

# How I Would Like to Be Remembered: A Gift to My Family and Friends



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Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

DOB \_\_\_\_\_

My Contact Information

Personal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin/loved one \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

## This is What I Prefer

When we die, it falls to members of our family, or to friends, or to distant relatives, or to total strangers to plan our services and burials.

Planning such things when one is grieving is emotionally hard and time-consuming. Often surviving family members live far apart and have never discussed these matters. When the time for planning comes, there can be very different ideas about what the deceased person would have preferred or about what would be appropriate.

The best way to avoid all this struggle and even disagreement about what should be done is to make your own plans. It is a very thoughtful gift to your family and to yourself. You simply leave information saying, "This is what I prefer."

This booklet will guide you through the process of planning how you wish to be remembered, as a gift to your loved ones.

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## *I Concerning the Service*

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its 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 to come, nor power, 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, Lazarus. 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.

**A** Type of Service. Keeping in mind your preferences and the reasons that we will gather to remember you:

**I would like** (check your preferences)

to be buried in a casket

to be cremated

desired place of interment \_\_\_\_\_

I would like information on St. John’s Memorial Garden.

a Memorial Service (without casket or urn)

a Funeral with casket or urn

interment service only

a Rite I service

a Rite II service

service to include Communion

**B** Hymns that are particularly meaningful to me are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(see list on page 6 for some suggestions; others may be listed as well)

A special solo piece (organ/vocal/instrumental) that I would like at my service is

\_\_\_\_\_

**C Readings from the Scriptures**

An important part of the service is a reading of lessons from Holy Scripture. It will be helpful for you to choose (from the appended information beginning on page 7) passages from the Bible that have “spoken” to you during your life.

A way for you to honor someone at your service would be as a Lector – a person who would read a lesson from the Scriptures. Think of 3 people whom you would like to have read at your service.

**The readings and readers I would like at my service are:**  
(If Communion is included in the service, Gospel is required. All other readings are optional)

Old Testament_____	Read by _____
Psalm_____	Read by _____
New Testament_____	Read by _____
Gospel_____	Read by Clergy.

**D Remembrances**

Think about who you would like to be invited to speak about you – this can include family, friends, and co-workers. Try to limit to persons you know would be comfortable speaking about you; no more than 5, as all might not be available or willing to speak. The service usually includes a maximum of 3 such speakers.

**People I would like to speak about me at my service (for about 5 minutes each)**

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**E The flowers I would like to have at my service are (colors, types)**

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**F Memorials**

I would like memorials in my name to be directed to (church/church group/other organization, with addresses):

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**G Other information**

Are you entitled to military honors? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you eligible for burial in Arlington or another national cemetery? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, where are your discharge papers? \_\_\_\_\_

*Your next of kin/loved one is responsible for notifying the military and arranging these special honors*

**H Questions I have for the Clergy**

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## *II Music Suggestions*

### 1982 Hymnal

208	Alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done
287	For all the saints, who from their labors rest
335	I am the bread of life
376	Joyful, joyful, we adore thee
429	I'll praise my Maker while I've breath
487	Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life
517	How lovely is thy dwelling-place
620	Jerusalem, my happy home
625	Ye holy angels bright, who wait at God's right hand
636/637	How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
645	The King of love my shepherd is
657	Love divine, all loves excelling
662	Abide with me
664	My Shepherd will supply my need
671	Amazing grace!
680	O God, our help in ages past
688	A mighty fortress is our God
690	Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

### Lift Every Voice and Sing II

18	Swing low, sweet chariot
60	How great thou art
106	Precious Lord, take my hand
141	Shall we gather at the river

### Wonder, Love and Praise

810	You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord ("Eagle's Wings")
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### ***III Scripture Reading Suggestions***

*(all are optional except a Gospel reading when there is Communion)*

#### **From the Old Testament**

##### **Job 19:21-27a**

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.

##### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, [14]**

For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

I know that whatever God does endures forever;



nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it;  
God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.]

### **Isaiah 25:6-9**

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**

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 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.

### **From the Apocrypha**

#### **The Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-5, [6-8], 9**

For 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;  
[like gold in the furnace he tried them,  
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.  
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,  
and will run like sparks through the stubble.  
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,]  
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.  
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.

## From the New Testament

### **Romans 8:14-19, [28], [31-33], 34-35, 37-39**

For 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.

[We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.].

[What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.] 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 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they

will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 42-44, [51-52], 53-58**

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.

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.

[Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will 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 will be changed.]

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**

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 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**

After this 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, 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.'

## **The Gospel**

### **John 5:24-27**

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**

Jesus said, '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**

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**

Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother 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, [6b], [27]**

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.]

[Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.]

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows  
lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is  
hushed, and 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. Amen. (*BCP p. 833*)