

Legacy Deo

God's Gifts.
Your Legacy.

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Celebrating Victory in Christ

Planning for Your Celebration of Life Service



Table of Contents

Introduction

Personal and Family Reference Information

Your Information	3
Your Immediate Family Information	3
Person(s) to Make Arrangements	4

Planning for Your Celebration of Life Service

Type of Service	5
Facility Handling Arrangements.	5
Pastor(s) to Officiate at Service	5
Music Selections	6
Scripture Readings	6
Pall Bearer Contact Information.	6
Colors, Flower Selections	8
Military Honors.	8
People to Notify of Your Passing	8
Meal or Reception in Connection with Service.	10
Other Details of Your Service	10
Memorials	10
Significant Dates in Your Life	10
Photographs and/or Videos for Remembrance Service.	10
Burial Location	10
Details of Burial.	10
Burial Marker	11
Selection of Coffin	11
Obituary Preparation	11

Location of Legal Documents and Information

Last Will and Testament	12
Trust Documents.	12
Organ Donation Designation	12
Life Insurance Policies	12
Other Documents	12

Leaving Your Legacy

Christian Preamble for Your Last Will And Testament	13
Family Blessing or Remembrance	13
Gift Legacy	14

Appendix

Suggested Hymns and Other Musical Selections	15
Suggested Scripture Readings	16

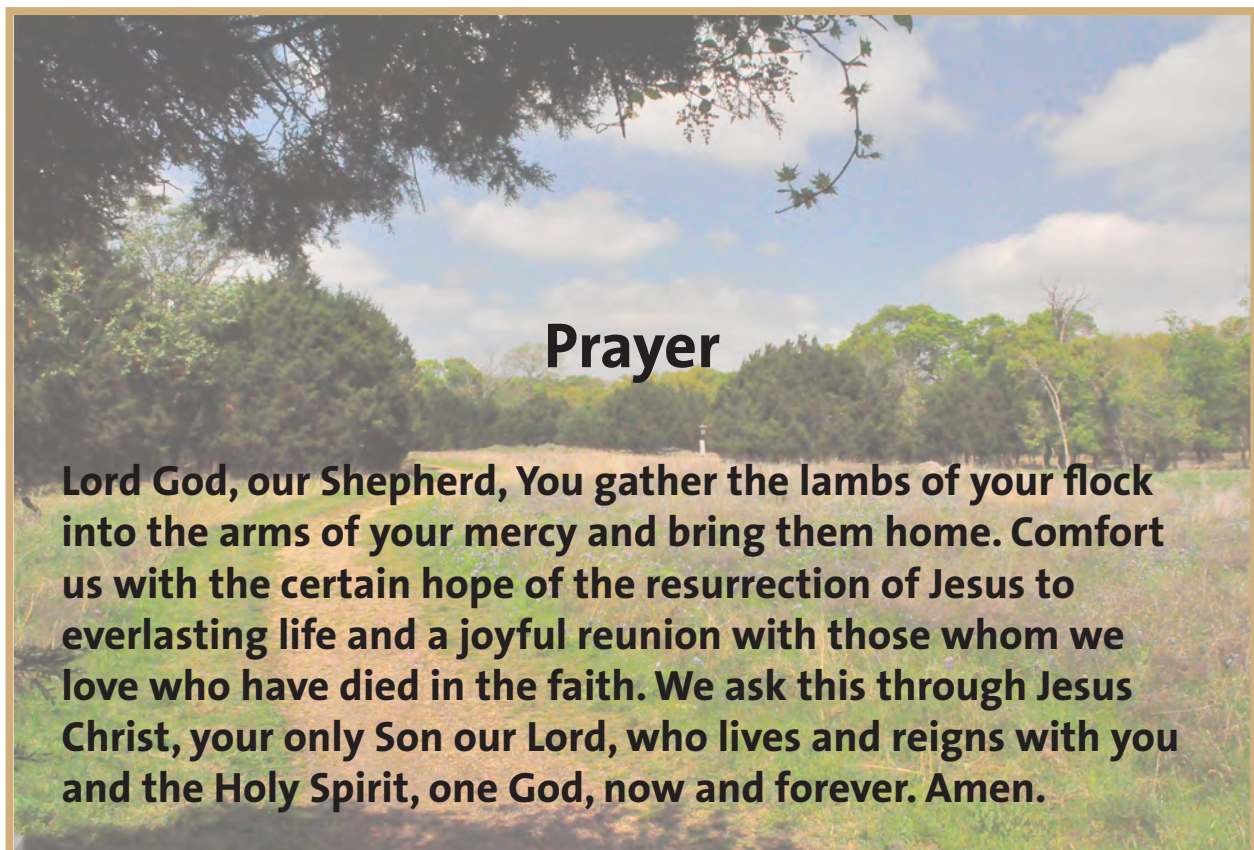
Disclosure on Attorneys and Legacy Deo

This guide is offered to you as an educational service. While we attempt to provide helpful estate and financial background, we cannot offer specific legal advice on your personal situation. Because you may have special needs, we encourage you to contact an attorney. He or she will be your independent advisor and will have an obligation of trust and confidence to you. With the advice of your attorney, you can have a customized estate plan that truly fulfills your unique family, healthcare, and estate planning needs.

Introduction

At Legacy Deo we have the privilege of talking about matters that not many folks ever really want to discuss, topics such as death and dying, estate preparation and planning, and financial instruments that help us prepare for the day on which our Heavenly Father calls our name. We hope this guide will help you prepare for the inevitable glorious day when we celebrate our victory in Christ, when God's promise of eternal life is fulfilled. The steps outlined on these pages will help ensure that your preparation is completed long before it is needed, freeing your loved ones from the burden of having to make many decisions while they are grieving your loss.

This guide will lead you through many questions and decisions that your loved ones might otherwise face at your death. Your responses will be useful no matter when that information is needed or where the actual funeral or memorial service is conducted. The information you provide after reviewing this brochure will lighten your family's task of wondering how best to honor God for the blessings He provided through your life of witness and service. The information you provide will also provide a message of hope and encouragement to your family and friends.



Prayer

Lord God, our Shepherd, You gather the lambs of your flock into the arms of your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection of Jesus to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those whom we love who have died in the faith. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal and Family Reference Information

Your Information

Legal Name _____ Date _____

Preferred Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____ Birth date _____

Other information (e.g. cities of residence with years, military service)

Your Immediate Family Information (use additional page if needed)

Include spouse, children, grandchildren, siblings, and other family members for contact and communication purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Your Immediate Family Information (continued)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Person(s) Responsible for Coordinating Your Funeral Arrangements

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Preparing for Your Celebration of Life Service

Type of Service Desired

Traditional funeral ____ Memorial service ____ Traditional burial ____ Cremation ____

Is visitation desired? Yes ____ No ____

Casket open for viewing before service? Yes ____ No ____

Other (explain below)

Facility Handling Arrangements

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Pastors to Officiate at the Service

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Musical Selections (hymns or other appropriate music; see Appendix A for suggestions)

Include specific instructions such as organist or other musicians/vocalists. Use additional page if needed.

Scripture Readings (see Appendix B for suggestions)

Pall Bearer Contact Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Pall Bearer Contact Information (continued)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Colors/flower selections

Military Honors (explain appropriate arrangements below)

People to Notify of Your Death and Funeral Arrangements (use additional pages if needed)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____


Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____


Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

People to Notify of Your Death and Funeral Arrangements (continued)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Meal or Reception in Connection with Service?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, before or after service? Before _____ After _____

Other Details of Your Service (include your desire for family remembrances)

Memorials (add the name(s) of churches/organizations to receive memorials)
Suggested wording: "In lieu of flowers, please designate memorials to the following organization(s) in loving memory of [your name]"

Significant Events/Dates/Places in Your Life

Baptism _____

Confirmation _____

Marriage date and details _____

Death of spouse, if applicable _____

Other information _____

Whom to Contact for Photographs and/or Videos to Use at Your Service

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Name and Location of Cemetery or Columbarium

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

Details of Prepaid Burial Plans, Cemetery Lot, and/or Columbarium

Desired Burial Marker Inscription

Selection of Coffin, as Appropriate

Details to be Included in Obituary

This may include birth date and location, early years, education, marriage date(s) and spouse(s), work details, personal accomplishments, volunteer activities, military service, organization/club memberships, names of parents, children/grandchildren, siblings, other relatives and their survival, interests and hobbies, etc. Use an additional page if needed. Include a photograph if you choose.

Location of Legal Documents

Provide as much detail as possible about the location of all pertinent legal documents. Include other documents as appropriate for your specific situation. You may provide more details by completing the Legacy Deo Red Book document.

Last Will and Testament _____

Relevant Trust(s) _____

Organ Donation Details and Location of Document(s) _____

Life Insurance Policies _____

Other (describe) _____

Leaving Your Legacy

A legacy is something from the past that is left for future generations. As a Christian, you may wonder what legacy you might leave for your family, your church, and other organizations about which you feel passionate. Here are three ways in which you can leave a lasting legacy.

Add a Christian Preamble to Your Will

A Christian preamble is an opportunity to proclaim the gift of Christian faith as you give your last words to the world within your estate documents. A preamble provides hope and comfort to your heirs and shares the gift of faith as a witness to others. It is a permanent statement of your faith and its importance to your family and others who read your will. You may even request that your preamble be read at your funeral or memorial service.

Example of a Christian preamble:

In the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I want my loved ones to know that I place full confidence and trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who promised: *“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.”*

— (John 11:25-26)

I have created a will [and other documents] to provide for the financial well-being of you, my loved ones, [and in addition have provided a gift to the ministries I care about]. I want you to realize that my will not only provides material blessings but also is a reflection of spiritual blessings that are actually the more important of the two. Accordingly, I have prepared this last will and testament as a witness to share my faith in Christ.

Write a Family Blessing or Remembrance

You may want to develop a written statement to your family that tells how you have been blessed by them and the wonderful relationships you have experienced with them. This can be a separate letter to be shared with your family during your lifetime, or at your death, or it may be included in your will. If you like, you can write your individual blessing to each family member. It will be a wonderful legacy and your family will be so blessed by your loving words left to each of them.

Example of an opening statement for a family blessing:

Our God promised us, “I will make you a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing.” Genesis 12:2

God blessed Abraham; his descendants would fill the earth and all nations would be blessed through him. Because of God’s faithfulness to keep His promises, St. Paul, in Galatians 3:29, calls Christians the offspring of Abraham. Abraham passed down the blessings he received to his son Isaac, Isaac passed them to Jacob, and so on through lineage to the One who became the real blessing, Jesus Christ our Savior. Christians today pass blessings to their descendants – a desire placed in them by the Holy Spirit.

I am eternally thankful to the Lord for my blessings. The blessing I received from my father and mother, who introduced me to my Savior, Jesus Christ, shared their love with me, and prayed for me, has been of great comfort and encouragement as I journeyed through life.

Now I want you, my children, to know that I pass on that blessing and appreciation for you and your life. I pray that God will grant you His grace and every blessing each day as you face the challenges and opportunities of everyday life. Just as I pray that I have been a blessing to you, I encourage you to be a blessing in your life relationships. I'm not concerned about how I will be remembered or whether I will be remembered at all. What I care about and pray about is that my loved ones will remain in their baptismal faith in their Savior Jesus.

"If we live, we are the Lord's. If we die, we are the Lord's. So whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Rom. 14:8

Leave a Financial Legacy for Your Church and Other Organizations

There are many examples in the Bible of passing blessings to church and other organizations by making gifts that can build the Kingdom:

Psalm 24:1

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it!

2 Cor. 9:7, 11

God loves a cheerful giver . . . You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way!

1 Chron. 29:14-16 (King David speaking to the church)

Who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to you, O Lord? Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us. We are here for only a moment, visitors and strangers in the land as our ancestors were before us. Our days on earth are like a passing shadow, gone so soon without a trace. As for all this abundance that we have ... it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you.

In addition to your church, these same concepts apply to other organizations that have blessed you during your lifetime and may be considered as a part of your legacy. Such legacy gifts can be made through your last will and testament or by naming the organization(s) as beneficiary of other financial instruments, e.g. qualified plans such as IRA or 401(k), life insurance policies, bank accounts, etc.

Legacy Deo's goal is to encourage you and all Christians to leave a legacy as described on these two pages. We have the capability of guiding you in the area of legacy gifts to ministries you love and want to remember even after your death.

Appendix A - Suggested Musical Selections

This list suggests hymns and other praise songs that may be appropriate for a funeral or remembrance service. There are many more songs that may be appropriate for your service.

Lutheran Hymns (Lutheran Service Book Reference)

Amazing Grace (744)	Lord of All Hopefulness (738)
Be Still, My Soul (752)	Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me (722)
Behold a Host, Arrayed in White (676)	Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart (708)
Children of the Heavenly Father (725)	O God, Our Help in Ages Past (733)
Eternal Father, Strong to Save (717)	Oh, How Blest Are They (679)
For All the Saints (677)	Oh, What Their Joy (675)
For Me to Live Is Jesus (742)	Precious Lord, Take My Hand (739)
God Moves in a Mysterious Way (765)	Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me (761)
Great Is Thy Faithfulness (809)	Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (711)
Have No Fear, Little Flock (735)	Sing with All the Saints in Glory (671)
How Great Thou Art (801)	The King of Love My Shepherd Is (709)
I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (740)	The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want (710)
I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus (729)	The Will of God Is Always Best (758)
I Leave All Things to God's Direction (719)	Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise (680)
I'm But a Stranger Here (748)	This Body in the Grave We Lay (759)
In the Very Midst of Life (755)	We Sing for All the Unsung Saints (678)
Jerusalem, My Happy Home (673)	What God Ordains Is Always Good (760)
Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense (741)	When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (425)
Jesus, Lead Thou On (718)	When Peace, Like a River (763)
Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me (715)	

In addition to traditional hymns, many other songs are very worshipful and appropriate for funerals and remembrance services:

Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone	I Can Only Imagine
Because He Lives	I Will Rise
Blessed Be Your Name	In Christ Alone
Flawless	Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer
God Will Take Care of You	Nearer My God to Thee
Homesick	Untitled Hymn
How Can I Keep From Singing	You Hold Me Now
How Deep the Father's Love for Us	10,000 Reasons

Appendix B - Suggested Scripture Readings

This list suggests some scripture readings that are appropriate for a funeral or remembrance service.

Old Testament Readings

Job 19:1, 21-27 - I know that my Redeemer lives.
Isaiah 25:6-9 - The Lord God will destroy death forever.
Isaiah 61:1-3 - To bestow on them a crown of beauty.
Lamentations 3:23-33 - It is good to wait in silence for the Lord God to save.
Daniel 12:1-3 - Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake.

New Testament Readings

Matthew 5:1-12a - Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.
Matthew 11:25-30 - Come to me...and I will give you rest.
Matthew 25:31-46 - Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Mark 16:1-8 - He has risen. He is not here. He is going ahead of you.
Luke 7:11-17 - Young man, I say to you arise.
Luke 23:33, 39-43 - Today you will be with me in paradise.
Luke 23:44-46, 50, 52-53, 24:1-6a - Father, I put my life in your hands.
Luke 24:13-35 - Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?
John 3:16-21 - God so loved the world.
John 5:24-29 (or 24-27) - Whoever hears my word and believes, has passed from death to life.
John 6:37-40 - All who believe in the Son will have eternal life and I will raise them again on the last day.
John 6:51-59 - All who eat this bread will live forever; and I will raise them up on the last day.
John 10:11-16 - I am the Good Shepherd.
John 10:27-29 - No one can snatch them out of my hand.
John 11:17-27 (or 21-27) - I am the resurrection and the life.
John 12:23-28 - If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.
John 14:1-6 - There are many rooms in my Father's house.
John 17:24-26 - Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am.
John 19:17-18, 25-39 - Jesus bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
Acts 10:34-43 - God has appointed Jesus to judge everyone, alive and dead.
Romans 5:5-11 - Having been justified by his blood, we will be saved from God's anger through him.
Romans 5:17-21 - When sin increased, there grace abounded all the more
Romans 6:3-9 - "We have been baptized into Christ and will be united with him."
Romans 8:14-23 - We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.
Romans 8:31-39 - Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
Romans 14:7-12 - Whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.
1 Corinthians 15:20-28 (or 1-26) - All people will be brought to life in Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:51-57 (or 35-57) - Death is swallowed up in victory.
2 Corinthians 4:14- 5:1 - What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10 - We have an everlasting home in heaven.
Philippians 3:20-21 - Jesus will transfigure these lowly bodies of ours to be like his glorious body.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - We shall stay with the Lord forever.
1 Timothy 2:8-13 - If we have died with him, we shall live with him.
1 John 3:14-16 - We have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.
Revelation 7:9-12 (or 9-17) - The great multitude in white robes gathered before the throne.
Revelation 14:13 - Happy are those who die in the Lord.
Revelation 20:11-21:1 - The dead have been judged according to their works.

*From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl
streams in the countless host.
Singing to Father, Son, and
Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

— For All the Saints, stanza 8

