

Name:

Date:

Funeral Liturgy Planning Form

It is important to remember when planning the funeral liturgy that 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.

The shape of the liturgy is adaptable to the location, the needs of the family, the wishes of the deceased and the context of death. Therefore, the following information is meant as a guide for planning with the understanding that the liturgy can be adapted to the needs of family.

INTRODUCTION	Option _____	
REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM	Yes - Option _____	No
GATHERING PROCESSION	Option _____ (Hymn # _____)	
PRAYER OF THE DAY	Option _____	
FIRST LESSON	Yes-Option _____	No
PSALM	Yes-Option _____	No
SECOND LESSON	Yes-Option _____	No
VERSE	Yes-Option _____	No
GOSPEL	Option _____	
SERMON		
HYMN OF THE DAY	Option _____ (Hymn # _____)	
APOSTLES' CREED	Yes	No
PRAYERS	Ending: Option A	or Option B
HOLY COMMUNION	Yes	No
LORD'S PRAYER		
COMMENDATION		
SENDING PROCESSION	Option _____ (Hymn # _____)	
COMMITTAL	<i>(done at the place of interment, circle selected options on those pages)</i>	

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Funeral Liturgy Options

INTRODUCTION

The ministers may meet the coffin and the bereaved at the entrance to the church. The assembly stands and faces them. The presiding minister may address the assembly using one or both of these paragraphs, or in similar words.

OPTION A: Welcome in the name of Jesus

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.

OPTION B: Blessed be the God and Father

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 may follow. As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall may be placed on the coffin by family members, pallbearers, or other assisting ministers. The minister or a representative of the congregation may say:

OPTION A: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus

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.

OPTION B: All who are baptized into Christ

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.

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.

GATHERING PROCESSION

Stand

The procession forms and enters the church, the ministers preceding the coffin to the front of the church. A hymn may be sung (or a reading may be offered if the service is at the graveside).

OPTION A: An appropriate hymn (see appendix for some suggestions)

OPTION B: You have been our dwelling place in all generations (Psalm 90)

OPTION C: God's steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 118)

OPTION D: Out of the depths I cry to you (Psalm 130)

OPTION E: The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23)

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

OPTION A: O God of grace and glory

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.

OPTION B: Almighty God, source of all mercy

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with those who mourn, especially the family and friends of name, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OPTION C: Almighty God, those who die in the Lord

Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. May we, with name and all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OPTION D: O God, your days are without end

O God, your days are without end and your mercies cannot be counted. Make us aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life, so that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered with name, to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of your Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in peace with all humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OPTION E: At the burial of a child

O God our Father, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Give us grace, we pray, that we may entrust name to your never-failing care and love, and bring us all to your heavenly kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A remembrance and expression of thanksgiving for the life of the deceased may be included here or before the commendation by family or friends.

FIRST LESSON

OPTION A: I know that my Redeemer lives (Job 19:23-27a)

OPTION B: God will swallow up death forever (Isaiah 25:6-9)

OPTION C: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me (Isaiah 61:1-3)

OPTION D: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases (Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33)

OPTION E: Appropriate non-Biblical material such as poetry can be included before the reading of Scripture.

PSALM

OPTION A: As a deer longs for flowing streams (Psalm 42:1-7)

OPTION B: God is our refuge and strength (Psalm 46:1-7)

OPTION C: I lift up my eyes to the hills (Psalm 121)

OPTION D: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications (Psalm 143)

OPTION E: The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23) –if it is not used in the gathering or sending processions.

SECOND LESSON

OPTION A: *Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1-11)*

OPTION B: *One man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all (Romans 5:17-21)*

OPTION C: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:31-35, 37-39)*

OPTION D: *Christ, the firstfruits, has been raised from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:12-26)*

OPTION E: *A living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3-9)*

OPTION F: *God will wipe away every tear (Revelation 7:9-17)*

OPTION G: *I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2-7)*

OPTION H: *See what love the Father has given us (1 John 3:1-2) (especially for the death of a child)*

OPTION I: *Death no longer has dominion over Christ (Romans 6:3-9)*

VERSE

OPTION A: *Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead*

Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead; to him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen. Alleluia.

OPTION B: *If we have died with Christ (Lent)*

If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him; if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with him.

OPTION C: *(sung) Lord to whom shall we go?*

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

OPTION A: *Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour (Matthew 25:1-13)*

OPTION B: *The Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour (Luke 12:35-40)*

OPTION C: *The hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice (John 5:24-29)*

OPTION D: *I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:21-27)*

OPTION E: *In my Father's house are many rooms (John 14:1-6)*

OPTION F: *Come to me, all you who are weary (Matthew 11:25-30) (especially at the death of a child)*

OPTION G: *I will raise them up on the last day (John 6:37-40) (death of a child)*

OPTION H: *A favorite Gospel passage of the deceased could also be used.*

SERMON

Sit

The Sermon follows the reading of the Gospel.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Stand

A hymn is sung. (See appendix for some suggestions.)

CREED

The Apostles' Creed may be said.

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty...

PRAYERS

The prayers of intercession, prepared or adapted for the occasion, may include the following or similar petitions. An assisting minister may lead the prayers.

Let us pray.... Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in 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 your peace. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. Lord in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to all who mourn 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,
hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us, we pray, 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. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant us grace to entrust [*name*] to your never-failing love which sustained *him/her* in this life. Receive *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, and remember *him/her* according to the favor you bear for your people. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Concluding Petition:

OPTION A: God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has 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 shall 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.

