

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Funeral Guide

“The Rite of Christian Burial”

INTRODUCTION

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This funeral guide is intended to help families who are presently dealing with a funeral, so that they might be better prepared as they meet with the Pastor to design the funeral service.

It is helpful to remember that a funeral is, first and foremost, a worship service. And in a worship service, the focus is on our Lord and His grace. It is in this context that we recall the deceased.

First Steps

After you have contacted the Church, the Pastor will meet with the family to discuss the overall plan for the service.

Planning the Service

- **Hymns** - Are there hymns that were particularly meaningful to the deceased or to the family? Hymns and music in the Funeral Service should reflect Christian confidence, trust, and hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting (please see section on hymns for examples). A funeral service normally has three or four hymns, one at the beginning and at the end of the service, and one or two in the middle, usually before and after the sermon.
- **Readings** - Did the deceased have a favorite scripture reading? There is a first reading usually from the Old Testament, an Epistle reading and a Gospel reading. (please see section on readings for examples).
- **Eulogy** - A eulogy is not a required component of the Lutheran funeral service and in fact is not encouraged. An obituary may be read which focuses on the Gospel promise of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ our Lord, and not on the good deeds of the deceased. However, if you wish to have a eulogy we ask that it be presented to the Pastor the day prior to the funeral to ensure that it is appropriate at a worship service. The eulogy may be read by the Pastor, a family member or other individual and should be presented prior to the Invocation. You might also consider presenting it during the luncheon after the service.
- A **Solo** may be part of the worship service. Please speak with the Pastor as to where it should be placed in the service as well as the choice of music and who will be performing the solo.
- **Bulletin** - A bulletin will be provided for the service detailing the Funeral Service as outlined in the Lutheran Service Book beginning on Page 278 as well as any special requests that need to be printed. There is no cost to family for this bulletin. The Pastor and the church secretary will coordinate the bulletin with the family, with regard to the selection of bulletin stock, the inclusion of the names of pallbearers, where the interment will take place, the luncheon and a note about memorials.

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- **Pictures:** You may choose to place a picture of the deceased or memorabilia at the front of the church or in the Narthex.
- **Ceremonies or tributes** of social and other societies are discouraged. If the family wants an honour guard, or a service organizations presence at the funeral, it should be discussed with Pastor.
- **Music for the Service:** The church office will secure an organist or you may suggest another option. The Contemporary Band may be available upon request.

Interment

The Interment usually immediately follows the service. Other options for interment times may be discussed with the Pastor. Please note that as per Saskatchewan government legislation the scattering of ashes must be in an area designated by the province as a cemetery.

Funeral Luncheon

To arrange a funeral luncheon in St. Peter's Fellowship Hall please contact the Church office at 634-2024 or Ruth Godman at 634-5556.

Option 1:	\$3.50/person	Sandwiches, pickles, dainties, coffee, tea & juice
Option 2:	\$3.50/person	Fruit Bread & cheese, coffee, tea & juice
Option 3:	\$2.50/person	Dainties, coffee, tea & juice (Families may supply their own meat, cheese, pickles and buns with this option)

Things to consider:

- Do you desire a head table (and for how many people)?
- Do any members of your family have any food allergies?
- How many people do you estimate will attend the luncheon?

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Suggested Readings

Old Testament readings

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Remember your creator

1For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
2a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
4a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Job 19:21-27 Job confesses his faith in the resurrection

21Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me!
22Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?
23“Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
24Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever!
25For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
26And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,
27whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!”

Isaiah 25:6-9 The Lord God will swallow up death forever

6On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
7And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.
8He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.
9It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10 To comfort all who mourn

1The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

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to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
2to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;
3to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
10I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Lamentations 3:22-33 His compassions never fail

22The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
23they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
24“The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”
25The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.
26It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.
27It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.
28Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him;
29let him put his mouth in the dust— there may yet be hope;
30let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.
31For the Lord will not cast off forever,
32but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
33for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

Additional Old Testament Readings

2 Samuel 12:15B-23	King David looks to the resurrection of his son
1 Kings 17:17-24	Elijah raises the widow's son
2 Kings 4:18-37	Elisha raises the Shunammite's son
Job 5:6-7, 17-26	Job's friend speaks of God's wounding and healing

Psalms

Psalm 23 I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

1The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
3He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
4Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

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6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 25:1-5, 15-20 Guard my soul and deliver me

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

15 My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.

18 Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

19 Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.

