

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
200 Oyster Creek Drive  
Lake Jackson, Texas 77566  
979-297-6003

## BURIAL INSTRUCTIONS

### Filing Instructions:

1. Give one copy to St. Timothy's Parish Office.
2. Place one copy among your personal papers at home. (A safety deposit box is usually locked at the time of death.)
3. Give copies to your children or others who may have responsibility for your burial.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

If a veteran, list branch of service and final rank: \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of this statement is to assure that my death and burial will witness to our trust in God's promise of resurrection to everlasting life in Christ Jesus our Lord and to assure that my body will be treated with the respect and care due its sanctity.

This statement is intended to state my wishes as clearly as possible in order that my family will be alleviated from some of the burden of making difficult decisions following my death. I realize that unforeseen circumstances at the time of my death may require the modification of these instructions.



*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.*

~ 1 John 3:2

## Burial in the Episcopal Church

The following three items are required by *The Book of Common Prayer* or the venerable tradition of the Episcopal Church.

1. "The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with, the Minister of the Congregation. Baptized Christians are properly buried from the church." ~ *The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 468.
2. At the church, the casket will remain closed and will be covered with a pall.
3. The only flowers in the church are to be those on the altar, in the quantity and arrangement customarily used for worship on Sunday. (Additional flowers may be placed in the narthex or the parish hall.)

## Your Personal Preferences

*Please indicate your preferences by checking the boxes and filling in the blanks on the form. If you have preferences which are not listed, please write them in at the appropriate point or on the last page of this form.*

4.  In case of illness or injury, I wish to have complete knowledge of my physical state and I wish to be told when death is thought to be near.
5.  I wish to avoid being kept alive by artificial means when there is no hope of recovery and I have completed a Directive to Physicians or "Living Will." My directive is located with:

Doctor or Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: You may attach a copy of your Directive to these instructions. If needed, St. Timothy's can provide you with the forms necessary to complete a Directive to Physicians and a medical power of attorney.*

6. For those who wish to have their bodies cremated...

a. I prefer that my body be cremated:

- prior to the church service, or
- following the church service

b. I prefer that interment of the ashes be in:

- a grave at \_\_\_\_\_ cemetery , or
- a cinerarium or columbarium at the church, or
- other \_\_\_\_\_

7. My body is to be:

- wrapped in a fresh white cloth, or
- dressed in clothing of my family's choosing, or
- \_\_\_\_\_

8. Appearance and construction details of the casket are superfluous because it is to be covered with a pall which the church will furnish. I wish to have my body placed in:

- the least expensive coffin available, or
- other \_\_\_\_\_

9.  The casket is not to be opened at any time after my body is placed within.

10.  If possible, I prefer that my body not be embalmed.

*Embalming is not required by law in Texas.*

11. Regarding mortician's cosmetics, I prefer to have:

- no cosmetics, or
- light cosmetics, or
- other \_\_\_\_\_

12.  I wish my body to lie in state at the mortician's with the coffin closed and covered with a pall. A prayer desk shall be placed near the casket with *The Book of Common Prayer* open to the "Prayers for a Vigil" on p. 465.

13. Instead of flowers, contributions may be made to (*check one or both*):

- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
- other \_\_\_\_\_

14. I prefer that the marker place on my grave be:
- a small stone bearing my name and the dates of my earthly life, or
  - other \_\_\_\_\_

15. The Episcopal Church considers the celebration of a Requiem Eucharist (communion) as a normative part of the funeral rite.<sup>1</sup> For the Burial Service at the church, I prefer:

- a.  to celebrate the Eucharist, or  
 to omit the Eucharist
  
- b.  Rite One (Elizabethan language), or  
 Rite Two (contemporary language)
  
- c. *The Book of Common Prayer* offers the following choices for scripture readings:

#### **Old Testament Readings**

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

*A suitable psalm may follow. The following Psalms are appropriate: 42:1-7, 46, 90:1-12, 121, 130, 139:1-11.*

#### **New Testament Readings**

- Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
- 1 John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
- Revelation 7:9-17 (God will wipe away every tear)
- Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

*A hymn usually follows here. One of the following Psalms may be read instead: 23, 27, 106:1-5, 116.*

#### **Gospel Readings**

- 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)

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<sup>1</sup> The Burial Rites are found on pp. 468-505 in *The Book of Common Prayer*.

*Either the Old Testament or the New Testament reading may be deleted, along with the following psalm or hymn.*

I prefer the following Scripture readings:

Old Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

New Testament: \_\_\_\_\_ [Psalm \_\_\_\_\_ ]

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_

d.  I wish to have an organist provide music.

e. *If an organist is retained, then congregational hymns are recommended.*

I prefer the following hymns from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982:

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

or – I prefer the priest and my family choose the hymns at the time of my death.

Some suggestions for appropriate hymns at an Episcopal burial:

~ **Stronger**

- 680 O God, our help in ages past
- 400 All creatures of our God and King
- 618 Ye watchers and ye holy ones  
*Note: Hymns 400 and 618 have the same tune.*
- 688 A mighty fortress is our God
- 473 Lift high the cross
- 657 Love divine, all loves excelling
- 287 For all the saints who from their labors rest
- 296 We know that Christ is raised

~ **Quieter**

- 645 The King of love my shepherd is
- 490 I want to walk as a child of the light
- 620 Jerusalem, my happy home
- 482 Lord of all hopefulness
- 671 Amazing grace

~ **For the Commendation**

- 358 Christ the victorious

16. I suggest the following persons to serve as pall bearers:

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17. Mortuary preference: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Cemetery preference (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

19. My insurance policies are located: \_\_\_\_\_

20. My will is located: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Book of Common Prayer (p.445) stresses "the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."*

21. *If applicable:* The legal documents for donating my organs for transplant or body for research are located: \_\_\_\_\_

22. People to be notified as soon after my death as possible:

*Please specify name, relationship, phone number, address, city, state and zip code.*

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23. Additional directions:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: These burial instructions may be revised at any time by providing the Parish Office with an updated form.*