



# Memorial Service Planning

*To everything there is a season  
and the season of death will come to each of us.*

*As we are faced with this season in our life  
or the life of our loved one,  
we are blessed with the gift of remembrance.*

*Enclosed in this folder are tools to guide in celebrating the life  
God has created and has or will call home.*

*Through a memorial service family and friends are given the  
opportunity to participate in remembrance.*

*In this remembrance and celebration of life,  
family and friends are allowed to grieve and through grief we love.*

*May God's peace and presence be with you  
as you plan for the season of eternal life.*

## Pre-planning Checklist and Instructions

- \_\_\_ I have prepared a "Will." My family has a copy and knows the location of the original.
- \_\_\_ I have prepared a "Living Trust". My successor trustee has a copy and knows the location of the originals.
- \_\_\_ I have discussed funeral arrangements with my family.
- \_\_\_ In the event of my death, my family knows where I keep all legal papers and financial records.
- \_\_\_ *(For couples)* My spouse has access to immediate finances in the event I should die suddenly or am incapable of handling personal finances.
- \_\_\_ *(For those with minor children or other dependents)* I have made arrangements for guardianship(s).
- \_\_\_ I have an attorney, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ Law Firm, who has worked through any specific legal situations my estate might create.
- \_\_\_ I have made financial arrangements to cover funeral/death expenses.
- \_\_\_ I have made a "Power of Attorney" and delivered a copy of it to the person whom I have appointed as my attorney in fact.
- \_\_\_ I have made a "Living Will" and discussed it with my family.
- \_\_\_ I have made a "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions" and delivered a copy of it to the person whom I have appointed as my attorney in fact.
- \_\_\_ I have no "Living Will" or "Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions" but my family and I have discussed what should be done about extraordinary measures if I am taken seriously ill.
- \_\_\_ I have made out an organ donor card and/or discussed the issue of organ donors with my family.
- \_\_\_ I have discussed any questions I may have about death with my pastor.

# Instructions Regarding My Burial and Memorial Service

*For my family: I leave this for your decision. I know you will do what is best in all ways and I hope that you will always feel free to make any changes you think best.*

## Arrangements:

*I would suggest the following funeral arrangements:*

- |  |                                     |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burial                | <input type="checkbox"/> Cremation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Service       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Viewing               | <input type="checkbox"/> Graveside  | <input type="checkbox"/> Graveside service only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private graveside     | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |                                     |   |

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

I prefer to be buried at \_\_\_\_\_

I have a burial plot at \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery.

Other wishes: \_\_\_\_\_

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

If I have suggested cremation, I would prefer the ashes to be disposed of in the following manner:

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

I would suggest using the following funeral director: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I suggest memorials be made to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Memorial Service:

I would suggest the memorial service be held at: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Favorite hymns: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Favorite Scriptures: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Favorite Flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Readings: \_\_\_\_\_

Other requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Vocational History:** *(list most recent occupation first)*

<b>Employer</b>	<b>Date Began</b>	<b>Date Ended</b>	<b>Job Description</b>

**Education:**

Elementary School: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of High School Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

College/Vocational School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree(s) completed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Veteran Information:**      **Branch of Service:** \_\_\_\_\_

Enlistment date: \_\_\_\_\_ Discharge date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliations and Clubs:** *(List current church, clubs and volunteer organizations, with positions and offices held, if possible)*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hobbies:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Faith/Religion Activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant accomplishments:** *(Include awards and honors received)* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Memorial Service Music

*Choosing music for a memorial service may reflect music that had special meaning to the person being remembered or be music conveying comfort to the grieving. May the suggestions below help aid you in choosing the music for your service whether you choose one of them or let them remind you of one that has meaning to you.*

## Hymns (Traditional Style)

How Great Thou Art  
Amazing Grace  
Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me  
Blessed Assurance  
I Know That My Redeemer Lives  
What Wondrous Love is This  
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Abide With Me  
Love Divine, All Love Excelling  
When Peace, Like a River  
Because He Lives  
Lift High the Cross  
For All the Saints  
In Christ Alone

## Contemporary Style Music

I Can Only Imagine  
Dance With Me  
Famous One  
My Hope  
When It's All Been Said and Done  
How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Carry Me Away  
Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus  
Arms of Love  
On Eagle's Wings  
Be Unto Your Name  
As the Deer Longs

# Scripture

*When selecting a scripture for a memorial service you may choose one of significance in your life or the life of your loved one. It may be one that has been shared with you or you may find one marked in the bible of your loved one. God provides us richly with celebration of life and comfort in His Word. Below are a few familiar or frequently selected scriptures that you may choose to use.*

## **Psalm 21:2-6**

You have granted him the desire of his heart and have not withheld the request of his lips. You welcomed him with rich blessings and placed a crown of pure gold on his head. He asked you for life, and you gave it to him—length of days, for ever and ever. Through the victories you gave, his glory is great; you have bestowed on him splendor and majesty. Surely you have granted him eternal blessings and made him glad with the joy of your presence.

## **Psalm 23**

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet water, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **Psalm 27**

The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident. One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple. For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock. Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD. Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek. Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior. Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me. Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors. Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up

against me, breathing out violence. I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

### **Psalm 139**

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-15**

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him. Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

### **Isaiah 43:1-3**

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you. Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be

with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord you God, your Savior.

### **Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33**

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men.

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

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

### **Luke 7:11-13**

Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out – the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't Cry."

### **John 11:17-27**

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

**John 14:1-6**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**1 Corinthians 2:9**

However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”

**1 Corinthians 15:42-44**

“So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised 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 natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.”

**2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

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. Here indeed we groan, and long to put on our heavenly dwelling, so that by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we sigh with anxiety; not that we would be unclothed, but that we would 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.

**Philippians 1:21**

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

**Romans 8:38-39**

For I am convinced that neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Memorial Poems

## ***Miss Me But Let Me Go***

"When I come to the end of the road and the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom filled room. Why cry for a soul set free?"

Miss me a little - but not too long, and not with your head held low  
Remember the love that we once shared. Miss me - but let me go

For this is a journey that we all must take, and each must go alone  
It's all a part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to home."

## ***Don't grieve for me...***

Don't grieve for me, for I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took his hand when I heard his call,  
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I've found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy,  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow,  
My life's been full, I savored much  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your hearts and share with me,  
God wanted me now, He has set me free

*-Thresiamma Abraham*

## ***God's Garden***

God looked around his garden and he found an empty place.  
And then he looked down upon the earth, and saw your tired face.  
He put his arms around you, and lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful, he always takes the best.  
He knew that you were suffering, he knew you were in pain,  
He knew that you would never get well on earth again.  
He saw the road was getting rough, and the hills were hard to climb.  
So he closed your weary eyelids, and whispered "Peace be thine."  
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you didn't go alone,  
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

## ***I Did Not Die***

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the softly falling snow,  
I am the gentle shower of rain,  
I am the fields of ripening grain,  
I am in the morning hush,  
I am in the graceful rush  
Of beautiful birds in circling flight.  
I am the starshine of the night,  
I am in the flowers that bloom,  
I am in a quiet room,  
I am in the birds that sing,  
I am in each lovely thing.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there - I did not die.

## ***Grief is Like a River***

by Cinthia G. Kelley

My grief is like a river,  
I have to let it flow,  
but I myself determine  
just where the banks will go.

Some days the current takes me  
in waves of guilt and pain,  
but there are always quiet pools  
where I can rest again.

I crash on rocks of anger;  
my faith seems faint indeed,  
but there are other swimmers  
who know that what I need

Are loving hands to hold me  
when the waters are too swift,  
and someone kind to listen  
when I just seem to drift.

Grief's river is a process  
of relinquishing the past.  
By swimming in hope's channels,  
I'll reach the shore at last

## ***My Broken Chain***

We little knew that, God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.  
You did not go alone, for part of us went with you,  
The day God called you home.  
You left us beautiful memories,  
Your love is still our guide,  
Though we cannot see you, you're always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken, nothing seems the same,  
But God calls us one by one,  
The chain will link again.

### ***Fill Not Your Hearts***

Fill not your hearts with pain and sorrow,  
But remember me in every tomorrow.  
My going has eased my pain and given relief,  
So dry your eyes and forget your grief.  
Remember the joy, our laughter, my smile  
And that our being apart is just for awhile.  
Remember me also as I used to be.  
Understand in your hearts, so precious to me,  
That I've gone on ahead to dwell up above,  
And 'til we're once more together...  
You have all of my love.

### ***To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me***

When I am gone, release me, let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave to you my love;  
You can only guess how much you gave to me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you each have shown,  
But now it's time for me to travel alone.  
So grieve for me a while if grieve you must,  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part,  
So bless the memories within your heart.

### ***Untitled***

We want not to grieve that we have lost you,  
But rather to be thankful that we have had you.  
Indeed that we have you still now;  
For whoever returns home to the Lord  
Remains in the fellowship of God's  
Family and has only gone ahead.

*-St .Jerome (331-421 CE)*

(SAMPLE of Memory Card – tp be printed landscape format)

**PAGE 2**

*(space for poem or biographical information on deceased)*

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Understand in your hearts, so precious to me,  
that I've gone on ahead to dwell up above,  
and 'til we're once more together...  
You have all of my love.*

**PAGE 3**

**In memory of**

**Born**

**Entered Into Rest**

**Memorial Service**

*Christ Lutheran Church  
11720 Nieman Road  
Overland Park, Kansas*

(Bible Verse)

*PAGE 4*

*(space for poem or biographical information on deceased)*

*In*  
*Memory*

*PAGE 1*