

Memorial Services

At



Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer page 504

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Revised: *August 2023*

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A complete copy of the services from The Book of Common Prayer can be found at:

<http://www.bcponline.org/PastoralOffices/BurialII.htm>

<http://www.bcponline.org/PastoralOffices/BurialI.htm>

Introduction

This booklet has been designed for both those who have just lost a loved one and are planning a memorial service, as well as for those who want to begin thinking, praying and planning for their own funeral or memorial service. It provides practical information about the burial service and addresses the questions of what we are doing and why. The actual services from the Book of Common Prayer, and recommended scripture reading are available in the PDF files marked "Memorial Service Rite I" (Elizabethan English), "Memorial Service Rite II" (contemporary English) and "Memorial Service Scripture".

The Liturgy: A Celebration and Thanksgiving

In the Episcopal Church, a memorial service is a celebration of the Resurrection. 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.* (Romans 8:39)

This joy, however, does not diminish the very real grief that we feel. The same 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, Lazarus. 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.

Because the memorial service is first and foremost an act of Christian worship, it is subject to the same standards as the weekly liturgies at Saint Mark's. The clergy in charge will be the final authority for any special requests.

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has an opportunity to be present.

The following pages are designed to facilitate the planning of a memorial service during a very difficult time and constitute the customs of Saint Mark's Episcopal Church. There are provisions in the *Book of Common Prayer* for the appropriate scripture readings, psalms and hymns for the service. Those same suggestions are also provided in this booklet. Please choose those which will make this service the right one for the celebration of the life of the departed and a fitting memorial in the hearts and minds of those who mourn.

The Prayer Book Service

Saint Mark's Church uses the *Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church (published in 1979) for its services, memorial services included.

The burial liturgy is found in *the Book of Common Prayer* on pages 491-505. This is the service that is used in most situations although some variations are available depending on circumstances. This service is also called *A Celebration of Life*, most commonly when combined with the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist (or Holy Communion.)

The Holy Eucharist is the principal act of Christian Worship on the Lord's Day (Sunday) and for other major celebrations in the Church. It is the sacrament instituted by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again. In the Holy Eucharist our union with Christ and with one another is strengthened making this sacrament particularly appropriate for a memorial service. When the Holy Eucharist is part of the service it constitutes the second half of the service. The entire congregation is invited to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The service takes approximately forty-five minutes to an hour, depending on the number of people receiving communion. Considering the solemnity of the occasion, the service is never rushed.

The color of the hangings in the chancel and on the altar, as well as the color of the clergy vestments is always white for memorial services, because this is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

Meeting with a member of the clergy as soon as possible to prepare the service and share memories (to help build the sermon) is encouraged. While it is not in the Episcopal tradition to eulogize the deceased, in some rare cases one family member or close friend may offer a brief remembrance about the life of the departed. A clergy person will conclude this part of the service with a sermon placed in the context of celebration, resurrection to eternal life, and faith in God.

It is most appropriate for the body to be present for the liturgy in the tradition of being "buried from the church." There is a brief service of reception as the body arrives at the door, for which it is appropriate for the family to be present. Cremation is also an ancient and appropriate practice which has become more prevalent in The Episcopal Church in recent years, so it is also appropriate that the veiled cremains be present near the altar.

Internment (burial) of the remains often takes place immediately following the service. Alternative arrangements may also be made with the clergy.

Service Leaflets

It is our policy that service leaflets (or booklets) will be produced at Saint Mark's. A photograph may be used on the back of the service leaflet if the photograph of sufficient quality is provided. Digital photographs are preferred.

Guest Book

Saint Mark's Church does not provide a guest book for people to sign. In most cases, the guest book is provided by the funeral home.

Music

There is a wealth of beautiful and appropriate sacred music that is suitable for use in a Memorial Service.

The Director of Music normally designates Saint Mark's organist as the organist at all memorial services, and in the occasion of he or she being unable to be present, a person whom he or she appoints. All decisions regarding music are made by the officiating clergy and Director of Music in consultation with the family.

Music for the service should be appropriate for use in the church. Popular music deemed "secular" is not recommended. All music should be a live offering to God, and pre-recorded music is not used.

