

Trinity Episcopal Parish

“The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised. 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.” (Book of Common Prayer)

First Steps

You should notify the Church at 812-336-4466 as soon as possible upon a family member’s death. Our clergy will then make every effort to come to the funeraria and conduct a short service with a sermon. At this time, or shortly thereafter, determination of when the funeral will take place will occur.

SETTING THE DATE AND TIME OF THE FUNERAL A conversation with a member of the clergy staff is essential before determining and publishing/promoting the date and time of the funeral. Neither the family nor the funeral home should set a time for a service without consulting the clergy. Ordinarily, funerals are held in the Church around approximately 7pm on weekdays or between 12 and 3 on a Saturday, but they may not take the place of a previously scheduled service or event. Sunday funerals are not allowed.

Church SERVICES

All funerals properly begin in Trinity Episcopal or its Columbarium, or Graveside. The clergy at Trinity Episcopal normally do not preside at funerals at funeral home chapels.

THE SERVICE

The Burial Office is found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). You have several choices.

- A. Rite One is found on page 469 and is the more traditional Elizabethan language service.
- B. Rite Two is found on page 491 and is the modern language version.

C. An Order for Burial is also found on page 506, but may not be used unless pre-approved by the clergy.

D. Any requests outside the BCP rubrics (“rules governing the service”) are not allowed.

THE RECEIVING

If the funeral is on Church grounds, cremains is received by the clergy 45-60 minutes before the service at Trinity Episcopal. Please let the funeral home know of this need. We ask that the body or cremains not arrive before this time. The Church does not wish to be responsible for the safe-keeping of ashes prior to the funeral and therefore cannot accept them.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who Officiates?

The Rector of the Church (or a member of the active clergy staff) normally officiates and preaches at all funerals of a Church member. The Rector is honored to invite others to celebrate, preach, or participate in the service as the family may desire. There are some restrictions on whom may officiate or celebrate at the Church and the Rector is happy to discuss those requirements with the family. The Rector (and not the family) must issue that invitation for other clergy to participate or officiate.

May I invite someone to Preach? Can several people who knew the deceased give the homily?

The BCP envisions only a single preacher. Normally the preacher is to be a member of the clergy. There should be no worry that the preacher may not have known the deceased as the Episcopal Church does not “eulogize” the deceased as other denominations may do at funerals, rather our doctrine requires us to focus on the good news as found in the Gospels. The homilist will include biographical information about deceased and appropriate stories about the deceased may be included in the sermon.

If other members of the family wish to speak during the service, they all must speak with the clergy member doing the service at least a full day in advance of the service and explicitly receive permission to speak. Family members may not simply arrive at the service planning to speak without having spoken with the clergy. Generally, Trinity Episcopal only allows one or two family members to speak during the service, and then for only brief time periods (less than 5 minutes). If more members wish to speak about the deceased it is appropriate for them to do so at the wake, or at a reception following the service.

May I use a flag or quilt to cover the casket or urn?

The casket or cremation urn will be covered with a Church furnished pall during the service. There is no open casket allowed in the Church during the service. A national flag can substitute as a pall for an active

duty service person, but the flag ceremony must be done at the cemetery or at the Columbarium. Special quilts or other adornments of the casket or urn not appropriate. We do not use casket sprays in the Church or line the Church with flowers on stands. Our belief is that – "...whether you are a prince or commoner, rich or poor..."- you get the same courtesy at a funeral.

What are the rules on flowers? The Church is decorated simply and the family is invited to provide the altar flowers. Please call the office to arrange for the flowers. Sprays, standing flowers, are NOT permitted near the casket or urn. Standing flowers and sprays are, however, most appropriate at the graveside if so desired. A flower arrangement may be placed at the foot of the urn stand.

Can I have a photo of the deceased on display?

Photos are most appropriate in the Trinity Room or Great Hall. A single photo may be placed in the Church with permission of the clergy.

Can I use a family member to read, play the organ, or sing?

Remember that the family may choose anyone to read the Old Testament, Psalm, and Epistle. The clergy always read the Gospel.

If there is to be music, our Church Musicians always have the right of first refusal. The standing rate for the organist is \$150. The Trinity Episcopal choir is not expected to sing at funerals, though they may be asked, the standard rate for singers is \$50/each. If these fees cause undue hardship, please speak with the Rector.

You may select appropriate hymns from the approved hymnal books and music of the Episcopal Church. No secular music or religious music not approved by the Episcopal Church may be used. Taped or recorded music is NEVER allowed at the Church. Soloist must rehearse with the Rector and Musicians prior to the funeral.

Should we have communion?

A communion service is the most common funeral service and it is the custom of the Episcopal Church to offer communion at funerals, though not required. One need not worry about visitors who are not Episcopalians. This is a sacrament of the Episcopal Church that is open to all Christians. It is the professed faith of the deceased that is honored one last time through communion.

How can I announce the funeral?

