

Funerals at  
All Saints Episcopal Church  
Parma, Ohio

*from the Book of Common Prayer*

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 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. *The Book of Common Prayer p. 507*

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Please call your priest when a member of your family is seriously ill or near death. A death should be reported to the Church as soon as possible and arrangements for the funeral made in consultation with the priest. If it is helpful to you, the priest will accompany you to the funeral home as you make these arrangements.

We encourage all funerals to be held in the church. We are both commending the deceased to God and affirming our own faith. This is best done in the church where we are connected to God through the sacrament. Anyone may be buried from All Saints Church, regardless of their membership status, or even whether they are baptized. Christian burial is the right of all of God’s children.

We also encourage the celebration of Holy Eucharist at funerals, as Eucharist speaks to the resurrection of Our Lord and therefore to ours as well.

The funeral is not simply a service honoring the deceased person. There may be one eulogist but emphasis remains on the comforting words of Holy Scripture and on God’s grace to deliver us all into eternal life.

One or two bouquets of flowers may be brought into the church for the liturgy. The casket or urn will be covered with a pall and not with flowers or a flag. A flag may be placed on the casket as it leaves the church for the cemetery. The casket is always closed during the liturgy. Photographs and memorabilia may be displayed in the narthex but not in the church. In death we are all equal in the sight of God.

Music, and especially the singing of hymns, is strongly encouraged and the priest or organist can suggest appropriate choices. Often Easter hymns are sung.

Scripture readings are usually chosen by the family from a suggested list ([Burial Readings](#)) and may be read by members of the family or friends. If Eucharist is to be celebrated, the gospel reading is read by the priest.

all  
saints

all  
welcome.

Cremation is completely acceptable by the Church and is growing in popularity for spiritual, ecological and economic reasons. As we believe that our resurrection is of the spirit and not a resuscitation of the body, there is nothing to fear in this process.

All Saints has a beautiful Columbarium across the hall from our sanctuary, in which the ashes of many of our dear friends rest. For further information on the All Saints Columbarium, click this [link](#).

If you wish, you may leave plans for your own funeral in the custody of your priest. All Saints has a book containing the wishes of the living regarding the liturgy that will be held for them when they die. You may make an appointment with the rector to discuss your preferences at any time.