

Knights Templar Funeral Service  
as adapted by Ascalon Commandery #16

*(The casket should be turned from its usual placement, so that the foot of the casket is facing the mourners. The EC and PR, following the CG, lead the procession. The EC takes his place at the head of the casket, the PR to his right, the CG to his left. Six Knights form columns of three on either side. The SW and JW are at the foot of the casket; the SW carrying the cross, the JW carries the sword and scabbard, and places them on the casket, with the hilt of the sword is toward the JW. After the Honor Guard and Officers are in position at the casket.)*

Hymn: “Nearer, My God, to Thee”, or other appropriate hymn

EC: Sir Knights, in the solemn ceremonies of our Order, we have often been reminded of the great truth that we were born to die. Mortality has been brought to view, that we might more earnestly seek an immortality beyond this fleeting life, where death can come no more forever. The sad and mournful funeral knell has betokened that another spirit has winged its flight to a new state of existence. An alarm has come to the door of our Asylum, and the messenger was Death, and none presumed to say to the awful presence, “Who dare approach?” A Pilgrim Warrior has been summoned and there is no discharge in that war.” A burning taper in the life of our Commandery has been extinguished and none save the High and Holy One can relight it. All that remains of our beloved Companion and Sir Knight lies mute before us, and the light of the eye and the breathing of the lips in their language of fraternal greeting, have ceased for us forever on this side of the grave. His sword, vowed to be drawn only in the cause of truth, justice and liberty, reposes in its scabbard and our arms can no more shield him from wrong and oppression. Our Brother was a true and courteous Knight and has fallen in life’s struggles in full knighthood and with his armor on, prepared for knightly deeds.

PR: Rest to his ashes, and peace to his soul.

*(JW steps forward and presents the sword to the EC)*

EC: Our departed brother was taught, while living, that this sword in the hands of a true and courteous Knight is endowed with three most excellent qualities: its hilt with justice impartial; its blade with fortitude undaunted; and its point with mercy unrestrained. To this lesson, with its deep emblematic significance, we trust he gave wise heed. He could never grasp it without being reminded of the attributes it inculcates. He has borne the pangs of this dissolving nature: may we trust that it was with the same fortitude that he sustained the trials of this passing existence. To his name and memory, may justice be done; as we hope to receive the like, meed ourselves; and may that mercy unrestrained which is the glorious attribute of the Son of God, interpose in his behalf to admit him to the blessed companionship of saints and angels in the realms of life and light eternal.

PR: Light be upon thee, and may the sunshine of heaven beam bright on thy waking.

*(EC returns sword to the JW, who returns it to the scabbard. SW steps forward and presents the evergreen cross to the EC)*

EC: This symbol of faith – the Christian’s hope and the Christian’s trust – we again place above the breast of our Brother, *(places cross on the casket)*, there to remain ‘til the last trumpet shall sound, and the earth and sea yield up their dead. The cross is the badge of a Christian warrior. It calls to mind Gethsemane and its sorrowful garden. It also calls to mind the judgment hall of Pilate, and the pitiless Crown of Thorns, Golgotha or Calvary, and its untold agonies, that fallen man might live and inherit eternal life. If an inspired apostle was not ashamed of the Cross, neither should we be. If he gloried in the significance of the truths it shadows forth, so ought we to rejoice in it as the speaking witness of our reliance beyond the grave. May this hope of the living, having been the anchor of the soul of our departed Brother, be the token to admit him to that peaceful haven, “where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest.”

PR: Amen and amen.

Hymn: “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” or other appropriate hymn.

EC: Our brother was one of our mystic band, bound by fraternal ties and pledges to the noble duties of protecting innocence, relieving distresses and binding up the wounds of the afflicted. To his friends and relatives we tender our heartfelt sympathy and affirm our faith that he who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb looks down with infinite compassion upon the widow and the fatherless in their hour of desolation. And that the same benevolent Savior, who wept tears of sympathy over the grave of Bethany, will support and comfort all those who put their trust and faith in Him. Let us pray. Order, SWORDS. Un-COVER. Excellent Prelate, lead our devotions.

PR: Lord of Light! In this trying hour of calamity and sorrow, we humbly lift our hearts to thee. Give us, we pray, that light which cometh down from above. Thou hast mercifully said in thy holy Word, that the bruised reed thou wouldst not break. Remember, in mercy, O Lord, these bereaved now before thee. Be thou, at this hour, the Father of the fatherless, and the widow’s God. Administer to them the consolation which they so sorely need. Cause us to look away from this sad scene of mortality to the life beyond the grave. Lead us by thy grace and Spirit, to turn our attention to those things which make for our everlasting peace, and fix our thoughts more devotedly on thee, the only sure refuge in the time of need. And at last, when our earthly pilgrimage be ended, “when the silver cord be loosed, and the golden bowl be broken,” wilt thou, O Father, be indeed Emmanuel – God with us. May the lamp of thy love dispel the gloom of the dark valley, and we be enabled by the commendation of thy Son to gain admission into the blessed Asylum above. Amen.

*(Followed either by the singing of “The Lord’s Prayer” by the Chorister, or repeated by all Sir Knights present)*

EC: Re-COVER. Carry, SWORDS. Sir Knights, form Arch of Steel; Cross, SWORDS. Excellent Prelate, pronounce the benediction.

PR: I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Delivered from the limitations of this life, his soul yet liveth and abideth in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose life is the judgment of our works and whose resurrection is the pledge of our immortality. Sir Knight, farewell! God speed thee on thy heavenly way.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be and abide with us all evermore. Amen.

EC: Carry, SWORDS. Sir Knights, return, SWORDS. Sir Knight Captain General, take charge of the lines.

*If the Lodge service is to follow:*

EC: Brethren of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge, we commit to you the body of our deceased Companion and Frater for Masonic interment.

*The Honor Guard and Officers will be conducted by the CG to seats provided for them, or into formation according to arrangements.*