



PLANNING A
Funeral
OR
Memorial Service
AT
PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH


Prince of Peace
Lutheran Church

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Christian Community at Prince of Peace

As a Christian community, we will walk with you through this difficult time. This is our commitment to you:

- We will respond in compassion and love.
- We will help you plan and implement a Christian funeral/memorial service to honor the memory of your loved one.
- We will do everything possible in the context of Christian community to help your grieving family move through this time of grief.

To Schedule a Funeral or Memorial Service

Call the church office at 952-435-8102 to speak with the on-call pastor or lay minister.

Cremation

The Christian church fully accepts cremation as one of the means of honoring earthly remains. Your decision regarding cremation will more than likely be shaped by the feelings, convictions, and traditions of your family.

Spaces For the Service: Sanctuary/Chapel

Depending on anticipated attendance and family desires you may choose to hold the service in the Sanctuary in the Worship Center (13801 Fairview Dr.) or the Chapel in the Christian Life Center (13901 Fairview Dr.)

- Sanctuary (1259 seats)
- Chapel (80 seats)

Both spaces are accessible to a casket.

Fraternal Societies

Lutheran tradition and practice suggests that the rituals or tributes of social or fraternal societies be carried out separate from the order for the Burial of the Dead. It is acknowledged that some members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, as individuals, may hold membership in such societies and fraternities. It is acknowledged that many of the aforementioned societies and fraternities include within their charters and membership ritual elements of religious belief and practice that may have Christian overtones. However, the liturgical ministry of the church to its members should not be confused or commingled with the rituals of social and fraternal societies. The separation of the church's liturgical ministry from the rituals and tributes of social and fraternal societies does not invoke judgment (either negative or positive) upon the purposes, character, or social value of such organizations, or upon congregants who may hold membership in them.

First Steps

Go to Scripture.

During this time of loss, Scripture can be of great comfort to you and your family. Here are some verses for private meditation which also might be considered for use during the service. These words from Scripture can serve as comfort for those in grief, reference for family meeting times, and words of hope for the funeral/memorial worship service itself.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	...for everything there is a season, a time to be born...
Joshua 1: 9	...be strong and courageous.. do not be frightened...
Job 19:22-27a	...for I know that my Redeemer lives...
Psalms 23	...even though I walk through the darkest valley...
Psalms 27: 1,4-5, 13	...the Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?
Psalms 42:1-5a	...why are you cast down, O my soul, ... hope in God...
Psalms 46:1-7	...God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...
Psalms 91	...under his wings you will find refuge... my rock in whom I trust ...
Psalms 118	...out of my distress I called on the Lord...
Psalms 121	...I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
Psalms 130	...I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope...
Psalms 139:1-17, 23, 24	...you have searched me and known me...
Isaiah 25:6-9	...God will wipe away all tears from our eyes...
Isaiah 40:28-31	...they shall run and not be weary... walk and not be faint...
Isaiah 43:1-3a	...when you pass through the waters, I will be with you...
Matthew 11:28-30	...come to me, ... all who are weary...
Mark 10: 13-16	...let the little children come to me.. do not stop them...
John 10:27-29	...my sheep hear my voice; ... I give them eternal life...
John 11:25	...I am the resurrection and the life...
John 14:1-6	...Do not let your hearts be troubled...
Romans 8:31-35,37-39	...If God is for us... who is against us...
Romans 14:7-9	...Lord of both the dead and the living...
1 Corinthians 15:51-57	...we will not all die, but we will all be changed...
Philippians 3:20-21	...our citizenship is in heaven...
Philippians 4:4-7	...and the peace of God which passes all our understanding...
1 Peter 5:6-7, 10	...Christ will restore, support, strengthen, and establish you...
1 John 3:1-2	...see what love the Father has given us... Children of God...
Revelation 21:1-4	...mourning and crying and pain will be no more...

Funeral

The term “funeral” service is used when the earthly remains are present in the worship space. A funeral is usually scheduled within days of death.

Memorial Service

The term “memorial” service is used when there are no earthly remains present in the worship space. A memorial can be scheduled close to the dispensation of remains, or can be scheduled at a later time in consideration of family schedules.

Some choose to use other language to describe the service:

- A celebration of the life of....
- A worship service honoring the memory of...

The Funeral/Memorial Worship Service

This service is a Christ-centered time of worship focused on the promises of God in Scripture and a time to remember the one we have lost. It is a time of comfort and healing as well as a time for boldly declaring our belief in eternal life with Christ. A funeral/memorial worship service usually consists of the following elements and most often occur in this order.

