

Approved by Mission Committee on July 11, 2017

All Saints Episcopal Church

Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Funeral Policy

Concerning the Service

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to the Priest in Charge of the congregation. Arrangements for the funeral should be made by the surviving family in consultation with the Priest in Charge and other staff as desired.

All Saints Episcopal Church will hold services for non-members where for various reasons the family of the deceased wishes the person to have an Episcopal service. Those arrangements should be made with the Priest in Charge at a meeting scheduled for that purpose.

A planning document for a funeral service, including suggested scripture readings and music is attached to this policy.

The conduct of the service is the responsibility of the Priest in Charge. If the family of the deceased desires the participation of a minister who is not on the staff at All Saints, that should be discussed with the Priest in Charge and approved by him/her prior to any arrangements being made with the outside minister.

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church rather than a Funeral Home. The service should be held at a time when the congregation can be present, giving due consideration to day of the week, normal work hours, holidays and Holy Days.

The normal service for funerals at All Saints is The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two. It may be found on page 491 of the Book of Common Prayer. On special occasion, the Rite One service beginning on page 469 may be used with the approval of the Priest in Charge. The service normally includes a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, otherwise known as the Mass or Holy Communion. In the Episcopal Church, all baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacraments.

The guiding rule for planning a service is that it is first and foremost a worship service praising God and giving thanks for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds 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.

Although eulogies, or remembrances, are not a part of the Episcopal funeral liturgy, we understand that they can play an important role in comforting those who are grieving. Therefore we do allow up to 3 people to deliver brief remembrances of the deceased. Each should be no more than 3-5 minutes and not be a detailed litany of life achievements. Rather they should tell a story, or paint in broad strokes a picture of the joy of life and the Christian hope in death. This will be followed by a brief homily by the Celebrant or other designated person.

When the body of the deceased is present, the coffin is to be closed before the service, and it remains closed thereafter. It will be covered by a white pall provided by the church. This reminds us of the equality of all people before God. If there is an urn or container for cremated ashes, a covering will be provided for it.

If desired, any visitation with an open casket would have to take place at the Funeral Home. The coffin is closed prior to arrival at the church and remains closed at the church.

Cremation

The Episcopal Church has no objection to cremation. The cremation may take place after the service or beforehand. The ashes may be present at the service and blessed during the Commendation, if desired.

Committal

The Committal (interment or burial) generally takes place immediately following the service. Cremated remains may be committed in the All Saints Memorial Garden if desired. Please refer to the current All Saints Memorial Garden policy for an application and fees. Arrangements for the Memorial Garden should be made at the planning meeting for the service.

Date of the Service

A schedule for the service must be approved by the Priest in Charge before any date is set or announced or any discussion of dates held with the Funeral Home. No funeral service will be held on Sundays or other days that conflict with church events.

Service Bulletin

The Church will prepare a bulletin for the service similar in content and design to the regular Sunday worship service bulletin. The family of the deceased is responsible for providing information required, such as full name of the deceased, birth and death dates, and any other information requested by the Priest in Charge or staff. Please see the attached planning document. No obituary information will appear in the bulletin.

Music

The church Musician/Choir Director will provide music for the service unless other arrangements are made with the Priest in Charge and Musician/Choir Director. Musicians or soloists requested by the family in addition to the Musician/Choir Director are welcome to participate subject to the approval of the Priest in Charge.

The Priest in Charge is the final authority in the administration of matters pertaining to music. Music should be taken from hymnals and other sources approved by the Episcopal Church for worship services. See the attached planning document for suggestions. Secular music may not be used. This includes love songs, show tunes, popular music, music composed for secular occasions and music composed by friends or relatives. (Such music may of course be played at any reception following the service).

Fees

When practical it is expected that all fees and honorariums will be paid prior to the funeral service. Fees for the use of the church facilities may be made in cash or check payable to All Saints Episcopal Church. An honorarium for the priest's services should be paid in cash or check payable to the priest. The fee for the Musician/Choir Director should be paid in cash or check payable to the Musician/Choir Director.

For Use of the Church (Including service bulletins, cleaning and supplies)

Members in Good Standing	No Charge
All Others	\$100

Musician/Choir Director

All	\$175
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Priest Honorarium

Members in Good Standing	No Charge
All Others	\$200

* According to the Constitution and Canons of the Church, members in good standing are those communicants who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. At All Saints we recognize a communicant in good standing to be those who regularly attend worship, engage in the life of the parish and are current financial contributors of record to the general support of the church. Membership extends to the baptized dependent children of communicants in good standing.

