

# Funeral Service Guide and Worksheet



## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walmore

LCMC/Augustana District

6167 Walmore Road

Sanborn, NY 14132

716-731-4433

[office@stpetersanborn.com](mailto:office@stpetersanborn.com)

# Funeral Planning

We are assured of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are able to face the time when we die. Aware of the fact that day will one day come, this booklet is intended to serve as a guide for the family and the pastor as they plan the funeral service. – Pastor Tom

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## **What will take place when I meet with the Funeral Director?**

Prior to meeting with the funeral home, please contact the church first for verification of funeral date, time and Pastor's availability.

The director will meet with the family and establish the wishes of the family and the loved one. You will be asked to bring information such as a social security number, insurance information, and information on the loved one's date of birth, place of birth, names of parents, siblings, and a list of survivors.

You will be asked to consider the number of death certificates. These must be certified copies from the clerk's office of the municipality where the deceased passed. (Photocopies are not accepted). At the time of this document's creation, the current charge for death certificates is \$10.00 at all clerk's offices in the State of New York. These certificates must be presented to the bank, mortgage company, insurance company, social security, and any other institution. We usually recommend a dozen.

You will be asked about what you would like printed for the obituary and death notice. Each newspaper will have different guidelines and charge differently. For example, the Niagara Gazette and the Lockport Union Sun & Journal charge per word. The Buffalo News charges per line. In all three newspapers, a photo is an additional charge.

When arranging for a cremation, the authorization to cremate must be signed by the next closest relative to the deceased. Example: spouse, parent, child, sibling, and so forth.

Every funeral home is required by law to present to each family when making funeral arrangements their General Price List. This shows how much they charge for every item offered to a family and is required by law.

### *Additional information*

If the person dies in a hospital, NYS law requires that the body will not be released to a funeral home until Connect Life, formerly known as UNYTS (*Upstate New York Transplant Services*) has a chance to contact the next of kin and ask them for permission for the loved one to be an organ/tissue donor. If the family consents, the deceased is transported to a facility in Buffalo for the procurement. If the family declines for their loved one to be a donor, Connect Life will notify the hospital to release the deceased to the funeral home.

There is no law that requires the deceased to be embalmed. HOWEVER, if there is going to be an open casket viewing or visitation, the funeral home most likely will require it.

## **Non-Member Funeral Policy**

St. Peter's has the heart to serve the community, including at the time of death, and opens its doors to be used in those times. To help us facilitate this for those who are not a member of St. Peter's, we suggest a donation of \$350. This donation helps us cover costs related to the use of the Organist, Administrative and Pastoral services.

The final decision to host the funeral is decided by the Pastor and the Elders of the church.

If you would like to find out more, please contact us for more information.

## **Music for the Service**

St. Peter's Worship and Music Director has right of first refusal, which means that if an organist is requested besides him, you must speak to him directly and ask permission. The church has approved a bench fee currently of \$100.00 to be paid directly to him. This rule applies to members and non-members.

### **Prelude Music**

The prelude music helps to prepare mourners for the service to follow. Music with special meaning to the deceased or family members may be selected; consider favorite hymn tunes for preludes. Our Music Director is available to provide guidance in musical selection.

### **Hymns**

#### *Procession into the church*

A hymn of comfort, baptismal remembrance, or resurrection hope is appropriate.

#### *Hymn following the sermon*

A hymn that carries forth the images of the readings and sermon or is reflective of the life of faith of the deceased is appropriate.

#### *Recession out of the church*

A final hymn may be sung as the coffin is carried from the church, usually one of resurrection hope. It is appropriate for the recession to simply be accompanied by an instrumental musical selection.

#### *Soloists*

It is appropriate for special music to be provided by soloists or other instrumentalists. Fees will be determined by the musician and paid directly to the musician.

### *Organist Fee*

For members, there is no fee. A gift is welcome to be given directly to the Music Director. For non-members, please see non-member policy.

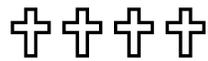
### **Funeral Luncheon or Reception**

For members, a luncheon or a reception following the service is welcome and encouraged. Traditionally, at St. Peter's, the luncheon is hosted by volunteers of the church and families of the church who donate food items. It is encouraged in larger funerals (over 100) and families who are largely from out of town, for them to help cater some food items to have enough for all attending.

The coordinator for the funeral luncheons will contact the family directly and ask for an estimated number of people. A suggested figure would be to the number of family plus 30 people for the luncheon. This number will also be used for bulletin printing.

For non-members, the luncheon or reception shall be arranged off site on their own. If the desire of the family is for the pastor to attend, an invitation should be extended to him.

# Funeral Suggestions Worksheet



## St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Walmore

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The following information is meant to help the family and pastor prepare the funeral. It is not meant to be followed to the letter. The family and pastor may feel free to use this information in any way they see proper. Because the funeral is for the living, the wishes of the family are regarded as most important.

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

Baptismal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor of Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parents:

\_\_\_\_\_

Other significant personal information:

\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Scripture Passages:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Gospel Passages: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Psalm(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Hymns:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*It is understood that selected Scripture passages, Psalms and Hymns may not all be appropriate for a Christian Funeral.*

Suggested Pallbearers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**The following are the thoughts or comments either the deceased or the family  
(I/Me/My as the deceased)**

Things I value most in life:

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My involvement in the church:

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My personal statement of faith:

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Thoughts I would like to share with only my family:

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Thoughts I would like to share with others:

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Other Funeral Suggestions:

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Note: Thoughts may or may not be shared by the pastor in the sermon or by selected persons at a time determined appropriate by the pastor. Accomplishments and achievements are important, but the victory won by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ solely needs to be proclaimed at a Christian funeral.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

“I fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

(Booklet idea from Rev. Donald Deffner’s book: At Life’s End: words of comfort (LCMS Commission on Worship)

**Suggested Hymns for Funeral Services From the  
*Lutheran Book of Worship and With One Voice***

**Comfort & Rest:**

#272 Abide with me, fast falls with eventide  
 #474 Children of the heav'nly Father  
 #483 God moves in a mysterious way  
 #493 Hope of the world, though Christ of great compassion  
 #345 How sweet the name of Jesus Sounds  
 #453 If you but trust in God to guide you  
 #106 In the hour of trial  
 #457 Jesus, priceless treasure  
 #504 O God, my faithful God  
 #338 Peace, to soothe our bitter woes  
 #456 The King of love my shepherd is  
 #451 Whatever God ordains is right  
 #346 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way

#340 Jesus Christ, my sure defense  
 #133 Jesus lives! The vict'ry won!  
 #291 Jesus sinners will receive  
 #479 My faith looks up to thee  
 #695 O Blessed Spring  
 #778 O Christ the Same  
 #320 O God, our help in ages past.  
 #435 O God, whose will is life and good  
 #459 O Holy Spirit, enter in  
 #339 O Lord, now let your servant  
 #117 O Sacred head, now wounded  
 #731 Precious Lord, Take my Hand  
 #741 The Holy Wings  
 #456 The King of love my shepherded is  
 #451 The Lord's my shepherd; I'll not want  
 #675 We walk by Faith and Not by Sight  
 #314 Who is this host arrayed in white.

**In Death:**

#674 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!  
 #699 Blessed Assurance  
 #669 Come Away to the Skies  
 #350 Even as we live each day  
 #174 For All the Saints who from their labors rest.  
 #292 God loved the world so that he gave  
 #343 Guide me ever, great Redeemer  
 #501 He leadeth me; oh blessed thought!  
 #342 I know of a sleep in Jesus' name

**Christian Hope:**

#629 All Earth is Hopeful  
 #674 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen  
 #699 Blessed Assurance  
 #736 By Gracious Powers  
 #672 Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!  
 #669 Come Away to the Skies  
 #628 Each Winter As the Year Grows Older

#738	Healer of Our Every Ill	#731	Precious Lord, Take My Hand
#777	In the Morning When I rise	#690	Shall We Gather at the River
#648	Jesus, Come! For We Invite You	#691	Sing with All the Saints in Glory
#695	O Blessed Spring	#801	Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise
#778	O Christ the Same	#676	This Joyful Eastertide
#762	O Day of Peace		

### **Old Testament Scriptures For Funerals – Death**

Genesis 3:19 “By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Job 14:14 “If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come.”

Psalms 23:4 “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalms 39:4 “O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!”

Psalms 48:14 “For this God is our God forever and ever; He will be our guide even to the end.”

Psalms 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Psalms 146:4 “When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.”

Proverbs 14:32 “When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous have a refuge.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 “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.”

Isaiah 25:8 “He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 53:4-5 “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

Hosea 13:14 “I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?”

