



Messiah Funeral Pre-Planning Worksheet

Thank you for picking up Messiah's Funeral Pre-Planning Worksheet. When a person pre-plans their own funeral they are giving a unique gift to their family while also passing along a legacy of faith. For many, it is a comfort knowing that certain details of the funeral service have been prepared in advance. This worksheet gives you the opportunity to make some choices now regarding your funeral...some spaces may be left blank. In the days following a loved one's death, the family makes an average of 200 decisions. During such an emotional, stressful and demanding time, plans that have been made earlier lighten the load after death.

When you are finished, please share your worksheet with a family member or friend who will act on your behalf after your death. It would also be helpful to contact the Pastor of Messiah to share your worksheet so that it can be held in safekeeping for the future. Revisions and updates are possible as desired.

The Christian funeral service shares the sorrow and grief caused by death, and also celebrates the hope of eternal life that we have in Jesus Christ. A funeral liturgy allows those who mourn to give voice to sorrow, to receive encouragement from God's Word, to thank God for this life, and to entrust their loved one into the hands of God.

Our congregation strongly encourages the use of the church for members' funerals. The body or cremations of a church member is brought to the church, celebrating one's Baptism into Christ and the promise of resurrection of the body. A public liturgy of the Word, often including Holy Communion, is celebrated and presided over by the current pastor of this congregation. The service is open to the congregation, family members, and guests. This is another way in which Messiah Creates Christ-Centered Community. Following the church service, a committal service at the graveside is common practice.

FUNERAL PRE-PLANNING WORKSHEET

Today's Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Date & Place of Birth: _____ Baptized Date & Place: _____

Parent's Names (Mother's maiden name): _____

Siblings: _____

Schools/Colleges attended (degrees): _____

Military Service: _____

Work History: _____

Recognitions & Awards: _____

Spouse: _____ Years married: _____

Children: _____

Grandchildren: _____

Church Involvement: _____

Previous Churches Attended: _____

Mortuary Preferred: _____

Cemetery: _____ Disposition of Remain: Burial ____ Cremation ____

Funeral Location Preferred: The Church ____ The Mortuary ____ Graveside only ____

Communion Requested: Yes ____ No ____ Military Rites: _____

Scripture Passages important to you: (see attached sheet for often used choices...not limited to these)

Old Testament Reading: _____

Psalm: _____

New Testament Reading: _____

Hymns or music that express your faith: (see attached sheet for often used choices...not limited to these)

Memorial Gift Suggestions: _____

Commonly Used Readings for Funerals

You may choose one Old Testament reading:

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 (For everything there is a season)
- Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death for ever)
- Isaiah 43:1-3a (Restoration and protection promised)
- 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)
- Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (The Valley of Dry Bones)

You may choose one Psalm to be sung by the congregation:

- Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd)
- Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation)
- Psalm 42:1-7 (As a deer longs for flowing streams)
- Psalm 46:1-7 (God is our refuge and strength)
- Psalm 103 (Bless the Lord, O my soul)
- Psalm 118 (A Psalm of Victory)
- Psalm 121 (I lift up my eyes to the hills)
- Psalm 130 (Out of the depths I cry to you)
- Psalm 139:1-14 (O Lord, you have searched me and known me)

You may choose one New Testament reading:

- Romans 5:1-11 (We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ)
- Romans 5:17-21 (Justification through Christ leads to eternal life)
- Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- Romans 14:7-9 (We live to the Lord, we die to the Lord)
- 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 Peter 1:3-9 (A Living Hope)
- 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)

Typically the Pastor chooses the Gospel Reading.

Commonly Used Hymns for Funerals

- Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (ELW 377)
- This Joyful Eastertide (ELW 391)
- Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove (ELW 404)
- For All the Saints (ELW 422)
- We Know That Christ Is Raised (ELW 449)
- I Am the Bread of Life (ELW 485)
- The King of Love My Shepherd Is (ELW 502)
- A Mighty Fortress (ELW 504)
- O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW 542)
- Thy Holy Wings (ELW 613)
- My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 597)
- Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)
- I Know that My Redeemer Lives (ELW 619)
- Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (ELW 623)
- Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)
- Abide with Me (ELW 629)
- In Heaven Above (ELW 630)
- Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)
- O God, Our Help in Ages Past (ELW 632)
- Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)
- What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)
- You Are the Way (ELW 758)
- My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW 759)
- Lord of All Hopefulness (ELW 765)
- Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me (ELW 767)
- If You But Trust in God to Guide You (ELW 769)
- Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)
- Jesus, Priceless Treasure (ELW 775)
- The Lord's My Shepherd (ELW 778)
- Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)
- Children of the Heavenly Father (ELW 781)
- On Eagle's Wings (ELW 787)
- Day by Day (ELW 790)
- I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815)
- This Is My Father's World (ELW 824)
- Beautiful Savior (ELW 838)
- How Great Thou Art (ELW 856)

Other (as available in Lutheran hymnals): _____

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