Sample services appear at the conclusion of this document.

- Prelude Music
 - instrumental music played as people gather
- Processional Music
 - played or sung together as the family enters the worship space
- Invocation
 - the pastor/minister and worshipers invite God to be present in the worship service
- Opening Prayer
 - worshipers pray together as we begin to worship
- Hymn or Song
 - a musical selection sung by congregation or soloist
- Readings from Scripture
 - friends, family members, or other worship leaders read words Scripture (See Scripture section of this document for suggested Scripture readings)
 - Old Testament reading/s
 - Epistle reading/s
 - Gospel reading/s
- Hymn or Song
 - a musical reflection of what was read in Scripture either sung by congregation or soloist

The Funeral/Memorial Worship Service cont'd

- Memories
 - a time when the obituary might be read, together with stories of the importance of the life of the one who has died. Two or three friends and family who are able to speak publicly at this time of grief may be invited to offer these stories
- Hymn or Song
 - a musical selection focused on bringing comfort, healing, and God's perspective to each worshiper
- Message
 - the pastor/minister shares a message of hope from the life of the person, and the promises of eternal life in Christ
- Hymn or Song
 - a musical reflection of the pastor/minister message
- Prayers
 - offered by the pastor/minister
- The Lord's Prayer
 - prayed by all. Words printed in the worship folder
- The Commendation
 - in a funeral setting, the pastor moves to the casket or urn and blesses the earthly remains and commends them into God's care and keeping
- Benediction
 - a blessing of all worshipers
- Recessional Music
 - instrumental music played as the family and worshipers exit the worship

Hymns or Songs During the Service

Christian music is filled with a vast treasure of ancient and modern song that is appropriate for funerals/memorials. Personal preferences and favorite music of the deceased should be considered but not all music is appropriate for a service. Favorite popular (secular) songs and recordings might be best used during the reception or in conjunction with a family produced video that remembers the deceased. Once again, not all music is appropriate for worship and the pastor/minister and/or Prince of Peace Worship Arts staff can be helpful to you in making these selections. Here are a few suggestions:

Hymns of Celebration

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Now Thank We All Our God
How Great Thou Art
Beautiful Savior
Lift High the Cross
Crown Him With Many Crowns
For All the Saints

Hymns of Faith and Comfort

He Leadeth Me
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Children of the Heavenly Father
The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Amazing Grace
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
O God, Our Help in Ages Past
It is Well With My Soul
Beneath the Cross of Jesus
Day by Day
Great is Thy Faithfulness
Abide With Me
Softly and Tenderly
Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Modern Hymns

God of Wonders
All Who Are Thirsty
How Deep the Father's Love for Us
In Christ Alone

Vocal solos

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (from Messiah) – Handel
The Lord's Prayer – Malotte
On Eagle's Wings – Joncas
Borning Cry – Ylvisaker
If You Could See Me Now – Noblitt
God's Heart Breaks – Hanson
Broken Hearts – Hanson
Make My Life a Candle – Hanson
Be Still and Know – Chapman
Holy Ground – Davis
God is For Us – Crockett
Friends – Smith
Best of Friends – Crockett
Ave Maria – Schubert
Everyday – Matthews
Seasons of Love – Larson
Legacy – Nordeman
Every Season – Nordeman
Remember Me – Schultz
Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus) – Rice

Sample Recording

A sample recording of these hymn and song suggestions is available from the funeral coordinator. The CD includes 15-30 seconds of each selection in the order they appear in this document.

Musicians

Organist

If you desire organ music and hymn accompaniment we have a staff of professional organists to assist with the music. Only trained and highly skilled organists familiar with this instrument should be used to play for the service. If you desire that a family friend or relative play organ during the service, this needs to be discussed with the Director of Worship Arts and approved.

Pianist

If you desire piano music during the service, in the Sanctuary we have a nine-foot grand piano available for that use and a grand piano available in the Chapel. Again, if you desire family or friends to play, be certain they are trained and skilled in this kind of musical leadership.

Instrumentalist

We have an extensive list of skilled instrumentalists who could provide music for the service. Should you desire flute, violin, sax, harp, bagpipe, or other instrumental music, let us know and we will contact these musicians.

Soloist

The role of a soloist is to not only sing vocal music, but to lead the congregation in song as well. Prince of Peace has many talented, specialized vocalists to serve in this capacity. The vocalist selected will, in some ways, be determined by the musical needs of the service. If you have family and friends who can offer these services, be certain that they are experienced in this role and are able to sing during this time of grief. It is our experience that most family members are not able to sing for the service of someone they loved dearly.

Ensemble

Often, given the music you select, an ensemble may be best to faithfully lead the music for the service. You might consider using a small ensemble of piano, guitar, bass, solo instrument and singers to lead the music.

Pre-recorded Music

It is the policy of Prince of Peace to **not allow pre-recorded music** (CDs or cassette tapes) of any kind, prior to or during a worship service. This also applies to accompaniment to soloists. **We do not allow soloists to be accompanied by tapes or CDs.** Live musicians offer live music for worship.

Spoken Tributes

Often, family members and close friends desire to share thoughts and memories. Potential speakers should be carefully selected to offer a dignified tribute. Special memories and tasteful stories in addition to the traditional obituary could be shared. Tributes should not only honor the deceased, but everyone in attendance and should give a special glimpse into the character of the one that some would not have known as well.

We strongly recommend limiting the number of tributes to **no more than three** speakers offering tributes of **two to three minutes** in length in order to be conscious of the time investment of the worshipers and to keep the service focused. We recommend that speakers address different aspects of the life of the deceased; family, friends and work.

Please note that, during the service, the pastor/minister will **not** publicly offer the opportunity for any additional tributes from those in the congregation. The pastor/minister may request to see these tributes in writing before the service.

Bulletins

Prince of Peace will produce a worship bulletin for the service based on the information provided by you. For all worship events including weddings and funerals, we require the presence of the **Prince of Peace logo, worship times, address, phone, and website information in all bulletins used. (*shown below*)** The funeral coordinator will show you five bulletin options that Prince of Peace will provide for you at no charge. If you choose to produce your own funeral bulletin, work with the pastor/minister so that it reflects the required Prince of Peace information.



13901 Fairview Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 435-8102 www.princeofpeaceonline.org

Join us at Prince of Peace for worship:
Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., Sundays at 8:30, 9:45 (ASL), 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary/Chapel Floral Arrangements/Candles

The funeral coordinator is responsible for the appearance of floral arrangements and other visual enhancements in the worship space. We have eight candle stands that can be used creatively in addition to two memory candle stands. Wax candles are not allowed anywhere in the worship space except on the two memory candle stands.

Guest Book

A guest book is usually offered through the funeral home but you have the option to choose to purchase one on your own or not have one at all. If you use a guest book, have it available during visitation at the funeral home and at the Prince of Peace service. Not everyone is able to attend both events. A guest book is helpful for you to look back and see who attended the events and a way for you to gather addresses for thank you notes. Prince of Peace will provide a place for the guest book to be signed. We recommend that your guest book provide space for attendees to record their addresses to assist you when writing thank you notes.

Displays

Prince of Peace can provide **easels** and tables for displaying personal items of your loved one. You may consider using photos and other appropriate memorabilia that would provide a visual display of the life and memory of the deceased. These displays will be set up in the gathering area of the church just outside the main doors to the Sanctuary, or just outside the Chapel doors in the gathering area, as space allows.

The Casket

During the time of visitation prior to the funeral service, the casket can remain open as the family wishes in the back of the Sanctuary or the front of the Chapel. If the casket has been opened, it will be closed prior to the worship service and covered with the funeral pall. For worship services in the Sanctuary, the casket is then moved to the front of the Sanctuary during the family procession at the start of the of the worship service. You might choose to not process as a family but simply gather in the reserved seats at the front of the Sanctuary.

The Pall

Prior to the beginning of the worship service, the casket is closed and draped with a funeral pall and processed to the front of the Sanctuary. The pall is placed over the casket to recall the white robe of righteousness given in Baptism and helps to emphasize that all are equal and valued in the presence of God. The pall is removed from the casket once it has exited the worship space at the end of the worship service. The pall will be used in all Prince of Peace funerals that have a casket present.

Pallbearers/Casket Bearers

When a casket is present in a funeral service, a family will often name four to six persons as pallbearers or casket bearers. Most often, these people are close friends and/or family members. While this is primarily a symbolic, honorary function, there are times when the casket needs to be **lifted or placed** and it is the duty of the pallbearers to help with this function at the direction of the funeral director.