## **New Testament Scriptures For Funerals – Death**

John 10:27-29 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (Jesus speaking)

John 11:23-26 “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. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 8:31-39 “What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered 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, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 14:8 “For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.”

1 Corinthians 15:20-23 “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where 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.”

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 “So we are always of good courage. 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 are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 7:10 “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

Hebrews 2:14-15 “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

Revelations 1:18 “I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

Revelations 2:10 “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Revelation 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them!’”

### **Old Testament Scriptures For Funerals – Grief**

Genesis 37:34-35 “Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, ‘No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.’ Thus his father wept for him.”

2 Samuel 12:16-17 “David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.”

Job 16:20 “... I pour out my tears to God.”

Psalms 6:6 “I am worn out from sobbing. All night I flood my bed with weeping, drenching it with my tears.”

Psalms 31:9-10 “Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye is wasted from grief; my soul and my body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away.”

Psalms 55:22 “Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall.”

Psalms 71:20-21 “Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up. You will increase my honour and comfort me once again.”

Psalm 77:2 “In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted.”

Psalm 116:8 “For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.”

Psalm 119:28 “My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.”

Psalm 142:2 “I pour out my lament before him. I tell him my troubles.”

Lamentations 3:31-33 “For no one is cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone.”

Isaiah 51:11 “And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

### **New Testament Scriptures For Funerals – Grief**

John 11:35 “Jesus wept.”

John 16:22 “Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.”

Psalm 119:28 “My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.”

2 Corinthians 6:10 “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.”

John 16:22 “You are now very sad. But later I will see you, and you will be so happy that no one will be able to change the way you feel.”

Psalm 34:18 “The Lord is near to those who are discouraged; he saves those who have lost all hope.”

### **Old Testament Scriptures For Funerals – Comfort**

Psalm 18:28 “You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.”

Psalm 22:24 “For He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.”

Psalm 27:4-5 “One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.”

Psalm 30:5 “For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

Psalms 61:2 “From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”

Psalms 94:19 “When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.”

Psalms 119:50 “My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.”

Isaiah 40:11 “He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.”

Isaiah 66:13 “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.”

Jeremiah 31:13 “...For I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.”

### **New Testament Scriptures For Funerals – Comfort**

Matthew 5:4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

John 14:18 “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

Romans 8:18 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Romans 15:4 “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

Hebrews 13:5 “...God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

1 Peter 5:6-7 “Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

### **Common Questions During Funeral Planning**

*What do we do when a doctor or nurse tells us our family member is near death?*

When death draws near, contact the pastor that they may extend the ministry of the church.

*What do we do when our family member dies?*

When death comes, contact the church immediately. So that we may best assist you during this difficult time, we ask that you contact the church before arrangements are made with a funeral home.

*Who do we have to talk to in order to set a funeral date?*

The pastor will schedule the funeral in consultation with funeral director, availability of the building and pastor's calendar. Speak with the pastor before confirming a time or date with a funeral director.

#### *Calling Hour/visitation details*

Traditionally in this area, the visitation is called 'calling hour' which is held at the funeral home and may be held at the church prior to the service. If the calling hour is held at the funeral home, the tradition is that the pastor will come at the end of the calling hour and offer a time of prayer for the family and friends who are there. If held at the church prior to service, the pastor will hold a time of prayer while the funeral director and staff prepare the casket to go into the funeral service.

#### *Memorial service details*

If a memorial service is planned (no body present), it is the responsibility of the family to handle the flower arrangements, set up the guest book, and memorial envelopes, and serve as ushers. If held at the church bulletins, will be arranged by the church.

In the absence of a body, furniture is arranged near the chancel to hold an urn and/or a picture of the deceased, along with an arrangement of flowers. A symbol of the faith of the deceased may also be provided – a well-worn Bible, for example.

#### *Should the body or ashes be present at the funeral?*

The presence of the body or cremated remains is always encouraged. The church honors the body that was the temple of the Holy Spirit and insists that the body be treated with reverence. The service may be used as a memorial service following interment or when the body has been destroyed in an accident or natural catastrophe. A visitation may be held in the church sanctuary or meeting room immediately before the funeral. During the visitation, the coffin may be left open. It may remain open in the side entrance or church meeting room as guests arrive for the service. Shortly before the service begins the family makes their last visit to the coffin. While they are preparing for the service with the pastor, funeral home staff members close the coffin and prepare it for the service. The coffin remains closed for the service and is not opened again. A white pall may be placed over the coffin to recall the white robe given in Baptism, the robe of Christ's righteousness.

