

# Funeral Customary

## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

### Bryan, Texas

St. Andrew's Church will assist you in making decisions for a beautiful and meaningful funeral service. All arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with the officiating priest. In the Episcopal Church, a funeral is a celebration of resurrection.

Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church. The service should be held at a time when the congregation has the opportunity to be present. The following pages are designed to facilitate the planning of a funeral during difficult times. Copies of your plans may be kept at the parish office at your request.

"Funeral" refers to a service with a casket or urn present. "Memorial services" use an identical worship format without a casket or urn. This customary is intended to provide guidance for funerals and memorial services. Please refer to this document while completing the planning form. The Rector and staff members will be glad to assist you.

## The Worship Service

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church uses the *Book of Common Prayer* published in 1979. The Holy Eucharist is customarily celebrated, as funerals are celebrations of the entrance of the deceased into the nearer presence of God. All baptized Christians present will be invited to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

## Participating Clergy

Clergy known by family members may be invited to participate in the service with the permission of the Rector of St. Andrew's.

## Music at the Funeral Ceremony

There is a wealth of sacred music for the service of The Burial of the Dead. The Music Director of St. Andrew's may provide resources.

Hymns appropriate for the Burial of the Dead:

- 208 The strife is o'er
- 314 Humbly I adore Thee
- 324 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
- 383 Fairest Lord Jesus
- 473 Lift high the cross
- 474 When I survey the wondrous cross
- 562 Onward, Christian soldiers (not recommended for small funerals)
- 608 Eternal Father, strong to save

635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee  
645 The King of love  
662 Abide with me  
671 Amazing grace!  
680 O God, our help in ages past  
687 A mighty fortress is our God (not recommended for small funerals)  
690 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah  
691 My faith looks up to thee  
694 God be in my head  
707 Take my life  
708 Savior, like a shepherd lead us

## Readings from Scripture

Please refer to the planning form for scripture selections prescribed in *The Book of Common Prayer*:

- A reading from the Old Testament
- A Psalm
- A reading from the New Testament
- A Gospel reading

A deacon, priest, or bishop reads the Gospel. Lay readers of the church read from the Old Testament and the New Testament and lead the congregation in the reading of the psalm. If the family would like a family member or friend to read a lesson, please take into careful consideration the emotional state of that person.

The following readings are authorized for the service of The Burial of the Dead:

Old Testament:

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)  
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)  
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)  
Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)  
Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer liveth)

New Testament:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)  
I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (Raised in incorruption)  
II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things which are not seen are eternal)  
I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)  
Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away all tears)  
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Psalms:

Psalm 21, Psalm 23, Psalm 27, Psalm 42, Psalm 46, Psalm 90, Psalm 106, Psalm 116, Psalm 121, Psalm 130, Psalm 139. (These may be found from pages 471 to 479 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.)

Gospel:

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)

John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)

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

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

## Flowers at the Service

Family members are responsible for flowers for the service. Flowers may be placed in the redouble behind the altar and in front of the altar.

No photographs of the deceased are permitted in the nave, except in service booklets.

## Service Leaflets

The church office produces booklets to facilitate worship.

## Guest Book

St. Andrew's Church does not provide a guest book for congregation members to sign. Please make arrangements through a funeral home or purchase one separately.

## Ushers

Ushers are expected to fulfill two important responsibilities, including seating guests and directing the congregation to the altar rail to receive Holy Communion. If a large congregation is expected, conscientious ushers will expedite the seating of guests and reduce both congestion and noise from the narthex. Volunteers from St. Andrew's parish can be scheduled to serve as ushers.

## The Procession

All caskets will be closed and covered before the procession. Family members may process with the casket or be seated before the service begins.

## During the Service

The congregation stands at the beginning of the procession and is seated after the opening prayer. The congregation will be invited to stand, sit, and kneel as full participants in the

service following the rubrics of the Prayer Book, and will be invited to receive communion at the appropriate time.

One (1) reflection by a family member or friend may be offered after the reading of the Gospel. The reflection may not exceed ten (10) minutes; the text will be forwarded to the officiating priest in advance.

A sermon will be preached by the officiating priest or guest clergy.

Professional photography and videography must be coordinated with the Rector of St. Andrew's at least one day before the service.

## Reserved Seating

Pews will be reserved at the front of the church for pallbearers and family members. Please advise the ushers how many people are expected.

## Receptions in the Parish Hall

The parish hall may be used for a reception following the funeral. The hospitality committee provides coffee, tea, water, and cookies. Additional refreshments may be purchased through local caterers or grocery stores; the parish office will provide a list of suggested vendors on request.

## Honoraria

Members of St. Andrew's are not expected to compensate the parish for the use of the building. To defray additional personnel expenses, we ask the following honoraria, which may be submitted to the Parish Office in one payment. Please speak with the Rector if your financial circumstances

Organist	\$300
Sexton	\$100
Officiating priest	\$250