Should the family wish a soloist to sing, the organist has a list of persons who can perform this function. Sung music is also chosen in consultation with the Director of Music.

It is customary for celebratory organ voluntaries to be played before and after the liturgy. This music is usually selected by the organist. Requests for specific music selections should be made through the Director of Music.

Instrumental music other than organ is also a possibility, and such decisions should be made in consultation with the clergy and Director of Music.

Flowers

Flowers are arranged for by the family. Up to four arrangements in the church: one by the Baptismal font, one in front of the altar, one by the paschal candle, and one in front of the lectern. Any additional flower arrangements will be placed in the parish hall for the reception. The family is encouraged to take the flower arrangements after the liturgy. The choice of florist is up to the family. Saint Mark's Flower Guild uses **Star Galaxy** in the Tremont Center. Note that arrangements should be lower than the altar (36").

Candles

Used in the Episcopal Church for public worship, candles enrich the worship experience. They are, of course, symbolic of light and warmth. But, they are also symbolic as signs of spiritual joy, as well as symbolic of the light of heaven. In addition to the two candles on the altar, the Paschal Candle used during the Easter Season is used in this service. It stands near the casket or urn of the deceased. The Paschal candle represents for us "the light of Christ" and is one of the great symbols of our Easter hope that "Christ has died, Christ is risen and Christ will come again."

Receptions in the Parish Hall

The Eldred Johnston Parish Hall may be used for a brief reception following the memorial service, which is hosted by a wonderful lay volunteer committee here at Saint Mark's church. If a reception is desired, we may ask this committee if they are able to provide one. Please understand that they may not always be able to do so, in which case that a reception can not be held at the church. The committee does not provide special request menus. They do provide "finger food" and beverages appropriate to the time of day of the reception. Alcoholic beverages will not be served. It is desirable that the reception following a memorial service be held before the graveside service (if there is to be one) in consideration of the people who are unable to attend the graveside service.

Memorial Garden

Saint Mark's Memorial Garden, located on the northwest portion of the campus, is a sacred place for the internment of ashes. The Memorial Garden is open to Saint Mark's parishioners, former parishioners and members of their family. Urns are not used, and the ashes are placed directly in the ground. The garden is beautifully planted and tended year round. Gifts for the perpetual maintenance of the garden are always appreciated.

Suggested Hymns

General Hymns

First Line	Hymn #
A Mighty Fortress is our God	687,688
Eternal father, strong to Save	608
For all the Saints, who from their labors rest	287
God of grace and God of glory	594
O God our help in ages past	680
Ye holy angels bright	625
The King of Love my shepherd is (psalm 23)	645
Dear Lord and Father of mankind	652, 653
Love divine, all loves excelling	657
Amazing grace	671
God be in my head	694
Take my life and let it be consecrated	707
We know that Christ is raised and dies no more	296
Joyful, joyful we adore thee	376
Lift high the cross	473
Come, labor on	541
Jerusalem, my happy home	620

Easter

First Line	Hymn #
Come ye faithful, raise the strain	199
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er	208

The Holy Eucharist

First Line	Hymn #
I come with joy to meet my Lord	304
Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest	305, 306
This is the hour of banquet and of song	316
My God, thy table now is spread	321
Let all mortal flesh keep silence	324
Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord	327, 328
Now my tongue the mystery telling	329
I am the bread of Life	335
And now, O Father, mindful of the love	337
Savior, again to thy dear name we raise	345

Due to the sacred nature of the occasion, pre-recorded music is never appropriate.

Memorial Service Expenses

Organist

\$175.00

Paid directly to organist

Soloist

to be determined in consultation with the Director of Music

Reception in the Eldred Johnston Parish Hall

a donation of **\$100.00**

Paid to Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

Clergy: There is no fee for clergy services. If you wish to provide an honorarium, it should go directly to the clergy person(s) involved.

Church: No other fees are required. A gift to the Saint Mark's Memorial Fund will be gratefully accepted.

Memorial Garden: A donation toward the ongoing care of the Memorial Garden may be written to Saint Mark's Episcopal Church (with a notation that it is for the Memorial Garden.) The suggested donation to cover engraving of the tablet is \$200.00.

Saint Mark's Staff

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