Flowers

The sanctuary is the portion of the church located behind the altar rails and served by the clergy and assistants. The altar is the focal point. The Altar Guild is responsible for the care of this area. All Saints Episcopal Church is a beautiful setting and flower arrangements should be simple. Spectacular displays distract from the importance of worship and are not permitted. Flowers inside the church for a funeral are the same as those usually displayed as on Sundays, on the vase stands behind the altar. An additional modest arrangement in front of the free-standing altar is optional if desired. There will be no flowers on the coffin if present.

Only live floral arrangements are permitted and no ribbons, cards, or messages should be attached. If the florist delivers arrangements with ribbons or cards, those items will be removed and saved for the family. There are size restrictions for arrangements due to space in front of the altar and on either side of the cross at the high altar. The church staff can advise your florist if necessary.

Floral arrangements for a funeral service are customarily left for the Sunday service. If the service falls during Lent when no flowers are used on Sundays, the family may wish to take the flowers home after the service.

All other floral arrangements will be put temporarily in the Parish Hall until after the service. The family needs to make arrangements to take home any plants and flowers that will not be used in the church on the following Sunday. The church is not responsible for transportation of the flowers.

Visitation and/or Reception

The Parish Hall can be used for a visitation prior to the service or a reception following the service. Please see the current policy for Use of Facilities for fees and deposit requirements.

If the Parish Hall is not used, visitation may be held in the nave of the church prior to the service. If that is the case, a memorial table may be set up at the rear of the nave. The items in the church are limited to pictures and appropriate items of remembrance.

If the Parish Hall is used for a reception the family may also opt to use a caterer. It is expected that caterers will furnish all linens and serving pieces. Caterers are responsible for removing their materials immediately following the reception. The kitchen should be left in the condition in which it was found.

Serving alcohol at a funeral reception is generally not appropriate because of the time of day of the service. Families and friends should understand that while there is a desire to celebrate the life of the deceased, those driving should not be tempted to imbibe.

ATTACHMENT
THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD - PLANNING

Full Name of the Deceased: _____

Place of the Service: _____

Date and Time: _____

Celebrant: _____

Rite I or Rite II: _____ Will Coffin or Cremains be Present?: _____

Prelude: _____

Opening Anthem in Procession (or hymn or psalm): _____

First Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Psalm (or hymn or canticle): _____ Leader or Cantor: _____

Second Reading: _____ Reader: _____

Psalm (or hymn or canticle): _____ Leader or Cantor: _____

Sequence Hymn: _____

The Gospel: _____

Family Remembrances by: _____

Homily by: _____

Prayers of the People led by: _____

Closing Hymn, Anthem or Canticle: _____

Postlude: _____

If Eucharist:

Offertory Hymn: _____

Presenters (Oblationers): _____

Eucharistic Prayer: _____

Communion Hymns: _____

SUGGESTED READINGS

First Reading from the Old Testament

[Isaiah 25:6-9](#) (He will swallow up death for ever)

[Isaiah 61:1-3](#) (To comfort those who mourn)

[Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33](#) (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)

[Wisdom 3:1-5,9](#) (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)

[Job 19:21-27a](#) (I know that my Redeemer lives)

Psalm to follow the First Reading

42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11.

Second Reading from the New Testament

[Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39](#) (The glory that shall be revealed)

[1Corinthians 15:2-26,35-38,42-44,53-58](#) (The imperishable body)

[2 Corinthians 4:16--5:9](#) (Things that are unseen are eternal)

[1 John 3:1-2](#) (We shall be like him)

[Revelation 7:9-17](#) (God will wipe away every tear)

[Revelation 21:2-7](#) (Behold, I make all things new)

Psalm to follow the Second Reading

23, 23 KJV, 27, 106:1-5, 116.

The Gospel

[John 5:24-27](#) (He who believes has everlasting life)

[John 6:37-40](#) (All that the Father gives me will come to you)

[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)

SUGGESTED MUSIC

Prelude - Solo or Instrumental

Opening Hymn (In place) -

- Amazing Grace (Hymnal 671)
- The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done (Hymnal 208)
- Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! (Hymnal 460)

Sequence Hymn

- Celtic Alleluia
- I Come With Joy to Meet My Lord (Hymnal 304)
- Amazing Grace (Hymnal 671)
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Hymnal 657)
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is (Hymnal 645)

Offertory Hymn (If Eucharist)

- Ave Maria Solo
- On Eagle's Wings (WL&P 810)

Communion Hymn(s) (If Eucharist)

- Let Us Break Bread Together (Hymnal 325)
- I Am the Bread of Life (Hymnal 335)
- Breathe on Me, Breath of God (Hymnal 508)
- My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Hymnal 664)
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past (Hymnal 680)

Closing Hymn (Recesssional)

- On Eagle's Wings (WL&P 810)
- O When the Saints Go Marching In (insert)
- The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done (Hymnal 208)

Postlude - Instrumental