20 Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

Psalm 42 Let them bring me to your holy hill

1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

4 These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation

6 and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

7 Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.

8 By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

10 As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Psalm 65:1-8 Blessed is the one you choose and bring near

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.

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2O you who hears prayer, to you shall all flesh come.
3When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.
4Blessèd is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!
5By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;
6the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;
7who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,
8so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

Psalm 118:1-21 This is the gate of the Lord

1Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!
2Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures for- ever."
3Let the house of Aaron say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
4Let those who fear the LORD say, "His steadfast love endures forever."
5Out of my distress I called on the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me free.
6The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
7The LORD is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
8It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.
9It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.
10All nations surrounded me; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
11They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
12They surrounded me like bees; they went out like a fire among thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them off!
13I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me.
14The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.
15Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
16the right hand of the LORD exalts, the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!"
17I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.
18The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me o- ver to death.
19Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
20This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
21I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

Psalm 121 My help comes from the Lord

1I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?
2My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
3He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
4Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
5The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

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6The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

8The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord

1Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

2O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

3If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

4But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

5I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

6my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

7O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

8And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Additional Psalms

Psalm 46

The Lord of hosts is with us

Psalm 90

Satisfy us with your steadfast love

Psalm 139

When I awake I am still with you

Psalm 146

I will praise the Lord as long as I live

Epistle readings

Romans 8:31-39 Nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ

31What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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1 Corinthians 15:20-26 In Christ all will be made alive

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. 23But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Death is swallowed up in victory

51Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 The dead in Christ will rise first

13But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

1 Peter 1:3-9 A living hope through the resurrection of Christ

3Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be

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revealed in the last time. 6In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1John 3:1-2 We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is

1See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

Revelation 7:9-17 Standing before the throne in front of the Lamb

9After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

13Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" 14I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15"Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.

16They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.

17For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 14:13 Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

13And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

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Revelation 21:1-7 A new heaven and a new earth

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

5And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." 6And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

7The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

Additional Epistle readings

Romans 6:3-10

Romans 14:7-9

Colossians 3:1-4

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection

Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord

You have been raised with Christ

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race

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Gospel readings

Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are you ...

1 Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Mark 10:13-16 (for children) Little children are brought to Jesus

13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Luke 2:25-32 Lord, let your servant go in peace

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation

31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and for glory to your people Israel."

John 5:24-30 He has passed over from death to life

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24Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

25“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

30“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

John 6:27-40 I will raise him up at the last day

27Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” 28Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” 29Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” 32Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 10:11-16 I am the Good Shepherd

11I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 16And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 14:1-6 I am the way, and the truth, and the life

1[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

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2In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4And you know the way to where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Other Gospel readings

Matthew 11:25-30
John 3:16-18
Luke 23:33, 39-43
John 11:17-27

Rest for the weary
God so loved the world
Today you will be with me in paradise
I am the resurrection and the life

Suggested Hymns

When families meet with the Pastor, they are asked to suggest hymns for the worship service. Here are some hymns that are often used in funerals.

Traditional Hymns from the Lutheran Service Book

657 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
 A sword and shield victorious;
 He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
 And wins salvation glorious.
 The old satanic foe
 Has sworn to work us woe.
 With craft and dreadful might
 He arms himself to fight.
 On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his
 might.
 We would be lost, rejected.
 But now a champion comes to fight,
 Whom God Himself elected.
 You ask who this may be?
 The Lord of hosts is He,
 Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
 God's only Son, adored.
 He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
 All threat'ning to devour us,
 We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
 They cannot overpower us.
 Let this world's tyrant rage;
 In battle we'll engage.
 His might is doomed to fail;
 God's judgment must prevail!
 One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
 No thanks to foes, who fear it;
 For God Himself fights by our side
 With weapons of the Spirit.
 Were they to take our house,
 Goods, honor, child, or spouse,
 Though life be wrenched away,
 They cannot win the day.
 The Kingdom's ours forever!

