

# Funeral Planning Guide

## Salem Lutheran Church

### Hitterdal, MN

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*At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth. At the funeral we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing.*

*This service may be used when the body or ashes are present, or it may be adapted for use as a memorial service. A remembrance and expression of thanksgiving for the life of the deceased may take place after the prayer of the day or before the commendation.*

#### **GATHERING**

*The minister addresses the assembly using one of these paragraphs. **Please Choose 1.***

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 *sister/brother name*, to give thanks for *her/his* life, to commend *her/him* to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

*or*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*A thanksgiving for baptism follows. **Please Choose 1.***

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

*or*

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

*The presiding minister leads this acclamation.*

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

**We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

**We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister prays the prayer of the day. Please Choose 1.*

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our *sister/brother, name*. We thank you for giving *her/him* 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, so that we may 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.**

*or*

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*or (at the death of a child)*

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust name to your never-failing care and love. Comfort us as we bear the pain of her/his death, and receive us all into your everlasting arms, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **READING OF THE OBITUARY**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS – Choose 1 in each category**

### **First Reading**

- Job 19:23-27a  
*I know my Redeemer lives*
- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
*For everything there is a season*
- Isaiah 25:6-9  
*God will swallow up death*
- Isaiah 40:1, 6-11  
*God will gather the lambs*
- Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31  
*Comfort my people, says your God*
- Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7  
*I have called you by name*
- Isaiah 43:1-3a, 18-19  
*I am about to do a new thing*
- Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13  
*Everyone who thirsts, come*
- Isaiah 61:1-3  
*The spirit of the LORD God is upon me*
- Isaiah 65:17-20, 23-25  
*A new heaven and a new earth*
- Isaiah 66:10-14  
*As a mother comforts her child*
- Jeremiah 31:8-13  
*I will turn their mourning into joy*
- Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33  
*The steadfast love of the LORD*

### **Psalms**

- Psalm 23  
*The LORD is my shepherd*
- Psalm 42:1-5  
*As a deer longs for flowing streams*
- Psalm 46:1-7  
*God is our refuge and strength*
- Psalm 90  
*Our dwelling place in all generations*
- Psalm 118  
*God's steadfast love endures forever*
- Psalm 121  
*I lift up my eyes to the hills*
- Psalm 130  
*Out of the depths I cry to you*
- Psalm 139:7-12  
*The gracious presence of the LORD*
- Psalm 142:1-6  
*I cry to the LORD with my voice*
- Psalm 143  
*LORD, hear my prayer*

## Second Reading

- Romans 5:1-11  
*Peace with God through Christ*
- Romans 8:31-35, 37-39  
*Who will separate us from Christ's love?*
- Romans 14:7-9  
*We are the Lord's*
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-26  
*Christ, the first fruits, has been raised*
- 2 Corinthians 4:6-12, 16-18  
*Treasure in clay jars*
- Hebrews 12:1-2  
*Surrounded by a cloud of witnesses*
- 1 Peter 1:3-9  
*A living hope through Jesus' resurrection*
- 1 John 3:1-2  
*See what love the Father has given us*
- Revelation 7:9-17  
*God will wipe away every tear*
- Revelation 21:2-7  
*I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem*
- Revelation 22:1-5  
*The Lord God will be their light*

## Gospel

- Matthew 5:1-10  
*Blessed are those who mourn*
- Matthew 11:25-30  
*I will give you rest*
- Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14  
*A child is the greatest in the kingdom*
- Mark 10:13-16  
*Let the little children come*
- Mark 16:1-7  
*The resurrection of Christ*
- Luke 24:1-9  
*The resurrection of Christ*
- John 1:1-5, 9-14  
*The light shines in the darkness*
- John 3:16-21  
*For God so loved the world*
- John 6:37-40  
*I will raise them up on the last day*
- John 10:11-16  
*I am the good shepherd*
- John 11:21-27  
*I am the resurrection and the life*
- John 14:1-6  
*I prepare a place for you*
- John 14:25-27  
*Peace I leave with you*

## **SERMON**

## **CREED**

*The Apostles' Creed is spoken.*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers of intercession, prepared or adapted for the occasion, follow.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*A service with communion continues with the peace. Following the prayer after communion, the service continues with the commendation.*

**OR**

*A service without communion continues as follows.*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom  
come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver  
us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the  
glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in  
heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against  
us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMENDATION

*The ministers take their places at the coffin. The presiding minister leads the commendation.*

Let us commend *name* to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant *name*. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *her/him* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**Amen.**

*If the committal occurs at another time, a blessing may precede these words of sending.*

Let us go forth in peace,

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A procession may form and leave the church, the ministers leading.*

## COMMITTAL

*The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During or at the conclusion of the procession, words of comfort may include any of the following or other appropriate readings. An assisting minister or cantor may sing psalms or hymns.*

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## **FUNERAL HYMN SUGGESTIONS**

### **From Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

#504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God  
#629 Abide with Me  
#779 Amazing Grace  
#838 Beautiful Savior  
#781 Children of the Heavenly Father  
#422 For all the saints  
#618 Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer  
#764 Have no Fear little Flock  
#856 How Great Thou Art  
#619 I know that my Redeemer Lives  
#660 Lift High the Cross  
#631 Love Diving, All Loves Excelling  
#759 My Faith looks up to Thee  
#597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less  
#367 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resound  
#632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past  
#786 O Holy Spirit, enter in  
#537 On Our Way rejoicing  
#623 Rock of Ages  
#502 The King of Love my Shepherd Is  
#376 Thine is the Glory  
#742 What a Friend we have in Jesus  
#377 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!  
#638 Blessed Assurance  
#728 Blest Are They  
#732 Borning Cry  
#733 Great is Thy Faithfulness

#612 Healer of our every Ill  
#616 Jesus Remember Me  
#447 O blessed spring  
#760 O Christ the Same  
#773 Precious Lord take my hand  
#613 Thy Holy Wings  
#635 We walk by faith and not by sight  
#787 You Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord  
#787 On Eagles Wings

### **From Hymns for the Family of God**

#606 He Leadeth Me: Oh, Blessed Thought!  
#608 Guide Me, O Thou  
#131 In Heaven Above  
#288 Jesus Lives, and so shall I  
#35 Near to the Heart  
#404 O love that will not  
#110 Thank God for the promise  
#588 In the Garden