

The Church of
Saint Luke &
The Epiphany

The Order of Service

The Burial of the Dead consists of the following parts:

- * Eulogy (optional) - Please select one individual to deliver this, if desired.
- * Opening Anthems - from Scripture, said by the priest, in procession
- * Opening Prayer/Collect
- * Readings from Holy Scripture
- * Homily - delivered by the priest
- * The Apostles' Creed
- * The Prayers of the People
- * Holy Eucharist (Communion, if desired by the family)
- * Commendation Prayer
- * Procession into the World
- * Committal of the Body, at the grave site or columbarium, if applicable

Readings from Holy Scripture

There is opportunity in the burial service for four readings from Scripture:

1. Old Testament - typically read by a lay person
2. Psalm – typically read in unison
3. New Testament - typically read by a lay person
4. Gospel - read by the priest.

Scriptures (along with the texts) suggested by The Book of Common Prayer are included in this booklet. All texts are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible. All psalms will use the translation used in The Book of Common Prayer, except for Psalm 23, which may use the King James Version. It is desirable that lay persons (one or two) read the selections from the Old Testament and the New Testament. Good choices for readers are siblings, children, grandchildren, caregivers, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, friends, or members of the SLATE community.

Care should be exercised in inviting spouses, children, siblings, or parents of the deceased to be readers. If the readers are so close to the deceased that they are afraid that they might be overcome by emotion, it would be best to choose someone else to read the Scriptures. A lay person may also be chosen to lead the Prayers of the People.

Eulogy

A Eulogy is not necessary for the liturgy as the service is an Easter celebration that is focused on the resurrected life, but can be added with the permission of the priest. If permission is given, no more than one individual will be allowed to give a eulogy. The eulogy needs to be kept to a reasonable length (no more than 10 minutes in total time) and must be written out. Long eulogies put too much emphasis on the life already lived and take away from the larger purpose of the liturgy of looking to our hope in Christ's

resurrection. Once again, care should be exercised in inviting spouses, children, siblings, or parents of the deceased. If the person is so close to the deceased that they are afraid that they might be overcome by emotion, it would be best to have no one or choose someone else to give the eulogy.

Homily

The homily is a short sermon, delivered by the priest. The purpose of the homily is to share the Good News of the risen Christ and to celebrate the resurrected life of the deceased; thus, achieving the balance between the worship of God and the setting forth of the example of the resurrected life of one of God's saints. If friends or relatives wish to offer other remembrances, tributes, or poetry in honor of the deceased, they are best reserved for times set aside at the funeral home, at a visitation, or during informal gatherings.

Holy Eucharist

If a person has been an active communicant at SLATE, receiving communion regularly as a part of our communal life, then Holy Eucharist is typically a part of the burial liturgy. At the burial service, the priest always issues a warm, verbal invitation to all - welcoming all to God's Table to receive the Body and Blood of Christ, for it is not our table/altar but God's table/altar. Communion is a way that we, as Episcopalians, express hospitality and welcome to those of many denominations and stages of faith and belief.

Music

The music at all burial services will be beautiful, joyful, and uplifting. **No pre-recorded** music, such as from CD players, tape players, iPods, or any music played using speakers will be allowed during a burial service unless under special circumstances. Since the burial service is a communal worship experience, congregational hymns should be used. A list of suggested hymns is included in this booklet.

Many times, burial services are attended by people of many faith backgrounds or people with no faith background. Therefore, hymns that are familiar to many always invite greater participation. Soloists or a vocal ensemble (choir) may be obtained to sing a musical selection and/or to lead in congregational singing and should be coordinated with the Organist & Choirmaster. Instruments other than the organ may be used at the discretion of the priest and the Organist & Choirmaster. There are generally five different times during the service when music is appropriate:

1. After procession- after the procession anthems and/or after the eulogy
2. Sequence Hymn - before the reading of the Gospel
3. Offertory Hymn or Anthem - as the Table is prepared for Communion
4. Communion Music - during the Administration of the Sacrament
5. Closing Hymn

Hymns, solos, and choral works that reflect our Christian faith and life, our hope, and our Easter joy are all appropriate during the burial service. However, unless a congregation is mainly made up of Episcopalians, communion music of congregational hymns can be difficult. Instrumental, solo or choral music may be a better choice

during communion. All music selections are to be coordinated with and approved by the planning priest.