The Ossuary

Prince of Peace provides an ossuary, a receptacle to **display the cremains** of the deceased in a discrete and dignified manner. The ossuary and stand can also accommodate the memory candle and a photo. Prince of Peace also has white paraments (cloth coverings) that cover the ossuary stand which will be used in conjunction with the use of the ossuary.

Memory Candle

Prince of Peace provides a **memory candle** for all funerals **as a gift** from the church which is lit during the funeral/memorial service and given to the family to be lit on occasions that will pay tribute to the loved one who has died. This candle is the only wax candle that will be used during a funeral/memorial service.

Paschal Candle (baptismal candle)

During the funeral the large candle most often used at baptism is placed at the head of the casket or near the cremains as a visible sign of the baptismal covenant in which we live and die.

Flowers

Flower donations can be directed for delivery to the Prince of Peace Worship Center at 13801 Fairview Drive, Burnsville or to the Christian Life Center Chapel at 13901 Fairview Drive. *(Deliveries on Friday should be made prior to 3:30 p.m. at Door E of the Worship Center.)*

Typically, the immediate family orders the floral casket cover. If appropriate, a small lid arrangement is chosen by the family to represent younger children or grandchildren of the deceased. Personalized flower arrangements (father, son, sister, daughter, etc.) need to be ordered by the funeral home or the family.

Flowers cont'd

Flowers sent by other family members (sisters, brothers etc.) should be displayed in the area of the casket. The funeral coordinator will have the final approval regarding the appearance of the floral arrangements in the Sanctuary.

It is the policy of Prince of Peace not to retain any floral arrangements after a funeral or memorial service. Therefore, **the family is responsible for the care and distribution of all flowers** associated with the funeral or memorial service.

Cards and Memorials

A memorial is a gift to an organization in the name of the deceased. Memorials can be given to Prince of Peace or other charitable organizations whose work would benefit from the benevolence of your family. Be sure to state your preference in the obituary and noted at the funeral home and church. Organizations who receive memorials will usually notify you of the amount given and by whom. You may choose to work with these organizations in giving direction as to how the money should be used.

Envelopes for donation/memorial usage are available from the church or the funeral home. You may also receive cards with donations in the form of cash or checks. As a family, you will decide how these donations will be dispersed.

Memory Cards

This is a card that summarizes the life of your loved one. It can include place of birth, life history, accomplishments, skills and passions. The funeral home will offer to produce these for you.

Paraments

The Christian church year is highlighted by altar and reading desk paraments in a number of colors. These paraments will be present in the worship space. Generally, you can expect the parament colors to be as follows:

Advent (four weeks prior to Christmas)	Blue
Christmas	White
Epiphany (January 1 to Ash Wednesday)	Green
Lent (Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday)	Purple
Palm Sunday, Festivals	Red
Season of Easter (7 weeks following Easter)	White
Pentecost (most of June, July, August, September, October and November)	Green

U.S. Flag

When a U. S. Flag is displayed from a staff in a church, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, and in the position of honor to the right of the clergy or speaker as he/she faces the congregation. No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergy or speaker or to the right of the audience.

When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should never touch the ground or the floor.

Audio – Recording

The Prince of Peace technology team, at no additional cost to you, will **provide your family with a CD audio recording of the service.**

Video – Recording

If you want to have the service video taped, please invite a friend or relative to do this on behalf of your family.

Video Projection

We do not use our video screen technology during funeral/memorial services. We encourage families that desire to show images connected to their loved ones to show these at the reception or the visitation.

Reception

Here is a checklist to assist you in estimating the number of persons who may attend a reception. To arrive at this number consider:

- _____ family members who will attend; spouses, children, grandchildren
- _____ other immediate family members
- _____ friends
- _____ professional associates; past, present, clients
- _____ professional organization associates, social clubs, sports teams
- _____ neighbors, past and present
- _____ church friendships/ Bible study groups/ small groups
- _____ hospital/clinic/hospice professionals

Reception cont'd

_____ school and college friends
_____ past places of employment
_____ Total

Note:

If the reception is held immediately following the worship service, before the interment, many will stay for lunch. However, if the interment is immediately following the worship service with the reception after that, many will not come back to the church for lunch, particularly if the location of the cemetery is a distance from the church.

Receptions can be held in either the Community Room in the Worship Center or the Atrium in the Christian Life Center. The Community Room can accommodate 225 seated at tables. The Atrium can seat 100 people.