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878 Abide with Me

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with
me.
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the
skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain
shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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442 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

- ref All glory, laud, and honor
To You, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring.
- 1 You are the King of Israel
And David's royal Son,
Now in the Lord's name coming,
Our King and Blessèd One. Refrain
- 2 The company of angels
Is praising You on high,
And we with all creation
In chorus make reply. Refrain

- 3 The multitude of pilgrims
With palms before You went;
Our praise and prayer and anthems
Before You we present. Refrain
- 4 To You before Your passion
They sang their hymns of praise;
To You, now high exalted,
Our melody we raise. Refrain
- 5 As You received their praises,
Accept the prayers we bring,
O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Our good and gracious King. Refrain

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744 Amazing Grace

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the
sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand
years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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537 Beautiful Savior

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

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2 Fair are the meadows,
 Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
 Jesus is fairer,
 Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
 Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
 Jesus shines brighter,
 Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
 Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
 Glory and honor,
 Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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922 Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 Go, My children, with My blessing,
 Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
 You are My own.
 In My love's baptismal river
 I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing—
 You are My own.

2 Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you,
 What I can cure.
 Here you heard My dear Son's story;
 Here you touched Him, saw His
glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven,
 At peace and pure.

3 Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Closer to Me;
Grow in love and love by serving,
 Joyful and free.
 Here My Spirit's power filled you;
 Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished,
 Joyful and free.

5 In this union I have joined you
 Husband and wife,

Now, My children, live together
 As heirs of life:
 Each the other's gladness sharing,
 Each the other's burdens bearing,
Now, My children, live together
 As heirs of life.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
 And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you
 And give you peace:
 I the Lord will be your Father,
 Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you
 And give you peace.

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918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
 Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
 Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
 Feed me till I want no more;
 Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
 Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
 Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
 Be Thou still my strength and shield;
 Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
 Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
 I will ever give to Thee;
 I will ever give to Thee.

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801 How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome
wonder
 Consider all the works Thy hand hath
made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty

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thunder,
 Thy pow'r throughout the universe
 displayed; Refrain.

ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to
 Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou
 art!
 Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to
 Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou
 art!

2 When through the woods and forest
 glades I wander,
 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the
 trees;
 When I look down from lofty mountain
 grandeur
 And hear the brook and feel the
 gentle breeze; Refrain.

3 But when I think that God, His Son not
 sparing,
 Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it
 in—
 That on the cross my burden gladly
 bearing
 He bled and died to take away my sin;
 Refrain.

4 When Christ shall come with shout of
 acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill
 my heart!
 Then I shall bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim: "My God, how
 great Thou art!"

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524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 In a believer's ear!
 It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 And drives away our fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
 And calms the heart's unrest;
 'Tis manna to the hungry soul
 And to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
 My shield and hiding place;
 My never-failing treasury filled
 With boundless stores of grace.

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
 My Prophet, Priest, and King,
 My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
 Accept the praise I bring.

5 How weak the effort of my heart,
 How cold my warmest thought!
 But when I see Thee as Thou art,
 I'll praise Thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
 With ev'ry fleeting breath;
 And may the music of Thy name
 Refresh my soul in death!

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461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
 What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
 He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my ever-living head.

2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
 He lives eternally to save;
 He lives all-glorious in the sky;
 He lives exalted there on high.

3 He lives to bless me with His love;
 He lives to plead for me above;
 He lives my hungry soul to feed;
 He lives to help in time of need.

4 He lives to grant me rich supply;
 He lives to guide me with His eye;
 He lives to comfort me when faint;
 He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;

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Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!
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750 If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee
 And hope in Him through all thy
 ways,
 He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide
 thee,
 And bear thee through the evil days.
 Who trusts in God's unchanging love
 Builds on the rock that naught can
 move.

2 What can these anxious cares avail thee,
 These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
 What can it help if thou bewail thee
 O'er each dark moment as it flies?
 Our cross and trials do but press
 The heavier for our bitterness.

