10, NRSV

*"I am the resurrection
and the life.
He who believes
in me will live..."*



John 11:25, NIV

