

Graveside Funeral Service

For the (First and Last Name) Family

Obituary:

We are here to honor the life of _____. He was born...

It is a privilege and honor for me to share a few words with you today. Funerals are difficult. They usually come at a time when we least expect it, taking someone too young, or perhaps wishing we had more time with that person.

I am often reminded of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3 where it says, To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: It goes on to say, A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted. And it goes on. In truth, there are seasons in our lives. To be honest with you, we really do not have control over that. But one thing is for certain, we will all have to come to this crossroad one day. We hope we are ready.

Today, in commemorating the life of _____. A man/woman (example) who lived almost 97 years, outliving many other family members; A man who served our country well in WWII; a man who take care of your mother and wife; He was a good man. And when I was visiting with _____, He/she felt as if he/she was probably ready to go home.

(Optional) It appears he lived a full life. I have spoken to a couple of people who knew your (parents, child, grandfather, great grandfather). One had worked with one or both of them. They spoke very highly of them.

_____ is no longer here but we have his/her memories. (List some of the memories. These could be humorous or special times

These are memories that will last forever and best of all, no one can ever take these away. Even though a person may leave us, we have these to comfort us.

This service is more than just a service for _____, it is also to bring comfort to you. Jesus said, "come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Jesus has promised through the writer of Hebrews, "I will never leave you...nor forsake you." What a comfort we have to know that He cares so much about us that he gives us this assurance.

Any people have found comfort in Isaiah 41:10 that has given her comfort, Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

I want to encourage you, as we gather together this morning/afternoon, to remember that God is our refuge and our strength. We are forever embraced in the arms of our everlasting Lord for those who believe in Him.

John 11:25 gives us further assurance when he says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die." This was a time when Lazarus had died and Jesus was trying to comfort Martha. Then Jesus asked Martha, "Do you believe this?"

Let me ask today – do you believe this? It is our belief in Christ's resurrection that gives us hope. It is the validation that there is life beyond this life, that there is something more that awaits us.

John 14:1 says, Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

We have the assurance there is something more after life here on earth. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has prepared a place for me and you.

In closing, let me say this, life is never guaranteed. For some like _____, living a long and productive life, probably never expecting to outlive many of his family members, but he did. Others that we may know are suddenly taken in their prime. Only God knows how long we have here on earth, nothing is guaranteed.

We have one guarantee. Paul wrote in [Romans 8:38-39](#): "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." God loved us so much that He gave His only son.

I hope and pray that all of us here today are convinced that nothing – absolutely nothing – can separate us from God's love.

We have the assurance that we will be reunited with our parent, child, grandfather, great grandfather, our father in law), or friends if we believe. That is the assurance we have. Nothing can separate us.

Let us pray. Comfort the family.