



FUNERAL PLANNING FORM

Revised March 2026

An Online version of this form can be found
at www.saintmatthiasoakdale.com/funeral-planning
or by scanning the QR Code



The burial of a Christian is an occasion of both sorrow and joy—our sorrow in the face of death, and our joy in Jesus' promise of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. The funeral service, when thoughtfully planned, is a Christian's final public testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ and their final act of worship on this side of their resurrection.

Who is completing this form? _____ **Date:** _____

Who is this service for?

Full Name: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Is this the **first time** this form is being completed for this individual or an **update**?

☐ Yes, the first time ☐ No, this updates a previously completed form

Please list, in order, **the person(s) you like to be responsible for making funeral decisions** and implementing/adapting the wishes stated below.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

*Note that final decisions regarding the funeral, liturgy, music,
and flowers is vested in the rector of the church.*

If you have any pre-arrangements with a **mortuary**, include the name of the mortuary here: _____

If you have any pre-arrangements with a **cemetery**, include the name of the cemetery here: _____

What are your wishes regarding **final disposition**:

☐ Casket burial

☐ Cremation by fire ☐ Cremation by alternate method: _____

What is your intended location of **interment**?

☐ Cemetery ☐ Columbarium ☐ Other: _____

Christians are discouraged from treating the remains of the deceased in a haphazard manner.

Has this person been baptized?

☐ Yes, at St Matthias ☐ Yes, at another Christian Church ☐ No

Which portions of the Burial service do you desire?

[Check ALL that apply]

- ☐ Funeral in the Church with remains present (p. 6 of resource booklet, BCP p. 249ff)
- ☐ Funeral in the Church with remains present (p. 15 of resource booklet, BCP p. 249ff)
- ☐ Graveside Committal (BCP p. 260ff)

Location of Funeral (if applicable):

☐ Saint Matthias ☐ Other: _____

Liturgy Preference for Funeral

While the Prayer Book provides that the Eucharist may or may not be part of the funeral service the celebration of the Eucharist is normative for the funerals of communicants. The Church teaches that the Eucharist provides a bond between those who gather for Holy Communion and those who share in the heavenly banquet in the New Jerusalem.

- ☐ Burial Rite with ACNA Ancient Renewed Text [BCP p. 132] (common)
- ☐ Burial Rite with ACNA Standard Anglican Text [BCP p. 115]
- ☐ Burial Rite only (no Holy Communion)
- ☐ Burial Office for one who does not profess the Faith (not all decisions below will apply)

Processional

☐ Opening Anthem - *"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord..."*

[BCP p. 249-250] (common)

☐ Hymn: _____

Hymn Choices

Occasions for hymns include at the Processional Hymn (if not Opening Anthem), the reading of the Gospel, the Offertory (note: this is the procession of elements along with the preparation of the altar; an offering will not be taken up at a funeral), during the administration of Holy Communion (sung or instrumental), and at the Recession (if not Closing Anthem, BCP p. 257). List preferred hymns below:

Eulogy - (not required, maximum of 2, must be pre-written; any open mic reserved for reception). Include Name(s) and relationship to Eulogist(s) here:

Further personal remembrances should be reserved for a wake preceding the service or a reception following the service are appropriate places for personal remembrances.

Scripture Choices

FIRST READING (choose one)

- ☐ Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- ☐ Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all who mourn)
- ☐ Lamentations 3:22-26,31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait)
- ☐ 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 (choose one)

PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ☐ Psalm 23 (KJV)
- ☐ Psalm 27
- ☐ Psalm 106:1-5
- ☐ Psalm 116

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS:

- ☐ Psalm 39
- ☐ Psalm 42:1-7
- ☐ Psalm 46

☐ Psalm 90:1-12

☐ Psalm 121

☐ Psalm 130

☐ Psalm 139:1-11

SECOND READING (choose one)

☐ Romans 8:14-19,34-39 (The glory that is to be revealed)

☐ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,35-38,42-44,53-58 (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 am making all things new)

GOSPEL READING (choose one)

☐ John 5:24-27 (Whoever believes 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)

Name(s) of Lector(s): (1-3 people)

For First Reading: _____ For Psalm: _____

For Second Reading: _____ [Gospel is read by Clergy]

Sermon - Preferred preacher for funeral: _____ (if not St Matthias clergy, then subject to approval)

Recessional Anthem: ☐ "Christ is risen from..." ☐ Other: _____

GRAVESIDE COMMITTAL

Do you desire to have a Graveside Committal service? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Location, if already determined: _____

If so, do you prefer it to occur on the same day as the funeral service? _____

Who do you want invited to attend the Graveside Committal?

☐ Anyone who desires to attend ☐ Limit to a select group: _____

Military Honors: (typically at Graveside (if there is one) or Funeral Service (if there is not)

Is this person currently or previously in the military? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If so, would you like the military honors (Taps + flag-folding?) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Choose an **Opening Anthem** (p. 15 of resource booklet, BCP p. 260)

☐ "Man born of woman..." ☐ "All that the Father..." ☐ No preference

You may choose from **two prayers** on BCP p. 261 (or p. 16 of resource booklet)

☐ "In sure and certain hope..." ☐ "Forasmuch as it..." ☐ No preference

Indicate if you would like any of the additional prayers on BCP p. 263-265 (or p. 17-19 of resource booklet) to be included, in addition to "Almighty God, with...":

☐ "O God, the King..."

☐ "Lord Jesus Christ, by..."

☐ "Father of all..."

☐ "Merciful God, Father..."

☐ "Grant, O Lord, to..."

☐ "Almighty God, Father..."

☐ "O God, whose days..."

☐ "O Ruler of the universe..." (for a veteran of the armed forces)

☐ No preference

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (list any preferences in the additional comment section below)

- Whether or not you prefer to be embalmed
- Do you desire to have a wake prior to the burial service, with or without an open casket? Notes: The Prayer Book requires that the casket be closed before the service and remain closed thereafter" (p. 248). There is also a liturgy for a Vigil service that can be used at a wake on BCP p. 243-245.
- If casket burial, list preferred Pall Bearers (typically six)
- Any information you would like included in an obituary, such as...
 - Organizations, Associations, or Professional Affiliations
 - Places of Employment
 - Awards

- Accomplishments
- Passions, Interests
- Surviving Family
- Service Date, Time, & Location (so public can attend)
- Any picture(s) on front/back of the burial service bulletin? Who has picture or can choose picture
- Any preferred participants, such as a Deacon of the Mass, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (1-2), ushers, or (optional) designated individuals to process elements at Offertory
- Flower Preferences (altar or otherwise) - donated/gifted flower arrangements not recommended in the Church
- Musician Preferences (if different from parish musician(s))
- Is there a more often used name that should be used for the deceased during the service other than their first name?
- Any designation for Memorial contributions to be made to the parish or other ministry/organization
- If the parish should be aware you have designated it as a beneficiary of your estate
- Do you have any wishes for a reception following the service?
- Is there a need for financial assistance to cover funeral expenses? [Note: there are no fees by the Parish or rector for a burial service at St Matthias. For the funeral of a parishioner, the Parish Hall may also be used for a reception. Only requested fees are for the cost of musicians and janitorial services, though these can be waived in the case of financial hardship]

Other Comments/requests:
