



Funeral Service for
John Doe

Date - Date



Death is not extinguishing the light;
it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come

Rabindranath Tagore

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Staunton VA

Time

Date

Officiating Priest

The Rev'd Dr Jonathan N Bauer

Rector

Liturgy based on Funeral Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer

Pastoral Introduction

God's love and power extend over all of creation. Every life, including our own, is precious to God. Christians have always believed that there is hope in death as there is in life, and that there is new life in Christ over death. Even those who share such faith find that there is a real sense of loss at the death of a loved one.

The funeral liturgy contains several elements:

- **Telling the story**
- an opportunity to reflect on a life's story, and calling to mind the ways in which one life touched others
- **Give thanks**
- for life in its richness and diversity. There person who has died will have meant different things to different people.
- **Saying goodbye**
- to acknowledge that every death brings both an ending, and a new beginning
- **Commend**
- to ask the safe transition of the spirit / permanent character of the deceased into whatever is believed to lie beyond death
- **Commit**
- to lay to rest the mortal remains of the deceased
- **Continue the journey**
-to give the bereaved inspiration and hope to resume their lives in the knowledge that although things have irretrievably changed, there is still an ongoing journey to navigate

The Shape of the Funeral Liturgy in the Episcopal Church

Gathering the Funeral Celebrant welcomes everyone and 'sets the tone' of the ceremony. A Eulogy may also be given at this point

Remembering A time to give thanks for the departed, to recall stories and memories, and honor the life of the departed

Readings / Reflections
Particular readings, poems, music, other words are shared.

Prayers Comfort for those who mourn, and an opportunity to express a commitment to continue our own life's journeys in hope and trust

Entrusting The deceased's soul is commended to God's keeping

Farewell To say goodbye, and to commit the body for burial or cremation

Obituary (optional)

Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Episcopal Church:

Simply text **EECS\$** followed by the amount of dollars you wish to give, to 73256.

For example: to give \$20 simply send EECS\$20 to 73256.

Message and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies.

Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

OR

The family's chosen good cause (optional)

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at

Music may be played as people arrive (on the organ or recorded)

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Priest 'I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord Jesus.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11: 25,26

All The Lord be with you.
and also with you.

The Officiating Priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service, then says:

Priest Let us pray
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our beloved N.
We thank you for giving him/her to us to know and love
as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage.
In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.
Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life,
so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth until, by your call,
we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

HYMN (optional)

REMEMBERING N

*Remembering and giving thanks for a precious life
Family Member(s) and / or friend(s) may tell some of the story of the departed's life*

SCRIPTURE READING(S) *read by*

A N OTHER READING *read by* (optional)

HOMILY / ADDRESS

PRAYERS

Loving God,
we gather to give thanks for N and for his/her life amongst us.
We have been pilgrims together on the journey of life sharing its joys and sorrows.

As N now continues her/his journey out of our sight,
we pray particularly for all whose lives will feel the hollow pain
of an emptiness without her/his physical presence.

Deal graciously with all who grieve.
Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss,
but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come
Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress;
draw near to us who mourn for N,
and dry the tears of those who weep.

Lord of life,
All **in your mercy hear us.**

Most merciful God,
whose wisdom is beyond our understanding,
deal graciously with us in our grief.
Surround us in your love,
that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss,
but have confidence in your goodness,
and strength to meet the days to come;

Lord of life,
All **in your mercy hear us.**

Lord God,
as a shepherd guides sheep to new pasture
and keeps them safe, so you walk with us
and guide our footsteps as we journey through life.
May we, in our turn, be found ready to embrace life with you.

Lord of life,
All **in your mercy hear us.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Jesus taught those who would follow him
to call God "our Father", so in faith we pray:

All **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,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

HYMN (optional)

COMMENDATION

The Priest commends N's soul to God's keeping:

Let us now commend N to the mercy of God,
our Maker and Redeemer:
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend our beloved N,
as we have commended those who have gone before.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock, a child of your own redeeming.
Enfold her/him in the arms of your loving mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

All **Amen.**

Priest N, may you who have belonged to us here on earth
now rest in the eternity of God's promised heaven;
you who have left the shadows of this world behind,
rise to the joy of heaven's new morning.
As we let you go, may you be welcomed on another shore.

All **Amen.**

All **Loving God, we give you thanks for N;
for the time we shared with her/him,
for the good we saw in her/him,
for the love we received from her/him,
and for the memories we treasure today.
Now give us strength and courage
to entrust her/him to your care,
confident in your promise of eternal life:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

Priest Life is short and we haven't much time
to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us,
so be swift to love and make haste to be kind,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the +Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you
and all those you love and pray for,
both in this world, and the next.

All **Amen.** □

Particular music may be played either on the organ or from a recording (optional)

*N's family thank you for your presence here today
N's ashes will be interred / body will be buried at immediately following this service*

COMMITTAL

N's ashes / body is reverently put into their final resting place / grave

Priest Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Earth may be cast upon the coffin.

Priest In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life
through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our beloved N.,
and we now commit his body to the ground;
earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.
The Lord bless him and keep him,
the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him,
the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace.

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.
Our Father...

We hold our beloved N before God:
Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord;
All **And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
All **And rise in glory. Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,
the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant:
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.
All **Amen.**

