

St. Mary's Cathedral

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE

Guidelines for Funeral or Memorial Service Liturgies at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

“I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall not die.”

John 11:25

We are an Easter people. As Christians our liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, we too shall be raised. The Christian faith calls us to witness, even in death, the new life that God gives in Christ through his death and resurrection.

Christian burial is marked by three characteristics. First and foremost, it is an act of worship wherein we glorify God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Second, it is a time when family and friends gather in the Holy Spirit to comfort one another and to offer mutual assurance of God's abiding love. Third, it is a liturgy of celebration whereby we give thanks for a deceased loved one and commend that person to the care of Almighty God.

The earliest records of Christian burial tell us that the following elements were included:

- Prayer in the home before the burial took place
- A gathering of the community for a burial service, consisting of thanksgivings, psalms, hymns, readings from the scripture, and prayers for the departed and those who mourn
- Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
- A procession of lights and torches to the place of burial
- The interment of the remains

As part of the preparation for burial, the faithful are urged to counsel with members of the clergy. It is also of great benefit to read about the service in *The Book of Common Prayer* (BCP, 468-507). The rubrics on these pages are of particular interest.

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ Date of Death: _____

Requested Liturgy:

The Burial of the Dead: Rite One (page 469 BCP) _____

The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two (page 491 BCP) _____

Would you like this liturgy to include Holy Communion? Yes ____ No ____

If communion, which Eucharistic Prayer?

If choosing Rite I: 1. _____ 2. _____

If choosing Rite II: A. _____ B. _____ C. _____ D. _____

Prayers of the people: page 497 _____ page 480 _____ page 465 _____

Priests officiating/celebrating _____

Homily given by _____

Requested Hymns: (none, 1 or 2 if no Eucharist; none, 1, 2, 3 or more if there is Eucharist)

See attached

Requested lessons (please choose one gospel reading (see pg. 480 or 495, BCP) and then one lesson from the Old Testament (see pg. 470 or 494, BCP), and one lesson from Revelation, or one of the Epistles (see pg. 475 or pg. 495, BCP): *see attached*

Memorials _____

Pall Bearers _____

Time of visitation _____

Time of Burial Liturgy _____

General Bequest to a Parish

“I give, devise and bequeath _____ (description of bequest) _____ unto St. Mary’s Cathedral to be held in trust, with income used as determined by the Chapter.”

An Endowment Bequest to a Parish

“I give, devise and bequeath _____ (description of bequest) _____ unto St. Mary’s Cathedral to be held in trust, with the income used as determined by the Chapter.”

Flow and checklist for the day of burial

- Name of funeral home _____
- Readers chosen by family (or arranged by clergy staff). It is important that the readers and other speakers arrive 45 minutes prior to start time to check microphone levels.
OT _____ NT _____
- Family request for preacher. _____
- A vergers along with acolytes are chosen by family (or arranged by clergy staff).

- If a Requiem Eucharist, two Eucharistic ministers are chosen by family (or arranged by clergy staff).

- Altar floral arrangements, paschal candle floral arrangements, font floral arrangements made by family (or arranged by Cathedral staff).
floral preference _____
- Service bulletins are arranged and printed by Cathedral staff.
- Outside signage providing directions for visitors are placed.
- Ushers assigned and scheduled to arrive 15 minutes before visitation or 30 minutes before the service are stationed in Martyrs Hall, Cathedral south and west doors. Cathedral staff arranges this.

- Visitation or reception in Martyrs Hall requested by family Y/N
With visitation, the Daughters of the King provide cathedral punch, coffee and light snacks.
- 10 minutes prior to the liturgy, visitors are asked to enter Nave .
Immediate family gathers with priest for final prayers and instructions.
The Family, escorted by the clergy, move to the rear of the Nave
- Before the liturgy, the loved one's body is born from the hearse, carried up steps and brought to the main entrance (south door) of nave
The Celebrant receives the body in the Nave, praying the **Reception of the Body** litany on p. 366 in BCP.
Pall is then placed on casket or remains container.

- Solemn Procession begins Rite I p. 469 or Rite II p.491
Family processes in with the body– sits front right pews.
Family processes out during final hymn with the clergy and body.

Procession in

Crucifer
Torch bearers
Choir
Clergy
Family
body

Procession out

Crucifer
Torch bearers
Clergy
Family
Body

- Be mindful that the **cost of a funeral** averages \$600 for members of St. Mary's in good standing plus an honorarium to organist and clergy discretionary fund.
 - We suggest an offering to defray Cathedral cost for others outside the Cathedral family is \$1500.

St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral

Funeral Readings from the Book of Common Prayer

Old Testament Readings

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

6 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. 7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; 8 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. 9 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 all that 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; 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 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.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." 25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. 26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. 31 For the Lord will not reject forever. 32 Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; 33 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)

1 But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. 2 In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, 3 and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. 4 For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. 5 Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; 9 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 liveth)

21 Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me? 22 Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? 23 “O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! 25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; 26 and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, 27 whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold and not another.

New Testament Readings

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 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!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 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. 18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. 34 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. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 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

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order; Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 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. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” 36 Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 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. 38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. 42 So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. 53 For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 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.” 55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 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

16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18 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. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling – 3 if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. 4 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. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 6 So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

1 John 3:1-2

1 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. 2 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

9 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. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” 11 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, 12 singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” 13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” 14 I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to be, “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. 15 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. 16 They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; 17 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

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; 4 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.” 5 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.” 6 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. 7 Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Gospel Readings

John 5:24-27 (He that believeth hath everlasting life)

24 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. 25 “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. 26 For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; 27 and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father giveth me shall come to me)

37 Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who come to me I will never drive away; 38 for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. 39 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. 40 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)

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 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. 13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. 16 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)

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 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 mansions)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2 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? 3 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. 4 And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except

HYMNS OFTEN USED AT FUNERALS

178	Alleluia #1
180	He is risen
194	Jesus lives! Thy terrors now can no longer, death, appall us
199	Come ye faithful raise the strain
205	Good Christians all, rejoice and sing
207	Jesus Christ is risen today
208	The strife is o'er
210	The day of resurrection!
213	Come Away to the Skies
293	I sing a song of the saints of God
383	Fairest Lord Jesus
618	Ye watchers and ye holy ones
620	Jerusalem my happy home
623	O what their joy and their glory must be
624	Jerusalem the golden
625	Ye holy angels bright
287	For all the saints
314	Humbly I adore thee
358	Christ the victorious
362	Holy, Holy, Holy
376	Joyful Joyful we adore thee
382	King of Glory, King of Peace
390	Praise to the Lord
400	All Creatures of our God and King
423	Immortal, Invisible God only wise
427	When morning guilds the skies
460	Alleluia Sing to Jesus
475	God himself is with us
482	Lord of all Hopefulness
488	Be Thou My Vision
508	Breathe on Me Breathe of God
518	Christ has made the sure foundation
526	Let saints on earth in concert sing
579	Almighty Father
618	Ye Watchers and ye Holy Ones
625	Ye Holy Angels Bright
645	The king of love my shepherd is
657	Love Divine All Love Excelling
671	Amazing Grace
680	O God our help

685 Rock of Ages
688 A mighty fortress
690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah
718 God of our fathers