3 Be patient and await His leisure
 In cheerful hope, with heart content
 To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
 And His discerning love hath sent,
 Nor doubt our inmost wants are known
 To Him who chose us for His own.

4 God knows full well when times of
 gladness
 Shall be the needful thing for thee.
 When He has tried thy soul with sadness
 And from all guile has found thee
 free,
 He comes to thee all unaware
 And makes thee own His loving care.

5 Nor think amid the fiery trial
 That God hath cast thee off unheard,
 That he whose hopes meet no denial
 Must surely be of God preferred.
 Time passes and much change doth
 bring
 And sets a bound to ev'rything.

6 All are alike before the Highest;
 'Tis easy for our God, we know,
 To raise thee up, though low thou liest,
 To make the rich man poor and low.
 True wonders still by Him are wrought
 Who setteth up and brings to naught.

7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways
 unswerving,

Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though
undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

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427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
 Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
 All the light of sacred story
 Gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
 Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
 Never shall the cross forsake me;
 Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
 Light and love upon my way,
 From the cross the radiance streaming
 Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
 By the cross are sanctified;
 Peace is there that knows no measure,
 Joys that through all time abide.

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490 Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won

1 Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
 Death no longer can appall me;
 Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
 From the grave will Christ recall me.
 Brighter scenes will then commence;
 This shall be my confidence.

2 Jesus lives! To Him the throne
 High above all things is given.
 I shall go where He is gone,
 Live and reign with Him in heaven.
 God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
 This shall be my confidence.

3 Jesus lives! For me He died,
 Hence will I, to Jesus living,
 Pure in heart and act abide,
 Praise to Him and glory giving.
 All I need God will dispense;
 This shall be my confidence.

4 Jesus lives! I know full well
 Nothing me from Him shall sever.
 Neither death nor pow'rs of hell

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Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

5 Jesus lives! And now is death
 But the gate of life immortal;
 This shall calm my trembling breath
 When I pass its gloomy portal.
 Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
 Jesus is my confidence!

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570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, without one plea
 But that Thy blood was shed for me
 And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 Thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
 With many a conflict, many a doubt,
 Fightings and fears within, without,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
 Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
 Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
 Follow His example pure,
 Through a world that would deceive us
 And to sin our spirits lure.
 Onward in His footsteps treading,
 Pilgrims here, our home above,
 Full of faith and hope and love,

Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
 And with patience bear our cross.
 Joy will follow all our sadness;
 Where He is, there is no loss.
 Though today we sow no laughter,
 We shall reap celestial joy;
 All discomforts that annoy
 Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
 Jesus, here I share Your woe;
 Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
 Since by death He conquered death,
 He will free us from destruction,
 Give to us immortal breath.
 Let us mortify all passion
 That would lead us into sin;
 And the grave that shuts us in
 Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
 Jesus, here with You I die,
 There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
 He has risen from the dead
 That to life we may awaken.
 Jesus, You are now our head.
 We are Your own living members;
 Where You live, there we shall be
 In Your presence constantly,
 Living there with You forever.
 Jesus, let me faithful be,
 Life eternal grant to me.

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837 Lift High the Cross

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ
 proclaim
 Till all the world adore His sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our
 Captain trod,
 Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of
 God. Refrain

2 Led on their way by this triumphant
 sign,
 The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks
 combine. Refrain

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3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who
died. Refrain

4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to
Thee. Refrain

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death
and hell. Refrain

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!
Refrain

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722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
 Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
 From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
 I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
 And lead the way.

2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
 I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
 Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
 I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding,
 In peace I go.

3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
 And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
 My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
 O blessèd Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
 Unto the end.

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700 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
 Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
 All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,

Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
 Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
 Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
 Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
 Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
 Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
 Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
 Glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish then Thy new creation,
 Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
 Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
 Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
 Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

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575 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain

ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain

3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

4 When He shall come with trumpet
sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,

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Redeemed to stand before His throne!
Refrain

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790 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the
 King of creation!
 O my soul, praise Him, for He is your
 health and salvation!
 Let all who hear
 Now to His temple draw near,
 Joining in glad adoration!
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is
 wondrously reigning
 And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting,
 sustaining.
 Have you not seen
 All that is needful has been
 Sent by His gracious ordaining?
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully,
 wondrously, made you,
 Health has bestowed and, when
 heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
 What need or grief
 Ever has failed of relief?
 Wings of His mercy did shade you.
- 4 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper
 your work and defend you;
 Surely His goodness and mercy shall
 daily attend you.
 Ponder anew
 What the Almighty can do
 As with His love He befriends you.
- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me
 adore Him!
 All that has life and breath, come now
 with praises before Him!
 Let the Amen
 Sound from His people again;
 Gladly forever adore Him!

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761 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
 Let me hide myself in Thee;
 Let the water and the blood,
 From Thy riven side which flowed,
 Be of sin the double cure:
 Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

- 2 Not the labors of my hands
 Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
 Could my zeal no respite know,
 Could my tears forever flow,
 All for sin could not atone;
 Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
 Simply to Thy cross I cling.
 Naked, come to Thee for dress;
 Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
 Foul, I to the fountain fly;
 Wash me, Savior, or I die.

- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
 When mine eyelids close in death,
 When I soar to worlds unknown,
 See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
 Let me hide myself in Thee.

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709 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
 Whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am His
 And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,
 My ransomed soul He leadeth
 And, where the verdant pastures grow,
 With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
 But yet in love He sought me
 And on His shoulder gently laid
 And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
 With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,
 Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
 Thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;
 And, oh, what transport of delight
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 Thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
 Within Thy house forever!

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710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

- 1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
 He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
 The quiet waters by.
- 2 My soul He doth restore again
 And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
 E'en for His own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
 Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
 And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnishèd
 In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
 And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life
 Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
 My dwelling place shall be.

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770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
 All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
 Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry
 Ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
 Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
 Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
 Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

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702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

- 1 My faith looks up to Thee,
 Thou Lamb of Calvary,
 Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray;
 Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
 Be wholly Thine!
- 2 May Thy rich grace impart
 Strength to my fainting heart;
 My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
 Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
 A living fire!
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread
 And griefs around me spread,
 Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
 Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
 From Thee aside.
- 4 When ends life's transient dream,
 When death's cold, sullen stream
 Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
 Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
 A ransomed soul!

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809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my
 Father;
 There is no shadow of turning with
 Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions,
 they fail not;
 As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt
 be. Refrain
- ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy
 faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I
 see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath

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provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain

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Additional Hymns

Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon;
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Chorus
Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives;
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I am weak, but Thou art strong;

Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Chorus

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Oh, How He Loves You and Me

Oh, how He loves you and me
Oh, how He loves you and me
He gave His life, what more could He give?
Oh how He loves you
Oh, how He loves me;
Oh, how He loves you and me.

Jesus to Calv'ry did go,
His love for sinners to show.
What He did there, brought hope from despair.
Oh how He loves you
Oh, how He loves me;
Oh, how He loves you and me.

The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Chorus

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross.
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it someday for a crown

On that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary

In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;

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For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross, I will ever be true,

Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

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THE SERVICE (as taken from the Lutheran Service Book beginning on Page 278)

Please stand as the family enters

Opening Hymn

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The casket may be covered with a funeral pall.

Remembrance of Baptism

P In Holy Baptism [name] was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all [his/her] sin. St. Paul says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.**

Introit...

Kyrie *LSB 278*

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to [name] and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

First Reading...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Psalm...

Epistle...

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse

- A** Alleluia, alleluia. *
Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;
- C** **to Him be glory and power forever. ***
Alleluia.

Holy Gospel...

- P** The Holy Gospel according to...
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

LSB 279

- P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Sit

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Hymn of the Day

Sermon

Kneel/Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.
- P** Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to the family of [name] and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Receive our thanks for [name] and for all the blessings You bestowed on [him/her] in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with [him/her] we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 280

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P Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 281

A "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

Concluding Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P May God the Father, who created this body; may God the Son, who by His blood redeemed this body; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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Benedicamus and Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace,

C **in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

Acknowledgments

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book

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