



CONFESSING THE RESURRECTION: PLANNING THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

1. THINKING DIFFERENTLY THAN THE WORLD

Assuming you have 1) thought about death already during your lifetime; 2) viewed death in the light of life, hell in the light of heaven, and sin in the light of grace, 3) armed yourselves with the tools of God's Word and Sacraments; and 4) have put your life and possessions in order for the sake of your family, the only thing left is planning for your service.

Death...and freedom of speech?

The Parable of Preparing a Banquet – Luke 14

¹³“But when you make a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. Certainly, you will be repaid in the resurrection of the righteous.”

Acts 2:29, Peter spoke with *παρρησία*

²⁹ Men and brethren, let me speak freely [*παρρησία*] to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne [Ps. 89:3-4; Ps. 132:11] ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption [Ps. 16:10]. ³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

A Mighty Fortress | 250

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott
M. Luther, 1483-1546; Tr. composite

4. *The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
**And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone,**
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.*

2. THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL & BURIAL

Celebration of Life vs. Funeral / Rite of Christian Burial

Not In the Same Way As Others...For Christians Death is But A Sleep

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. ¹⁴Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

Funeral = from Latin *funus* (Corpse)

“Celebration of Life” emphasizes:

“Christian Burial” emphasizes:

Funeral Customs

Paschal Candle is lit because...

Palls (hence the term ‘pallbearers’) are used because...

P “In Holy Baptism ____ was clothed with the robe of Christ’s righteousness that covered all *his/her* sin. [Galatians 3:27] St. Paul says: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

C **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.** [Romans 6:3–5]

Historic Christian practice of burial vs. modern innovative practices for the service and grave

Church Cemetery = From Greek *koimētērion* (‘dormitory’)

Graveyard (Not Owned by a Church)

The Christian will want his survivors to know even by the way he was placed into the ground that he was one who by faith in Christ’s atoning blood looked forward to citizenship in heaven – even bodily citizenship.

Bodily Citizenship – Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

We have no 'official' practice regarding burial or cremation. However, while Christians may in freedom choose cremation, it is not the historic practice of the church.

Burial Emphasizes =

The Buried Treasure – Matthew 13:44

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.

3. PLANNING THE SERVICE

See our church's "Funeral Planning Guide"

Choosing Hymns

Hymns of Note:

- We Now Implore God the Holy Ghost - ELH 33 v. 4
- Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus - ELH 236 v. 3
- Lord, Thee I Love With All My Heart - ELH 406 v. 3
- Christ, the Life of All the Living - ELH 333 vv. 1, 7
- Praise God, This Hour of Sorrow - ELH 475 (*Death of an infant/stillborn*) (cf. *Walther's hymnal for full hymn*)
- O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is - ELH 161 vv. 4, 5
- God's Own Child, I Gladly Say it - ELH 246 v. 4
- I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name - ELH 525
- O How Blest Are Ye Whose Toils Are Ended - ELH 526
- Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense – ELH 532 vv. 1, 6, 8, 10

Confessing with the Boy at Nain – Luke 7:11-17

¹¹Soon afterward Jesus went on his way to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd were traveling with him. ¹²As he was approaching the town gate, there was a dead man being carried out, the only son of his mother. She was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³When the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not cry." ¹⁴He went up to the open coffin, touched it, and the pallbearers stopped. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵**The dead man sat up and began to speak**, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear gripped all of them, and **they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us" and "God has visited his people!"** ¹⁷**This was reported about him** in all of Judea and in all the surrounding countryside.