It is customary to include the names of the clergy who will serve at the funeral. This sentence should help: "The funeral will be held at Trinity Episcopal with The Rev. Matthew Seddon officiating." Terms commonly used by the Episcopal Church include "funeral" and "inurnment" service when the body or remains are present. The term, "memorial service" is reserved for when there is no body present.

Are there rules for the memorials?

The Church should be listed as a possible source for memorial giving. All memorials given in honor of the deceased to Trinity Episcopal will go into the General Memorial fund unless otherwise specified. This used for the purchase of memorials, upkeep of memorials, and the purchase of memorial needs. Other memorials such as the Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and others are most appropriate.

Can I choose who will read and serve?

The funeral has several options which the family will need to discuss. Who will be the pall bearers? Who will read the Bible readings (any family or family member)? Who will acolyte (must be from the Trinity Episcopal acolyte guild)? Who will usher (must be from the trained greeters), who will do a chalice (must be a licensed chalice bearer)? What Bible readings will be said during the service? What hymns approved by the Episcopal Church for use at a funeral, if any, are desired? The Church is happy to provide ushers, readers, and other service personnel.

Do I or a family member have the final say in the liturgy and planning?

The Rector has final approval of all arrangements that occur in the Church and will do his most to accommodate your family's needs.

What are the fees?

FEES FOR MEMBERS There are no fees for members.

FEES FOR FORMER- MEMBERS

Former members are those who were on Trinity Episcopal membership rolls for at least a year, but have been off said roles for one year or more. To offset costs, we request the following donations. However, please see the Rector personally if you have any monetary concern.

Church Use\$50

Clergy Cost\$50

Church security\$150

Organist (if desired)\$50

FEES FOR NON- MEMBERS

To offset costs, we request the following donations. However, please see the Rector personally if you have any monetary concern. All Christians may be properly buried from Trinity Episcopal regardless of their Christian denomination. These are suggested donations for non-members.

Church Use\$100

Clergy Cost\$100

Church security\$150

Organist (if desired)\$100

- **NOTE: Checks must be made out to Trinity Episcopal Church**
- **Please pay fees prior to the service**

The Trinity Columbarium

If you wish your loved one's remains (cremation only) be interred in the Trinity Columbarium, there are fees and a process associated with that. Please inquire through the Rector.

What are the rules for Masonic Rites, Fraternity or Sorority needs?

Only the 1978 Book of Common Prayer or the appropriate Episcopal funeral for the Armed Services is to be used. Fraternal, Sorority, or Masonic Rites may not be observed during the funeral. They are best reserved for after the burial or the night before the service. However, in no case are fraternal, Masonic, or secular Rites permitted to be used on parish grounds.

READINGS AND MUSIC

SUGGESTED MUSIC (Hymnal and Lift Every Voice and Sing)

You may also choose other hymns as these are only suggestions

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 688 Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord 178

All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name 450 Alleluia Sing To Jesus 460 Almighty Father, strong to save 579

Amazing Grace 671 Christ is alive 182 Come away to the Skies 213 Crown Him with many crowns 494

Eternal Father, strong to save 608 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty 362 How firm a foundation 637

How great Thou art Levas 60 I am the Bread of Life 335 Jesus Christ is Risen Today 207 Joyful, Joyful we adore thee 376 Just a closer walk with thee Levas 72 Just as I am 693 Lead on O King Eternal 555

Lord of all hopefulness 482 Love Divine 657 My faith looks up to thee Levas 88 My Jesus I love thee Levas 89 Nearer my God to thee Levas 54 Now thank we all our God 397 On Christ the Solid Rock Levas

99 *Praise my soul the King of Heaven* 410 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* 390 *Precious Lord take my hand* Levas 106 *When Morning guilds the skies* 427 *AND Wonder, Love, and Praise Hymn* 775 - *Give thanks for life*

Readings

Old Testament and Apocrypha

Job 19.21-27 *I know that my Redeemer lives*

Isaiah 25:6-9 *He will swallow up death forever*

Isaiah 61.1-3 *To comfort all who mourn*

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33
The love of the Lord never ceases

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 *The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God*

Psalms

Psalm 23

Psalm 27

Psalm 42:1-7

Psalm 46

Psalm 90:1-12

Psalm 106:1-5

Psalm 116

Psalm 121

Psalm 130

Psalm 139:1-11

Psalm 116

Psalm 118.4-end

Psalm 121

Psalm 130

Psalm 139

EPISTLE

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35,
37-39 *The future glory*

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,
35-38, 42-44a, 53-58 *The
resurrection of the dead*

1 John 3:1-12 *We shall be
like him*

Revelation 7:9-17 *The crowd
worshipping in heaven*

Revelation 21:2-7 *Behold I
make all things new*

GOSPEL

John 5:24-27 *Whoever hears
my word and believes him
who sent me, has eternal 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*

***Other readings may be more
suitable for a particular
occasion, for instance, at the
Funeral of a child:***

Psalm 84.1-4

Matthew 18.1-5,10

Song of Solomon 2.10-13

John 10.27,28

Isaiah 49.15-16

1 Corinthians 13.1-end

Jeremiah 1.4-8

Jeremiah 31.15-17