

**Planning a
Celebration of Life
Service**

for: _____

at

**Ascension
Episcopal Church**



PLANNING A FUNERAL

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn. *-Book of Common Prayer, pg. 507*

There are different terms to keep in mind

The preferred location is at the church, but a memorial, funeral or celebration of a life can be done at the funeral home, graveside, or a location of your choice.

- A **Celebration of Life** or **Memorial** is a worship service with no body present.
- A **Funeral** is a worship service that includes a body in the midst of the people.
 - A commendation is the act of committing the deceased to God.
- A **Graveside** service, also known as the Committal (BCP 501), is a brief interment service.
 - An interment is the act of placing the body or ashes into the ground.

Whatever you choose, the service will be filled the certain hope of the resurrection. We believe that God is bringing all things to completion for the sake of his resurrected Son, Jesus Christ. We will work with the funeral home of your choice. We consider it an honor to give your family the very best experience in saying good-bye to a loved one.

Logistics

Meeting with the Clergy and Organist

The clergy will meet with you at your earliest convenience to help you walk through the steps of the this planning guide and the funeral. He or she will be there to answer any liturgical, logistical, and pastoral questions you may have and help you with the grief process. You may also make any special requests at this time. Typically only one meeting is required, however, a follow-up may be needed or requested at the behest of either party. You will also need to meet with the organist to determine musical needs. This meeting will take place at a time convenient to both parties. The information obtained from these meetings will be used to put together a service bulletin.

Caskets and urns

Immediately following the worship service the ashes or casket are buried or interred. Arrangements for a graveside committal are often made by the funeral home of your choice. The coffin, when present, is closed and is always covered by a pall, which the church provides.

Obituary and Worship Bulletin

Email the church office a copy of the obituary to be included in the bulletin, which is provided by the church. office@ascensionepiscopalchurch.org

Flowers

Flower arrangements and pictures are welcome to be placed in the Narthex of the Church (the lobby). One vase may be placed behind the Altar (unless the Altar is already decorated for another service, then it is not changed). Flowers other than Altar flowers may decorate the narthex (lobby). They may be ordered through the church florist or the florist of your choice. If you need assistance, the Altar Guild can help you with the order.

Memorial Gifts

In lieu of flowers, you may designate donations in the name of the deceased to Ascension Church or an organization.

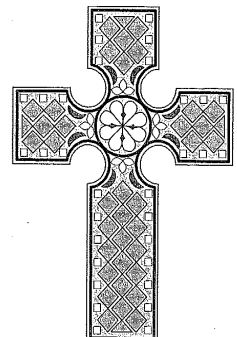
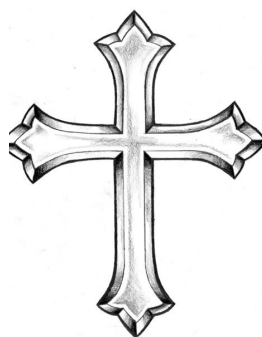
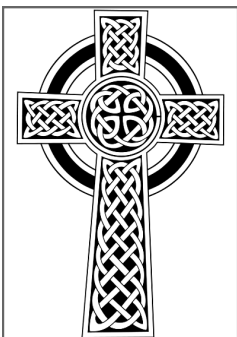
Designee: _____

Fees & Honorariums

- The clergy honorarium is paid directly to priest. It is the family's discretion; however, \$250 is suggested.
- Ascension provides an organist at a cost of \$250, paid directly to the organist at the conclusion of the planning session. The organist's services includes a 30 minute organ prelude, service music & hymns, and a closing voluntary. All fees are due prior to the actual service. If you choose to use an organist outside of the one provided, an organist fee must still be paid. The person you choose to play will need to be treated as an additional instrumentalist, therefore you will need to discuss any other fees with that person and handle those payment options separately.
- Any soloist or instrumentalist is paid separately, based on their individual fees, which can vary from average \$150.00.

Receptions:

You are welcome to use Ascension's Parish Hall (maximum occupancy - 239) for a catered or family member sponsored potluck reception. The kitchen facilities are not available. There is \$75-\$150 set-up/clean-up fee. The exact cost is dependent on individual needs and determined at the service planning session.



PLANNING YOUR WORSHIP SERVICE

Full Name of the deceased as you would like it to appear in the bulletin:

Date of Birth: _____ Death: _____

Date of Service: _____

Would you like a picture of the deceased on the bulletin cover? Y_____ N_____

If so, please send an electronic copy of the picture to the office. If an electronic copy is not available, please bring one into the office so we may scan it. We have beautiful cross images, as seen on the previous page, that maybe placed on the cover of the bulletin, or you may use one of your choice.

