

Planning a Celebration of Life

Traditional Order of Service

Sentences of Scripture
Psalm, Hymn, or Spiritual

Prayer
[Confession and Pardon]

Readings from Scripture

Eulogies | Personal Reflections
Family, Friends, Colleagues, Church Members

Sermon
Affirmation of Faith

[Hymn]
Prayers of Thanksgiving, Supplication, and Intercession

Commendation
formal prayer of saying goodbye

Blessing
Procession (Psalm, Hymn, or Biblical Song)

• or •

Contemporary Order of Service

Sentences of Scripture
Words of Welcome
Prayer
[song]

Readings from Scripture
Homily

Sharing our stories of Gratitude and Grace
Eulogies or Personal Reflections from Family, Friends, Colleagues, Church Members
Can be specific people asked in advance – or - can be open microphone style

Affirmation of Faith

Commendation
Blessing

Possible Scripture Readings for Funerals

Old Testament

- * Job 19:23-27 I know that my redeemer lives
- Isaiah 25:6-9 God will swallow up death forever
- Isaiah 26:1-4, 19 God will keep them in peace
- * Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31 Comfort my people
- * Isaiah 40:28-31 Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength
- Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19, 25 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you
- Isa. 44:6-8 I am the first and the last
- Isa. 55:1-3, 6-13 Ho, everyone who thirsts
- Isa. 61:1-4, 10-11 The spirit of the Lord is upon me
- * Isa. 65:17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth
- Lam. 3:19-26, 31b-32 The Lord's steadfast love
- Dan. 12:1-3 Many of those who sleep in the dust shall awake
- Joel 2:12-13, 23-24, 26-29 Return to the Lord with all your heart
- Zech. 8:1-8 Children playing in the streets of the city
- * Isa. 65:17-25 I create new heavens and a new earth
- Lam. 3:1-9, 19-23 The Lord's steadfast love

Psalms The following psalms are appropriate for singing or reading in the service.

- Ps. 16:5-11 The Lord is my chosen portion
- * Ps. 23 The Lord is my shepherd
- Ps. 27:1, 4-9a, 13-14 The Lord is my light and my salvation
- Ps. 39: 4-5, 12 Lord, let me know my end
- Ps. 42:1-6a As a deer longs for flowing streams
- Ps. 43 Give judgment for me, O God
- * Ps. 46:1-5, 10-11 A very present help in trouble
- * Ps. 90:1-10, 12 Teach us to number our days
- Ps. 91 The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
- * Ps. 103 Bless the Lord, O my soul
- Ps. 106:1-5 O give thanks to the Lord
- Ps. 116:1-9, 15 The Lord has heard my voice
- Ps. 118 Open the gates of righteousness
- * Ps. 121 I lift up my eyes to the hills
- * Ps. 130 Out of the depths I cry to the Lord
- * Ps. 139:1-12 Where shall I go from your spirit?
- Ps. 145 I will extol you, O God my King
- Ps. 146 Hallelujah! praise the Lord, O my soul

Epistles

- Rom. 5:1-11 Hope does not disappoint
- Rom. 6:3-9 Baptized into Christ's death, raised to live with him
- * Rom. 8:14-23, 31-39 Nothing can separate us from the love of God
- * Rom. 14:7-9, 10b-12 Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's
- 1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-20a Christ raised from the dead
- 1 Cor. 15:20-24a In Christ shall all be made alive
- * 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 35-38, Death is swallowed in victory
- 42-44, 50, 53-58

- 1 Cor. 15:35-44 The natural body and the spiritual body
- 1 Cor. 15:50-57 We shall all be changed
- * 2 Cor. 4:16-5:1 Visible things are temporary, invisible things eternal
- 2 Cor. 5:1-10 From God we have a house not made with hands
- Eph. 1:11-2:1, 4-10 Saved by grace through faith
- Phil. 3:7-11 Knowing him and the power of his resurrection
- Phil. 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven
- Col. 3:1-17 Set your minds on the things that are above
- * 1 Thess. 4:13-18 The comfort of Christ's coming
- 2 Tim. 2:8-13 If we died with him, we shall also live with him
- Heb. 2:14-18 Christ was tested in every way
- Heb. 11:1-3, 13-16; 12:1-2 Faith, the pilgrimage, the cloud of witnesses
- 1 Peter 1:3-9 Without seeing Christ, you love him
- 1 Peter 3:18-22; 4:6 Christ's ministry to the spirits in prison
- 1 John 3:1-3 We are children of God
- Rev. 7:2-3, 9-17 These are they who have come out of the great tribulation
- Rev. 14:1-3, 6-7, 12-13 Rest for the saints
- * Rev. 21:1-4, 22-25; 22:3-5 A new heaven and a new earth
- Rev. 22:1-5 The Lord God will be their light

Gospels

- Matt. 5:1-12a The Beatitudes
- Matt. 11:25-30 Hidden from the wise, revealed to infants
- Matt. 25:1-13 Wise and foolish bridesmaids
- Matt. 25:31-46 The Last Judgment
- Luke 7:11-17 Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain
- Luke 18:15-17 We enter the kingdom only as children
- * Luke 23:33, 39-43 Today you will be with me in Paradise
- John 3:16-21 God so loved the world
- John 5:24-29 Whoever hears and believes has eternal life
- John 6:37-40 Anyone who comes to me I will never drive away
- John 6:47-58 Whoever believes in me has eternal life
- * John 11:17-27 I am the resurrection and the life
- John 11:38-44 Lazarus raised from the dead
- John 14:1-6, 25-27 Let not your hearts be troubled