Amen

OPTION B: God, the generations rise and pass away before you

God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you.... Give us in time our portion with those who have trusted in you and have striven to do your holy will. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen

*When Holy Communion is celebrated, the service continues with the **PEACE**: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** The Commendation then follows the post-communion canticle ("Lord, now you let your servant...") and/or post-communion prayer.*

When there is no Communion, the service continues with the Lord's Prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

OPTION A: Our Father in heaven

Our Father in heaven...

OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven

Our Father, who art in heaven...

PRAYER OF COMMENDATION

The ministers take their places at the coffin.

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 *him/her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen

SENDING PROCESSION

Stand

The procession forms and leaves the church, the ministers preceding the coffin.

As the procession leaves the church, a psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung. The canticle, "Lord, now you let your servant...", may be sung if it has not been sung in the Holy Communion.

OPTION A: An appropriate hymn (see appendix for some suggestions)

OPTION B: You have been our dwelling place in all generations (Psalm 90)

OPTION C: God's steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 118)

OPTION D: Out of the depths I cry to you (Psalm 130)

COMMITTAL

The ministers precede the coffin to the place of interment. During the procession, one or more of these verses may be sung or said.

I called to the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered by setting me free.

It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in flesh. It is better to rely on the Lord than to put any trust in rulers.

I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, but the Lord came to my help.

There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. "This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter." (Psalm 118:5, 8-9, 13, 15-17, 19-20)

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God. (Job 19:25-26)

None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. (Romans 14:7-8)

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord; "he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26a)

When all have arrived at the place of burial, the following prayer may be said.

Let us pray.

Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our *sister/brother name*, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise *her/him* up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

One of the following lessons may be read.

OPTION A: The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified (John 12:23-26)

And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him." (John 12:23-26)

OPTION B: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in 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. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When 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 a victory." "O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

OPTION C: But our commonwealth is in heaven (Philippians 3:20-21)

But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20-21)

The coffin is lowered into the grave or placed in its resting place. Earth may be cast on the coffin as the minister says:

OPTION A: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our *brother/sister*, [name], and we commit *his/her* body to *the ground/the deep/the elements/its resting place*; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless *him/her* and keep *him/her*. The Lord makes his face shine on *him/her* and be gracious to *him/her*. The Lord look upon *him/her* with favor and give *him/her* + peace.

OPTION B: Since almighty God has called

Since almighty God has called our *brother/sister*, [name], from this life to himself, we commit *his/her* body to *the earth from which it was made/the deep/the elements/its resting place*. Christ was the first to rise from the dead, and we know that he will raise up our mortal bodies to be like his in glory. We commend our *brother/sister* to the Lord: May the Lord receive *him/her* into his peace and raise *him/her* up on the last day.

Amen

Then may be said:

Rest eternal grant *him/her*, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon *him/her*.

One of the following prayers may be said.

OPTION A: O Lord, support us

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OPTION B: Merciful God, you heal the broken

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears. In Christ's rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with our *sister/brother* name. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

OPTION A: Our Father in heaven

Our Father in heaven...

OPTION B: Our Father, who art in heaven

Our Father, who art in heaven...

The assembly is blessed and sent forth.

OPTION A: The God of peace

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

OPTION B: Almighty God

Almighty God, Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go in peace.

Appendix: Some Suggested Hymns for Funerals

LBW 174/ELW 422 For All the Saints (8 verses--may want to omit some if chosen)
LBW 293/ELW 597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
LBW 296/ELW 592 Just As I am Without One Plea
LBW 320/ELW 632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past
LBW 325/ELW 750 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart
LBW 327/ELW 623 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
LBW 333/ELW 767 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (appropriate when Psalm 23 is used)
LBW 341/ELW 624 Jesus, Still Lead On
LBW 352/ELW 619 I know that My Redeemer Lives! (appropriate when Job is used as a reading)
LBW 377/ELW 660 Lift High the Cross
LBW 390/ELW 661 I Love to Tell the Story
LBW 439/ELW 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
LBW 474/ELW 781 Children of the Heavenly Father
LBW 492/ELW 818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You
LBW 518/ELW 838 Beautiful Savior
LBW 532/ELW 856 How Great thou Art

WOV 702/ELW 485 I am the Bread of Life (Especially if Holy Communion is celebrated)
WOV 731/ELW 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
WOV 746/ELW 790 Day by Day
WOV 776/ELW 793 Be Thou My Vision
WOV 777/ELW 770 Give Me Jesus (also known as "In the Morning When I Rise")
WOV 778/ELW 760 O Christ the Same
WOV 779/ELW 787 On Eagle's Wings (You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord)

ELW 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is (a sung arrangement of Psalm 23)
ELW 613 Thy Holy Wings
ELW 697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee
ELW 732 I Was There to Hear Your Morning Cry
ELW 774 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
ELW 778 The Lord's My Shepherd (a sung arrangement of Psalm 23)
ELW 779 Amazing Grace (includes "when we've been there ten thousand years...")
ELW 780 Shepherd Me O God (a sung arrangement of Psalm 23, soloist required)
ELW 785 When Peace Like a River (also known as "It is Well With My Soul")
ELW 789 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
ELW 878 Soli Deo Gloria
ELW 880 O God Beyond All Praising

Other favorite hymns of the deceased

None religious songs are not usually used during the funeral, however, they can be played at other times.