There are two "Rites" in the Book of Common Prayer, please select which rite you prefer.

- Rite I (traditional language) BCP p. 469
- Rite II (contemporary language) BCP p. 491

Eucharist Y___ N___

If a Eucharistic service is desired, please select your preference below:

- Rite I, Eucharistic Prayer I, p. 333
- Rite I, Eucharistic Prayer II, p. 340
- Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer A, p. 361
- Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer B, p. 367
- Rite II, Eucharistic Prayer D, p. 372

Will the body or ashes be present at the service? Y_____ N_____

Would you like the organist to play service? Y_____ N_____

Soloists and Other music

A great way to include your musically inclined family and friends would be to allow them to play at your service. They must provide their own instrument or may use the piano. Is there someone you would like to play?

Who: _____

What instrument: _____

If you do not have anyone specific in mind, but still have a special request, such as a flautist or guitar player, our music leader may be able to help you. What are your requests?

Who would you like to serve as ushers? If there is no one who comes to mind, please know that Ascension members consider it a privilege to serve.

You may also choose someone to serve as crucifer, acolyte, and chalice bearer; however, the person or persons selected must be trained in the Episcopal Church. If you do not know anyone who is trained or if no one is available, please remember that Ascension members consider it a privilege to serve.

Crucifer: _____

Acolytes: _____

Chalice Bearer: _____

Worship Order

Here you will find the order of service. In each section of this planning guide, you will see a listing of suggested readings and hymns. These are by no means the only scriptures or hymns you may use. They are listed to help you if you are unsure what you would like.

Music is encouraged during the worship service. Whether it is, traditional, contemporary, ancient, or modern, your selections are welcome as long as they are oriented towards the praise of God. If there is a song or songs that you would like to have played, but are not sure if they are appropriate, the Pastor will help you decide. Appropriate secular music may be played at the reception

The prelude is a series of songs that are played while guests are arriving and being seated. The organist begins playing approximately 30 minutes before the service starts. You may also choose to have a silent entrance, and go without a prelude. Below you will see two examples from services that have been held at Ascension.

- Example 1:** When in the hour of utmost need, BWV 641J. S. Bach
Nimrod from Enigma Variations.....Sir. Edward Elgar
Chorale Prelude on "Abide with me"Noel Rawsthorne
I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, BWV 639J. S. Bach
"God's time is best", Sinfonia from Cantata 106J.S. Bach

Example 2: Largo in E from Concerto Grosso # 12 George Frideric Handel
 When in the hour of utmost need, BWV 641 J. S. Bach
 Chorale Prelude on "Abide with me" Noel Rawsthorne
 I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ, BWV 639 J. S. Bach
 "God's time is best", Sinfonia from Cantata 106 J.S. Bach

Prelude:



The Opening Hymn is sung by the congregation and may have the words printed in the bulletin.

Opening Hymn _____ **Words Printed?** Y _____ N _____



Four readings are recommended for a memorial service. Typically there is an old testament reading, a psalm, a new testament reading, and the gospel. You are not required to have any more than one and it is not recommended to exceed four. If this is a communion service, the gospel is required.

The **First Lesson** is traditionally an Old Testament reading, and may be read by a family member or friend. You may use one of the suggestions or choose your own.

Old Testament and Apocrypha Readings

- Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

- Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)
 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

- Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)
The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

- Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)
But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

- Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer liveth)
Job said, Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? "O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another."

Or other reading: _____

First Lesson Reader: _____



Here is an opportunity for a **Psalm, Canticle, or Hymn**. The Psalm may be sung or spoken, read by an individual or spoken together by all. The words may be printed in the bulletin.

Psalms

- Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd) Rite I or Rite II version
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

□ Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they,
my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;
And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.
One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
To behold the fair beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.
Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, LORD, will I seek.
Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me.
Show me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.
What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living!
O tarry and await the LORD'S pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart;
wait patiently for the LORD.

□ Psalm 42 (As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God)

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, so longs my soul for you, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my food day and night, while all day long they say to me,
"Where now is your God?"
I pour out my soul when I think on these things:
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day.
Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? and why are you so disquieted within me?
Put your trust in God; for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

□ Psalm 90 (Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations)

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past

and like a watch in the night.
You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath? who rightly fears your indignation?
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

□ Psalm 116 (I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications)

I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication,
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.
The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.
The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought very low, and he helped me.
Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has treated you well.
For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.
I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low."
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."
How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the Name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his servants.
O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the Name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,
In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

□ Psalm 121 (I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?)

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The LORD himself watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.
The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth for evermore.