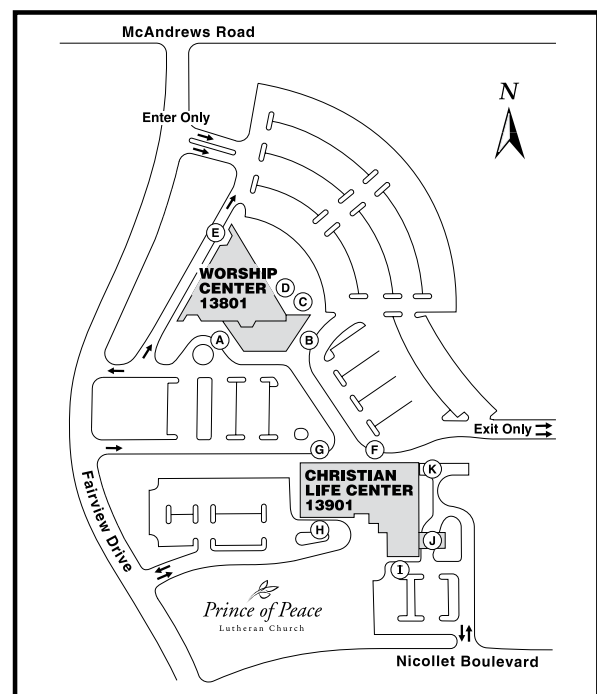
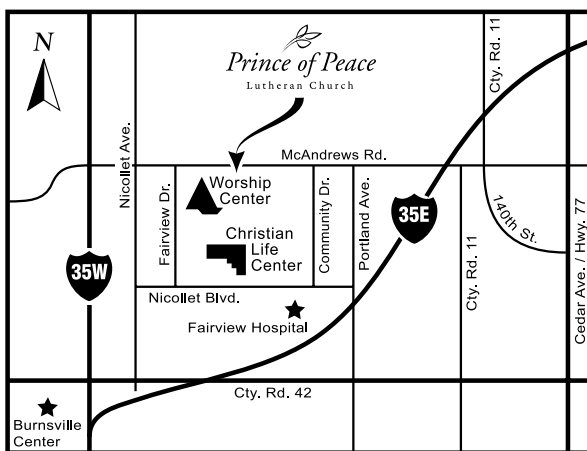
Please consult your funeral coordinator for reception possibilities. If you desire a catered reception from a vendor other than Prince of Peace, please discuss this with your funeral coordinator.

Smoking/Alcohol Use

There is no smoking allowed anywhere inside Prince of Peace buildings. The use of alcoholic beverages on church property is strictly prohibited.

Prince of Peace Maps and Directions

Directions to Prince of Peace are available at www.princeofpeaceonline.org.



Honorariums

Honorariums are typically dispersed as follows by the funeral coordinator to those persons contracted by Prince of Peace to serve at the funeral/memorial. The funeral coordinator will offer you an itemized list of costs for the day.

Prince of Peace costs	\$400 (includes pastor/minister, facilities, funeral coordinator)
Organist/Pianist	\$100
Soloist/Instrumentalists	\$100

Funeral Without a Funeral Home

If it is your desire to have a funeral service without involving a funeral home, the church fee will go to \$600 to accommodate the additional time and details involved in the work of the funeral coordinator.

Contact Phone Numbers

Musicians	952-898-9319
Bulletins	952-898-9317
Scheduling/Reception/Hospitality	952-435-8102

Bereavement

Prince of Peace offers Grief Support Groups on Monday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. These groups provide safe, confidential, Christ-centered support for adults who have experienced the death of a loved one. They will equip grief survivors by:

- sharing information about grief and the grief process;
- offering emotional support;
- providing a time to address individual issues of the participants;
- encouraging the expression of feelings and memories;
- offering spiritual care support in the form of presence, listening, and prayer.

There are numerous Care Notes which address many grief issues available in the skylight room of the Christian Life Center. They are free of charge and can be picked up during regular office hours. There are also resource lists available for anyone wanting a suggestion for printed materials.

Grief support for children and teens is available during a six week series offered twice a year. Several groups are provided, divided by ages. To register for this program, visit www.princeofpeaceonline.org/spiritual_care.

For more information about the Grief Support Groups please contact the church at 952-435-8102 or visit www.princeofpeaceonline.org/spiritual_care.

Sample Service #1

Prelude

Processional Hymn

The Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother/sister _____, to give thanks for his/her life, to commend him/her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief. The word of God is a source of comfort and strength and we stand confidently in the promises of God.

All: (Jeremiah 29:11) For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Leader: All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his/her baptism, _____ was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he/she will be clothed with glory.

All: (Proverbs 16:9) The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.

Leader: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, you formed us from the dust and by your breath gave us life.

All: We glorify you.

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the resurrection and the life. You suffered death and rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life.

All: We praise you.

Leader: Holy Spirit, you are the author and giver of life. You comfort us in our sorrow and give us everlasting hope.

All: We worship you.

Leader: God, you are Three-in-One; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To you be glory and honor, forever and ever.

All: Amen!

Greeting

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Welcome (worshippers turn and greet one another)

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother/sister _____. 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 faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Teach us how to live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sample Service #1 cont'd

Reflections on Behalf of the Family (1-3 persons share reflections and memories)

The Lighting of the Memory Candle (family members light a candle given in memory of the one who has died)

Hymn or Musical Reflection

Apostles' Creed

Hymn or Musical Reflection

Scripture Readings for the Day

Message

Hymn or Musical Reflection

Prayers

Leader: Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus, fullness of compassion, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for _____, and dry the tears of those who weep. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, man of sorrows, you wept at the grave of Lazarus your friend; comfort us who mourn. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, firstborn of the new creation, you raised the dead; give to our sister/brother life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, friend of sinners, you promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring _____ to the joys of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, wellspring of life, you washed our sister/brother in baptism and anointed her/him with the Holy Spirit; give her/him communion with all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, bread of life, you nourished _____ at your table on earth; welcome her/him at your table in the realm of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, bright morning star, comfort us in our sorrows at the death of _____; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer - print

Sample Service #1 cont'd

Commendation

Leader: Let us commend _____ to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
(silence)

Leader: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant _____.
Acknowledge him/her as a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, and 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.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go in peace to love God and one another.

All: In the name of Christ, thanks be to God. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Postlude

Sample Service #2

Prelude

Procession

Opening Prayer - Praying together

Eternal God, you gave _____ a new birth in baptism and entrusted him/her to us to know and to love. As we thank you for the life we shared, help us now to release him/her to your mighty keeping. Bring us all to that day when we shall stand in your presence with all your saints in light eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn

Psalm 121 **Read Responsively**

Leader: We lift up our eyes to the hills- from where will our help come?

People: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: He will not let our foot be moved; he who keeps us will not slumber.

People: Indeed, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Leader: The Lord is our keeper; the Lord is our shade at our right hand.

People: The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.

Leader: The Lord will keep us from all evil; he will keep our life.

People: The Lord will keep our going out and our coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Scripture Readings

Psalm 46:1-5

Selections from Romans 8

John 14:1-7

Apostles' Creed - Together

Sharing Family Memories

Lighting the Memory Candle

Music

The Message

Solo

Prayers

Leader: Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life." Jesus, fullness of compassion, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for _____, and dry the tears of those who weep. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, man of sorrows, you wept at the grave of Lazarus your friend; comfort

us who mourn. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, firstborn of the new creation, you raised the dead; give to our sister/brother life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, friend of sinners, you promised paradise to the repentant thief; bring _____ to the joys of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, wellspring of life, you washed our sister/brother in baptism and anointed her/him with the Holy Spirit; give her/him communion with all your saints. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, bread of life, you nourished _____ at your table on earth; welcome her/him at your table in the realm of heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Jesus, bright morning star, comfort us in our sorrows at the death of _____; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer - print

Commendation

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, _____. Acknowledge him/her as a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child of God and 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. All of this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Benediction

Postlude

Sample Service #3

Gathering Music

Welcome

Opening Prayer - Praying together

God of tenderness and change, be with us this morning/afternoon as we come together to celebrate the life of _____ and to cry our tears of loss. Hold us now as we cradle her/his memory and comfort us as we commend her/his free spirit into your eternal love. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is our life and salvation. Amen.

Congregational Song

Psalm 23 Responsive Reading

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd;

People: I shall not want.

Leader: He makes me lie down in green pastures;

People: he leads me beside still waters;

Leader: he restores my soul.

People: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Leader: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil.

People: for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Leader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

People: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Leader: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

People: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Song

Remembering _____

Lighting the Memory Candle

Song

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:1-4

Ephesians 3:16-21

2 Timothy 4:6b-8

Message

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer - print

Benediction

Congregational Song