Estate Planning

Estate planning is also good Christian stewardship. Please consider setting aside a portion of your estate to be used for God's mission and ministry as lived out at SLATE. "The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty... to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses." -Book of Common Prayer, page 445

The Liturgical Color of White:

In the Episcopal Church, we use colors to designate various seasons, celebrations and observances, colors such as white, blue, purple, green and red. White is used at celebrations such as Easter, Christmas, baptisms, weddings, and burials. Therefore, since a burial is an Easter service, the colors of the priest's vestments, the colors at the altar and the hangings on the pulpit and lectern will be white for any burial service, regardless of the liturgical season that service occurs during the context of the church year.

The Pall

A pall is a fabric covering that is placed over the casket/coffin or over the cremated remains. When a body in a casket/coffin arrives at the church and before entering the nave, special prayers are offered as the body is received. Any flowers, such as a casket spray, and other hangings, such as a flag, are removed. The pall is then placed on the casket/coffin, with the cross at the head, before the body enters the church. Please note that American or other flags are not considered a pall and, therefore, will be removed when the casket enters the church nave but will be returned to the casket at the end of the service. In the Episcopal Church, presidents, paupers, and everything in between are all treated equally. Therefore, the use of the pall equalizes all of us, even in death, before God and before each other.

Flowers

Since SLATE is already a beautiful church, there is no need for additional adornment or decoration for the service of the Burial of the Dead. Two floral arrangements are placed by the altar, as is customary in most celebrations of the Eucharist on Sundays. It is the responsibility of the family and/or friends of the deceased to provide these flowers for the altar. The church office can help make arrangements. Flowers at the altar are traditionally kept for the upcoming Sunday Eucharist services when possible. Additional floral arrangements, such as sprays, plants or flower baskets, are not allowed in the church, for the same reasons as the use of a pall. An abundance of flowers, or a scarcity of flowers, in the church diverts attention away from the worship of God.

The Paschal Candle

The word "paschal" is a derivative of the word "passover," which connotes both the Jewish Passover from slavery to freedom through the Red Sea, and also the Passover of Jesus, from death to life, at Easter. To commemorate this Passover from death to life, the Paschal Candle is lit throughout the Easter Season. It is also lit at every Baptism, when the newly baptized are buried with Christ in his death and pass over into new and resurrected life. Therefore, at every burial service the Paschal Candle is lit, reminding us of our own passover from death to life through Christ.

Clergy Officiating

The clergy of SLATE will officiate at all burial services in this church. Other clergy, either from within the Episcopal Church or from an outside denomination or religion, may assist, but only at the invitation of the Rector.

Obituary

The family is responsible for the wording and submission of the obituary to the newspaper. Most funeral homes will assist in this process. Please make sure that our church name is spelled correctly. If the family so desires, memorial donations can be made to Church of Saint Luke and The Epiphany. There is no public reading of the obituary during the burial service; however, once it is made public, we will send it via email to the congregation.

Worship Leaflet

SLATE will provide worship leaflets for all guests at the burial service. As a matter of hospitality, the service is presented in a manner so that non-Episcopalians can participate fully. We do not print photos of your loved one in the leaflet. The family may choose to contract (at the family expense) with an outside printing company to make a service bulletin or an insert with photo for the bulletin. The final bulletin should be approved by the Rector before printing. There is no charge for printing these worship leaflets as they are a part of our ongoing worship and pastoral care ministry.

Pallbearers

Pallbearers, who are necessary only to carry the casket /coffin from the casket coach to the grave site, are not provided by SLATE. Please choose your own pallbearers, in accordance with the needs communicated by your funeral director.

Guest Book

SLATE does not provide a guest book for guests to sign in the narthex (also called the foyer or the baptistery). Most funeral homes provide guest books. Please ask your funeral director if a guest book will be provided.