



***For Informational Purpose Only. Music will be selected with the assistance of the Music Director***

## Selecting Music for the Burial Office

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### Considerations of Ethos

Both joy *and* sorrow are appropriate (necessary?) Christian postures at the Burial Office. This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian.... Jesus himself wept

#### *Joy*

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. This liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy. (BCP p. 507)

#### *Sorrow*

at the grave of his friend. So...we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn. (BCP p. 507)

*In selecting music, consider texts and tunes that reflect both joy and sorrow.*

### The Public Nature of Liturgy

In most cases, music for the congregation should be familiar

The Burial Office is a public liturgy—an expression of the Church's deep faith in the love of God from which nothing can separate us—rather than an exhibit of an individual's personal piety. *Reflect deeply on the theology of texts*

#### Implications:

- Music for the congregation should be singable
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  - ○ Consider ecumenically known hymns and service music
  - ○ Often we have been minimally reflective about our most dearly loved hymns and may be horrified when we realize what theology they actually assert!
  - Our favorite music may be beautiful and deeply meaningful to us and yet not be appropriate in the Burial Office
- The Episcopal Church has approved music resources
- The musician is bound to these parameters and needs permission to draw on other resources

*In selecting music, consider texts and tunes that will allow strong communal participation in celebration and lament.*

## Where in the Liturgy

The following are appropriate places for music in the Burial Office:

- Music before the liturgy
  - Organ
  - Other instrumental
- At the Entrance
  - See BCP p. 469, 491-492
  - Funeral anthems may be chanted
  - Hymn
  - Anthem
  - Rite II allows for more options
- Between Hebrew Scripture and New Testament
  - See BCP p. 470-475, 494
  - Psalm (see lists of appropriate psalms in BCP)
  - Canticle
  - Hymn (may be a psalm paraphrase)
- Between New Testament and Gospel
  - See BCP p. 475-479, 495
  - Psalm (see lists of appropriate psalms in BCP)
  - Canticle
  - Hymn (may be a psalm paraphrase)
- When Eucharist is celebrated
  - At the Offertory
    - Hymn
    - Anthem
    - Instrumental
  - Sursum Corda & Preface
  - Sanctus
  - Fraction anthem
  - Communion
    - Hymn
    - Anthem
    - Instrumental
- At the Commendation
  - See BCP p. 482-483, 499
  - Anthem
  - Hymn
- As the body is borne from the church
  - See BCP p. 483-484, 500
  - Hymn
  - Anthem
  - Canticle
    - Song of Zechariah
    - Song of Simeon
    - Christ Our Passover
- After the body is borne from the church
  - Organ
  - Other instrumental

- At the Committal
  - See BCP p. 484-486, 501-502
  - Committal can be beautiful with portions sung
  - Seldom practical

### Other Considerations

#### *Size and capability of the congregation*

You may love to chant the Lord's Prayer, but if no one is likely to chant, it is probably better to speak it!

#### *Ritual weight*

If there is a large choral anthem with brass between the first two lections yet the Sanctus is spoken, there will be an imbalance of ritual weight!

#### *Possible resources*

- Organ
- Other instruments
- Choir
- Cantor
  - When a choir is not logistically or financially feasible, a single cantor can be a lovely addition
    - Support for congregational singing
    - Chant verses of a psalm
    - Sing a solo anthem

### Appropriate Hymns

NOTES: This is not an exhaustive list  
 \* = tune ecumenically known  
 H = *Hymnal 1982*  
 L = *Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
 W = *Wonder, Love and Praise*

#### *Metrical paraphrases of psalms*

H687, 688*	A mighty fortress is our God	(Ps. 46)
H658	As long the deer for cooling streams	(Ps. 42)
H151	From deepest woe I cry to thee	(Ps. 130)
H668	I to the hills will lift mine eyes	(Ps. 121)
H680*	O God, our help in ages past	(Ps. 90)
H666	Out of the depths I call	(Ps. 130)
H645, 646	The King of love my shepherd is	(Ps. 23)

#### *Hymns for the Burial Office*

H354	Into paradise may the angels lead you
H355	Give rest, O Christ
H356	May choirs of angels lead you

H357 Jesus, Son of Mary  
H358 Christ the Victorious, give to your servants

*Other appropriate hymns*

H665 All my hope on God is founded  
L121 Baptized in water  
L213\* Children of the heavenly Father  
H669 Commit thou all that grieves thee  
H287\* For all the saints, who from their labors rest  
L91 Give me Jesus  
W775\* Give thanks for life  
H379 God is Love, let heaven adore him  
H690\* Guide me, O thou great Jehovah  
H636\*, 637 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
H335\* I am the bread of life  
L70 I want Jesus to walk with me  
L193 I will trust in the Lord  
H635 If thou but trust in God to guide thee  
H429 I'll praise my Maker while I've breath  
H620\* Jerusalem, my happy home  
H624 Jerusalem the golden  
H526 Let saints on earth in concert sing  
W765 O blessed spring  
H448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high  
H455 O Love of God, how strong and true  
H623 O what their joy and their glory must be  
H388 O worship the King, all glorious above!  
L99 On Christ, the solid Rock  
L106\* Precious Lord, take my hand  
L141 Shall we gather at the river  
H492 Sing, ye faithful, sing with gladness  
H447 The Christ who died but rose again  
H457 Thou art the Way, to thee alone  
H286 Who are these like stars appearing  
H625 Ye holy angels bright  
H618\* Ye watchers and ye holy ones

*General hymns of praise*

H376\* Joyful, joyful, we adore thee  
H390\* Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
*etc.*

*Easter hymns*

H1945 Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
H208\* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er  
L41 Christ has arisen  
*etc.*

## Sample

### Organ Voluntary

Aria, Op. 51

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

### Hymn [following spoken anthems]

Hymnal 390: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (stanzas 1-2, 4)

### Psalm 139:1-11

[refrain after verses 5, 11]

*The cantor sings the following refrain, then all repeat*

Lord, you have searched me out, searched me out and known me.

### Hymn at the Offertory

Hymnal 680: O God, our help in ages past (stanzas 1-2, 6)

### Sanctus & Benedictus

Hymnal 1982: S-125

### Solo Anthem at the Communion

Panis Angelicus

Music: Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)

### Hymn [as the body is borne from the church]

Hymnal 662: Abide with me, fast falls the eventide (stanzas 1, 3)

### Organ Voluntary

Sonata, Op. 65, No. 4

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

I. Allegro con brio