Psalm 130 (out of the depths I cry to you. O Lord)
 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice;
 let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand?
 For there is forgiveness with you; therefore you shall be feared.
 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope.
 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning,
 more than watchmen for the morning.
 O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is mercy;
 With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Psalm 139 (O Lord, you have searched me and known me)
 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.
 You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.
 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
 You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me.
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
 Where can I go then from your Spirit? where can I flee from your presence?
 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
 Even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast.
 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,"
 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
 darkness and light to you are both alike.

Or other Psalm, Canticle, or Hymn _____

Will it be sung ____ or spoken ____? Individual ____, in Unison ____, or Call and Response ____?

If read by an individual, who : _____?

Would you like the words printed in the bulletin? Y ____ N ____



The **Second Lesson** is traditionally a New Testament reading, and may also be read by a family member or friend. You may use one of the suggestions or choose your own.

New Testament Readings

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (Neither death, nor life...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord)
 All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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.

□ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38 42-48. 53-58 (Christ has been raised from the dead)

In fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your 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. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

□ 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (So we do not lose heart)

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling-- if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

□ 1 John 3:1-2 (See what the father has given us)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

□ Revelation 7:9-17 (there was a great multitude)

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

□ Revelation 21:2-7 (And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem)

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

Or other reading: _____

Second Lesson Reader: _____



Typically there is a hymn between the Second reading and the reading of the gospel. It is called the **Sequence Hymn**. Suggested hymns are at the end of this document. You may also request a song, such as the "Jerusalem, My Happy Home", or "In Christ Alone." Special requests are at the organist's discretion with the rector's approval.

Sequence hymn or song _____



The **Gospel** is the final reading and is read by the pastor. If this is a Eucharist service, there must be a Gospel reading. You may use one of the suggestions or choose your own.

Gospel Readings

- John 5:24-27 (anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life)
Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life.
"Very truly, I tell you, the 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. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. "

- John 6:37-40 (Everything that the father gives me will come to me)
Jesus said to the people, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And 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. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

- John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away-- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

- John 11:21-27 ("Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died)
Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother, Lazarus, would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

- John 14:1-6 (Do not let your hearts be troubled)
Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Or other Gospel reading _____



Reflections

For the sake of those coming to remember your loved one, please ask those who are giving a eulogy to write out their thoughts and limit individual eulogies to 5 minutes per person.

Eulogist(s): _____

Homily

There will be a brief reflection on the scriptures by the priest.

The **Apostles Creed** follows the homily.



For a **Non-Eucharistic Service** the Lord's Prayer is recited next and then the Prayers of the People. At this time that you may request any special prayers, such as the serenity prayer, the Al-Anon prayer, Prayers of St. Francis, etc. You may have a family member or friend read the prayers, if you choose.

Who would you like to read the prayers? _____

What are your special prayer requests? _____

To continue for a non-Eucharistic service, please skip the next section and go to the Commendation.



For a **Eucharistic Service**, the prayers of the People are next, followed by the passing of the peace. Once everyone is seated, the service continues with communion.

During the communion, an **offertory anthem** is played while the pastor is setting the table. If you choose, the offering plates may be passed at this time. Please select an anthem that you would like at this time. (Suggested hymns are listed on the last page.)

Offertory Anthems _____

You also need to select a minimum of two hymns to be played during communion. If you expect an excess of 125 guests you may select a third hymn.

Communion Hymn(s) _____

Commendation

If the body or ashes are present, the Commendation is read (a prayer is said over the body/ashes, BCP 499) then blessing, then dismissal

If the body or ashes are not present please proceed to the Blessing and Dismissal.



After the **Blessing** is spoken the **Dismissal** will read as follows:

Celebrant Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Dismissal is followed by the **Closing Hymn**, which is sung by the congregation at the conclusion of the service. Here are some time tested and well respected suggestions:

- Jesus is Risen Today 207
- Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er The Battle Done 208
- For All The Saints, Who From Their Labors Rest 287
- Joyful, Joyful 376
- O God, Our Help In Ages Past 680
- A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 687 or 688
(circle one)

Or Closing Hymn of your choice _____



As with the prelude, the **Postlude**, or closing voluntary, is played for about 15 minutes after the service, while your guests are exiting the church. Here are some examples that have been used at previous Ascension services or you may choose to have a silent exit:

- Closing Voluntary Elogy John Ireland
- Closing Voluntary Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring J.S. Bach
- Closing Voluntary Choral Joseph Jongen

Or Postlude of your choice: _____

Will there be military or other honors? _____

Please use this space to list any additional requests:

