



ALL SAINTS'

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

In Celebration
and Thanksgiving
for the Life of
Alex J. Smith

Birth Date
– Death Date

Founded in 1742

106 W. Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701

301-663-5625

www.allsaintsmd.org

This is a sample bulletin to give you an idea of what a service may look like. Notes to help you along will be in grey boxes, but will not appear in your final bulletin.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

OPENING ANTHEM

Standing, as able.

All stand while one or more of the following is said or sung

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom. *Isaiah 40:11*

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33:27*

As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you. *Isaiah 66:13a*

When Israel was a child, I loved him.... it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms.... I led them with...bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. *Hosea 11:1a, 3, 4*

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears.... But you, O Lord, reign for ever; your throne endures to all generations. *Lamentations 1:16a; 5:19*

Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. *Matthew 19:14*

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. *Revelation 7:17*

HYMN - ###

Sung by all.

Name of hymn

Tune name

Hymns are not mandatory, and can appear in several different places in the service. Our music director can help you to choose music, and decide where it will go.

COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Minister says one of the following Collects,

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust Alex to your never failing lovingkindness. Comfort us as we bear the pain of her/his death, and reunite us in your good time in your Paradise; through Jesus Christ our Savior who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

or this Collect for the family and all who grieve

Gracious God, we come before you this day in pain and sorrow. We grieve the loss of Alex, a precious human life. Give your grace to those who grieve [especially XYZ.], that they may find comfort in your presence and be strengthened by your Spirit. Be with this your family as they mourn, and draw them together in your healing love; in the name of the one who suffered, died, and rose for us, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

You may choose one or more Bible readings for this section of the service. The only provision is that when communion is offered, a Gospel passage must be read.

The people are seated for the readings and the psalm.

THE FIRST READING

Chapter Book : Verses

The full text of your reading will go here. Suggested passages are found in our 'Reading Selections' booklet.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM ##

Read responsively by alternating whole verse.

1 Text choices are found in our 'Reading Selections' booklet.

THE SECOND READING

Chapter Book: Verse

Text choices are found in our 'Reading Selections' booklet.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand to sing, and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

HYMN AT THE SEQUENCE - 000 (vs. ?-?) *Sung by all.*

Name

Tune name

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Chapter Book: verse

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Apostle.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Text choices are found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 480, or in our 'Reading Selections' booklet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

REMEMBRANCES

The pastor can help you decide if remembrances are appropriate for your service.

HOMILY

The Rev. P. Jones

The people stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

Said by all.

Book of Common Prayer p. 496

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

If there is no communion offered, the Lord's prayer is said.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the peace of God, let us pray, responding "O God, have mercy."

In the assurance of your mercy, in thanksgiving for the life of your child Alex, and in confident expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we pray

O God, have mercy.

Remember Alex's parents, Terry and Jordan. Help them to hold each other in their hearts, that this sorrow may draw them together and not tear them apart, we pray

O God, have mercy.

If the deceased has siblings, you may choose to include this prayer for them and their grief.

Remember Alex's brother(s) Chris and John, and sister(s) Sarah and Megan, that they/he/she may be enfolded in love, comforted in fear, honored in their/his/her grief, and kept safe, we pray

O God, have mercy.

Remember all the family and friends of Alex, that they may know the consolation of your love, and may hold Alex in their love all the days of their lives, we pray

O God, have mercy.

Support them in their grief, and be present to all who mourn, we pray

O God, have mercy.

Teach us to be patient and gentle with ourselves and each other as we grieve, we pray

O God, have mercy.

Help us to know and accept that we will be reunited at your heavenly banquet, we pray

O God, have mercy.

Finally, our God, help us become co-creators of a world in which children are happy, healthy, loved and do not know want or hunger, we pray

O God, have mercy.

The Minister concludes the prayers with this Collect

Compassionate God, your ways are beyond our understanding, and your love for those whom you create is greater by far than ours; comfort all who grieve for this child Alex. Give them the faith to endure the wilderness of bereavement and bring them in the fullness of time to share with Alex the light and joy of your eternal presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If there is no communion, skip forward to the Commendation.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.

HYMN - 000

Sung by all.

Name

Tune name

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer ??

Book of Common Prayer p. ??

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ, and in response we say/sing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant gives thanks to God for the reconciling work of Christ's passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Responsorial sentences from Book of Common Prayer are inserted here, based on the clergy's prayer selection

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 364

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE FRACTION

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

There will be no 'Alleluias' at funerals during Lent.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *The people are seated.*

Our custom in the Episcopal Church is to welcome all who are baptized to receive the bread and wine at Communion (you may receive just the bread if you prefer). You may dip the bread in the wine or drink from the chalice. If you are not baptized, or would prefer not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest. Consecrated gluten-free wafers are available; please inform the clergy if you have gluten sensitivity.

MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

HYMN AT THE COMMUNION - 000 *Sung by all.*

Name

Tune name

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by all, standing.

Almighty God, we thank you that in you great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMENDATION

Standing, said responsively.

BCP p. 499

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.

We commend Alex to the mercy of God, our maker, redeemer, and comforter.

The minister, facing the body, says one of the following

Alex, our companion in faith and fellow child of Christ, we entrust you to God. Go forth from this world in the love of God who created you, in the mercy of Jesus who died for you, in the power of the Holy Spirit who receives and protects you. May you rest in peace and rise in glory, where pain and grief are banished, and life and joy are yours for ever. **Amen.**

or this

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

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the people respond **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN AT THE RECEPTION - 000

Sung by all.

Name

Tune Name

POSTLUDE

Invitation to graveside or reception goes here.

If a burial immediately follows the service, the liturgy of committal continues at the graveside. Additional prayers for the church service or graveside can be found on page 14.

THE COMMITTAL

One or more of the following anthems is sung or said

They are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on his throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. *Revelation 7:15-17*

or this

See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children. *Revelation 21:3b-4, 7*

Before the following prayer, the coffin may be lowered into the grave.

Then, while earth is cast upon the coffin, the minister says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother/sister Alex, and we commit his/her body to the ground/the deep/the elements/its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him/her, the Lord make his face to shine upon him/her and be gracious to him/her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him/her and give him/her peace. **Amen.**

Jesus said to his friends, “You have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” *John 16:22*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Loving God, we stand before you in pain and sadness. You gave the gift of new life, and now it has been taken from us. Hear the cry of our hearts for the pain of our loss. Be with us as we struggle to understand the mystery of life and death. Receive Alex in the arms of your mercy, to live in your gracious and eternal love, and help us to commit ourselves to your tender care. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

or this

God, you have loved us into being. Hear our cries at our loss of Alex. Move us from the shadow of death into the light of your love and peace in the name of Mary’s child, Jesus the risen one. **Amen.**

Here one or more of the additional prayers may be said.
Then the Lord's Prayer may be said.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant: Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so will it be for those who have died: God will bring them to life with Jesus. Alleluia.

Go in peace in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

These optional prayers, when appropriate, can be inserted throughout the liturgy.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

The Death of an Infant

God our Creator, you called into being this fragile life, which had seemed to us so full of promise: give to Alex, whom we commit to your care, abundant life in your presence, and to us, who grieve for hopes destroyed, courage to bear our loss; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

For a Miscarriage

O God, who gathered Rachel's tears over her lost children, hear now the sorrow and distress of Terry [and Jordan] for the death of their/her/his expected child; in the darkness of loss, stretch out to them/her/him the strength of your arm and renewed assurance of your love; through your own suffering and risen Child Jesus. **Amen.**

For a Stillbirth or Child Who Dies Soon after Birth

Heavenly Father, your love for all children is strong and enduring. We were not able to know Alex as we hoped. Yet you knew her/him growing in her/his mother's womb, and she/he is not lost to you. In the midst of our sadness, we thank you that Alex is with you now. **Amen.**

For a Mother Whose Child has Died Near Birth

Loving God, we thank you that in your mercy you brought your daughter Terry through childbirth in safety. We pray that Terry [and Jordan, etc.] will know your support in this time of trouble and enjoy your protection always; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

For a Child Who Dies by Violence

Loving God, Jesus gathered your little ones in his arms and blessed them. Have pity on those who mourn for Alex, an innocent slaughtered by the violence of our fallen world. Be with us as we struggle with the mysteries of life and death; in our pain, bring your comfort, and in our sorrow, bring your hope and your promise of new life, in the name of Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

or this

God our deliverer, gather our horror and pity for the death of your child Alex into the compass of your wisdom and strength, that through the night we may seek and do what is right, and when morning comes trust ourselves to your cleansing justice and new life; through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

or this

God, do not hide your face from us in our anger and grief for the death of Alex. Renew us in hope that your justice will roll down like mighty waters and joy spring up from the broken ground in a living stream; through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

For One Who Has Killed

Holy God, we lift into the light of your justice [the one/name] who has taken the life of your child Alex. Where our hearts are stone return to us hearts of flesh; that grief may not swallow us up, but new life find us through Jesus the crucified, with whom we are raised by your power. **Amen.**

For Those Who Mourn

God of compassion and strength: keep safe the soul of your child Alex, whose moment of pain and fear is past. Send your healing to Terry [and Jordan, etc.] and all who mourn, that their suffering may find peace and resolution within your love, whose Spirit gives life in Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

or this

Most loving God: the death of your Son has opened to us a new and living way. Give us hope to overcome our despair; help us to surrender Alex to your keeping, and let our sorrow find comfort in your care; through the name and presence of Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

or this

God, as Mary stood at the foot of the cross, we stand before you with broken hearts and tearful eyes. Keep us mindful that you know our pain, and free us to see your resurrection power already at work in Alex's life. In your time, raise us from our grief as you have raised Alex to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

or this

Merciful God, you grant to children an abundant entrance into your kingdom. In your compassion, comfort those who mourn for Alex, and grant us grace to conform our lives to her/his innocence and faith, that at length, united with her/him, we may stand in your presence in the fullness of joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

For a Child Dead by Suicide

Out of the depths we cry to you, merciful God, for your child Alex, dead by her/his own hand. Meet our confusion with your peace, our anger with forgiveness, our guilt with mercy, and our sorrow with consolation. Help us acknowledge the mystery that our lives are hid with Christ in you, whose compassion is over all whom you have made. **Amen.**

or this

All-knowing and eternal God, come to our help as we mourn for Alex, dead by her/his own hand. We know only in part, we love imperfectly, and we fail to ease one another's pain as you intend. But you are the God whose property is always to have mercy, and so we put our trust in you and ask the courage to go on; through our Savior Christ, who suffered for us, and whom you raised to new life. **Amen.**