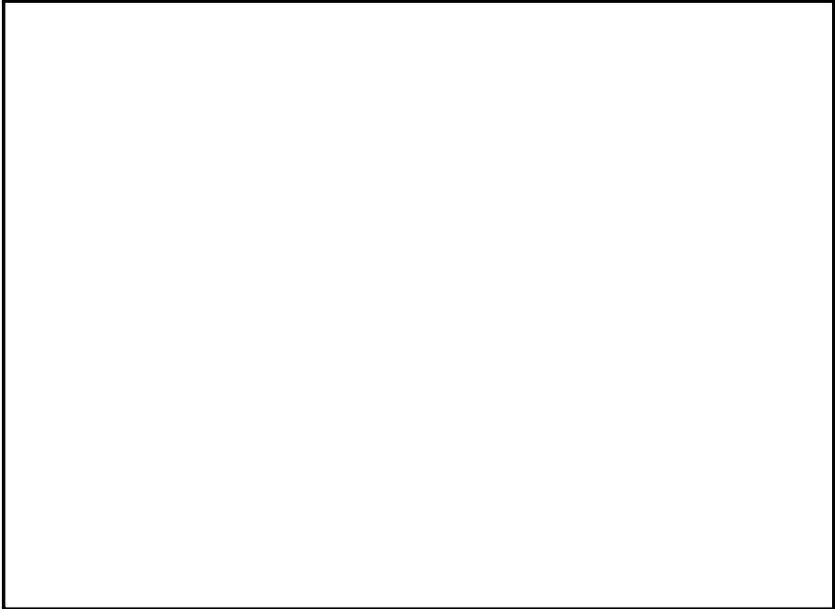


A Celebration of the Life of
Full Name
Date of Birth - Date of Death



Date / Time of funeral
Celebrant:
Organist/Pianist:
(St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church)
Yarmouth, Maine

Prelude

Opening Hymn Suggestions listed in the back (*usually a strong, grand hymn*)

Opening Anthem (*this is optional*)

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

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

Welcome (*clergy person*)

The Collects

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant **NAME** and grant **her/him** an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with **NAMES** and their families in their grief. 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lessons - Suggestions listed in the back

(We may use all four or fewer but they will be done in this order. And you may include readings from an outside source, though clergy person would like to sign off on those ahead of time.)

First Lesson

Psalm *(Led by a reader. The congregation joins with them.)*

Second Lesson

Hymn *(Quiet hymn.)*

***(Or Soloist here)**

The Gospel

Reflections *(A family member or a friend tell a story - not too much.)*

***(Or Soloist here)**

Homily *(clergy person)*

***(Or Soloist here)**

The Prayers

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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.

Leader: O Gracious Light,

People: **Pure brightness of the ever living God.**

Leader: When we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light,

People: **We sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for all the gifts so freely bestowed upon us,

People: **For the beauty and wonder of creation, in earth and sky and sea.**

Leader: For all that is gracious in our lives.

People: **For NAME who goes before us now.**

Leader: Comfort us in our sorrow at the death of our friend, **daughter, sister, wife, mother, aunt, grandmother. (son, brother, husband, father, uncle, grandfather)**

People: **Let our faith be our consolation and eternal life our hope.**

Celebrant: In the midst of things we cannot understand, grant, O Lord that we may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Father of all, we pray to you for **NAME**, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May **her/his** soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

The Commendation

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing,
but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing,
but life everlasting.**

The Celebrant, with hand on the ashes, says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant **NAME**. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive **her/him** into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Closing Words *(clergy person)*

St. Bart's Blessing *(or another if you prefer)*

My Friends, life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be quick to love, and make haste to be kind, and rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned with the promise of our future than the mistakes of our past. The Blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional/Closing Hymn *(usually a strong hymn)*

The Dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Readings

From The Old Testament

Genesis 32:22-30 (Jacob and the angel)

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)

Isaiah 40:27-31 (They shall mount up on eagle's wings)

Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all that mourn)

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (Break into shouts of joy)

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good unto them that wait for him)

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God)

From the New Testament

Hebrews 11:1-8, 13-16, 12:1&2 (By faith are we called) *Very powerful lesson.*

I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (Raised in incorruption)

II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things which are not seen are eternal)

I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)

Philippians 3:8-14 (I press on toward the mark)

Philippians 4:4-9 (Rejoice in the Lord always)

Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away all tears)

Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Psalms

Psalms 42

Psalms 46

Psalms 90

Psalms 121

Psalms 130

Psalms 139

Psalms 23

Psalms 27

Psalms 106

Psalms 116

Gospel Readings

John 5:24-27 (He that believeth hath everlasting life)

John 6: 37-40 (All that the Father giveth me shall 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 mansions)

Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 6:26-34 (Be not anxious/consider)

Hymns

Make sure hymns are familiar and easy to sing.
Include hymns which have had meaning to you in your faith.
Here are a few recommendations. Use a hymnal to read the texts.
If you request a hymn not in the Episcopal Hymnal, the music must be provided as arrangements are made.

Quiet Hymns

- 24 *The day thou gavest*
- 42 *Now the day is over*
- 482 *Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy*
- 624 *Jerusalem the golden*
- 645 *The King of love my shepherd is*
- 662 *Abide with me: fast falls the eventide*
- 663 *The Lord my God my shepherd is*
- 664 *My Shepherd will supply my need*
- 669 *Commit thou all that grieves thee*
- 671 *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound*

Strong Hymns

- 207 *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!*
- 358 *Christ the Victorious, give to your servants*
- 376 *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*
- 397 *Now thank we all our God*
- 608 *Eternal Father, strong to save (Navy)*
- 623 *O what their joy and their glory must be*
- 653 *Dear Lord and Father of mankind*
- 665 *All my hope on God is founded*
- 680 *O God, our help in ages past*
- 688 *A mighty fortress is our God*

Closing Hymns

- 287 *For all the saints, who from their labors rest*
- 541 *Come labor on*
- 618 *Ye watchers and ye holy ones*
- 625 *Ye holy angels bright*