#### *What about Holy Communion?*

At this time, the church does not serve Holy Communion during the funeral service.

#### *How can family members participate in the service?*

Family members or friends are always encouraged to participate in the service as scripture readers, to special music, pallbearers, etc. Family and friends may also wish to offer a remembrance or tribute also called a Eulogy. We recommend no more than one person do the Eulogy and ask that thoughts be written down in advance. Someone may accompany them if desired. We ask that it be kept to three minutes. Spontaneous comments are not recommended. Additional tributes may be done during the luncheon after the service if you have chosen to have one.

#### *What about a video tribute?*

Families may wish to create a video tribute to be shown before or after the service. The video may be made available in the side entrance before the service and/or can be shown during the luncheon after the service.

#### *What about lunch or a reception?*

A luncheon or a reception following the service is welcome and encouraged. Traditionally at St. Peter's, the luncheon is hosted by volunteers of the church and families of the church who donate items. It is

encouraged in larger funerals (over 100) and families who are largely from out of town, for them to help cater some food items to have enough for all attending.

#### *Military honors*

Military honors occur outside the church, after the recession; or at the graveside after the benediction.

#### *Club Honors*

Club Honors occur outside the church, after the recession; or at the graveside after the benediction.

#### *Memorials*

Many families choose to designate preferences for memorial gifts. You may wish to designate memorials to St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Information about this option is available.

#### *Bulletins*

Bulletins outlining the service and containing information about the deceased will be made available at no cost for members of St. Peter's. Non-Members have a suggested donation to cover those costs.

#### *Flowers*

After the funeral, all flowers, potted plants or floral sprays may be taken to the grave site or taken by family members by prior arrangement.

#### *Non-Members*

Funerals may be held for non-members, please see non-member section in the guide.

#### *Cemetery*

Members of St. Peter's (including children under 18) have a right to a free plot at the time of death. Spouses, who are non-members, have up to 90 days to reserve a plot after the time of death with the Cemetery Committee. There is a fee. Details and policy regarding the cemetery may be found by contacting the Cemetery committee.

#### *For Other Cemeteries*

The pastor is happy to do a committal service at the plot and arrangements should be arranged directly with him at that time. If distance is further than 30 miles one way, the family should make arrangements for the pastor for travel.

According to NYS cemetery law, a single burial plot may include: (1) a single "full" burial meaning a casket. (2) A casket burial along with one container of ashes. (3) Two containers of ashes. HOWEVER, private church cemeteries may dictate something different.

## **Funeral Service Outline**

At the entrance to the church:

The minister meets the coffin, the pallbearers, and the bereaved at the entrance to the church.

**P Please turn to page 206 of the hymnal as we begin the service.**

**P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.**

**C Thanks be to God.**

A pall may be placed upon the coffin by the pallbearers or other assisting ministers, and the following may be said:

**P When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united by him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

Procession

**Stand**

The procession forms and enters the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.

A psalm, hymn or appropriate verse may be sung as the procession goes to the front of the church.

**P Please stand as we begin with hymn.**

*Liturgy of the Word:*

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

**P Let us pray.**

**P O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother/sister, (Name \_\_\_\_\_). We thank you for giving him/her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**C Amen**

If Child:

**P Oh God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust (Name \_\_\_\_\_) to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**C Amen.**

**P You may be seated for the reading of the Lessons:**

Lessons are now read.

Eulogy (if desired)

**P Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.**

Sermon

**P Please stand for Hymn.**

**P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith. (Page 209)**

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**P Let us pray.**

**Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Grant us that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Grant to us who are still on our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quite mind.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of life everlasting.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P Grant us grace to entrust (NAME \_\_\_\_\_) to your never-failing love which sustained *him/her* in *his/her* life. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy and remember *him/her* according to your favor you bear for your people.**

**C Hear us, Lord.**

**P God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C Amen**

**P Let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us to pray:**

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**P You may be seated.**

**Go to coffin/urn. Place hands on.**

**P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, (NAME \_\_\_\_\_). Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.**

**C Amen.**

**P Please stand for the closing hymn.**

**P Let us go forth in peace.**

**C In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Committal (at the graveside)