

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

# *Helen English Bering*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026
11:00 AM

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

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.

The liturgy, therefore is characterized by joy, in the certainty that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

*Book of Common Prayer, Page 507*

# THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD
# RITE ONE

## 11:00 am — October 30, 2026

### PRELUDE

Solo How Great Thou Art — O Store Gud

### OPENING ANTHEMS — Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 469

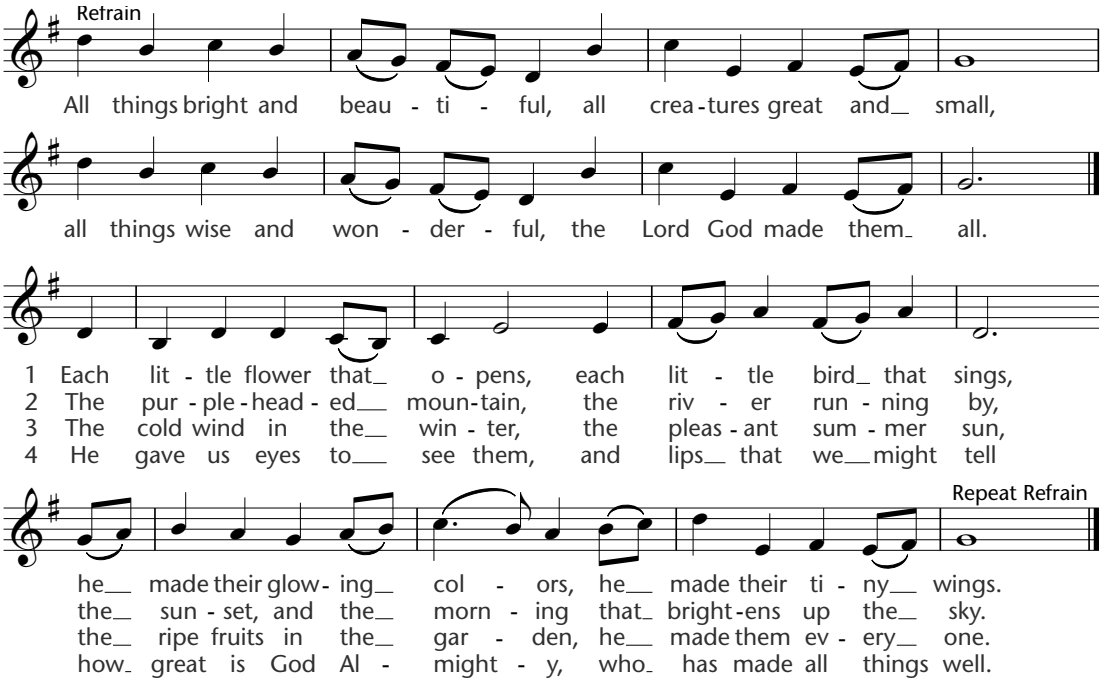
I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord;
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

## HYMN 405




Words: C.F. Alexander (1818-1895); Music: *Royal Oak,* 1686

## THE COLLECT BCP 469

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And with thy spirit..*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Helen, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS *Congregation seated*

The First Lesson Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

22 The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

25 The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

31 For the Lord will not cast off forever,

32 for, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

33 for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
*People: Thanks be to God*.

The Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
*People: Thanks be to God.*

Solo On Eagles' Wings — Michael Joncas

The Gospel Lesson — John 11:21-27

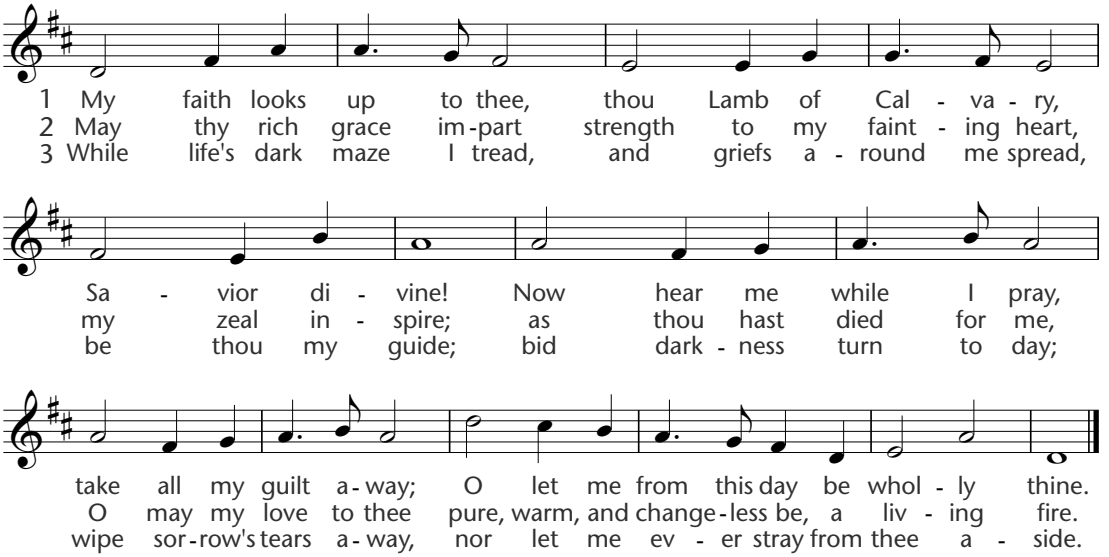
21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22
But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 Jesus said
to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise
again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and
the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who
lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes,
Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
*People: Thanks be to God.*

THE TRIBUTE — Walter Mackenzie Bering

THE SERMON — The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke

Hymn 691




Words: Ray Palmer (1808-1887); Music: *Olivet*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## THE APOSTLES' CREED *standing*

*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.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP 480

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. *Amen.*

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. *Amen.*

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *Amen.*

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. *Amen.*

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. *Amen.*

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. *Amen.*

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. *Amen.*

Grant us grace to entrust Helen to thy never-failing love; receive her into the arms of thy mercy, and remember her according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, she may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE COMMENDATION BCP 482

Celebrant: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,

*People: where sorrow and pain are no more,*
*neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

Celebrant: Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People: Give rest, O Christ, to thy servant with thy saints,*
*where sorrow and pain are no more,*
*neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

Celebrant: Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Helen. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen.*

## THE BLESSING

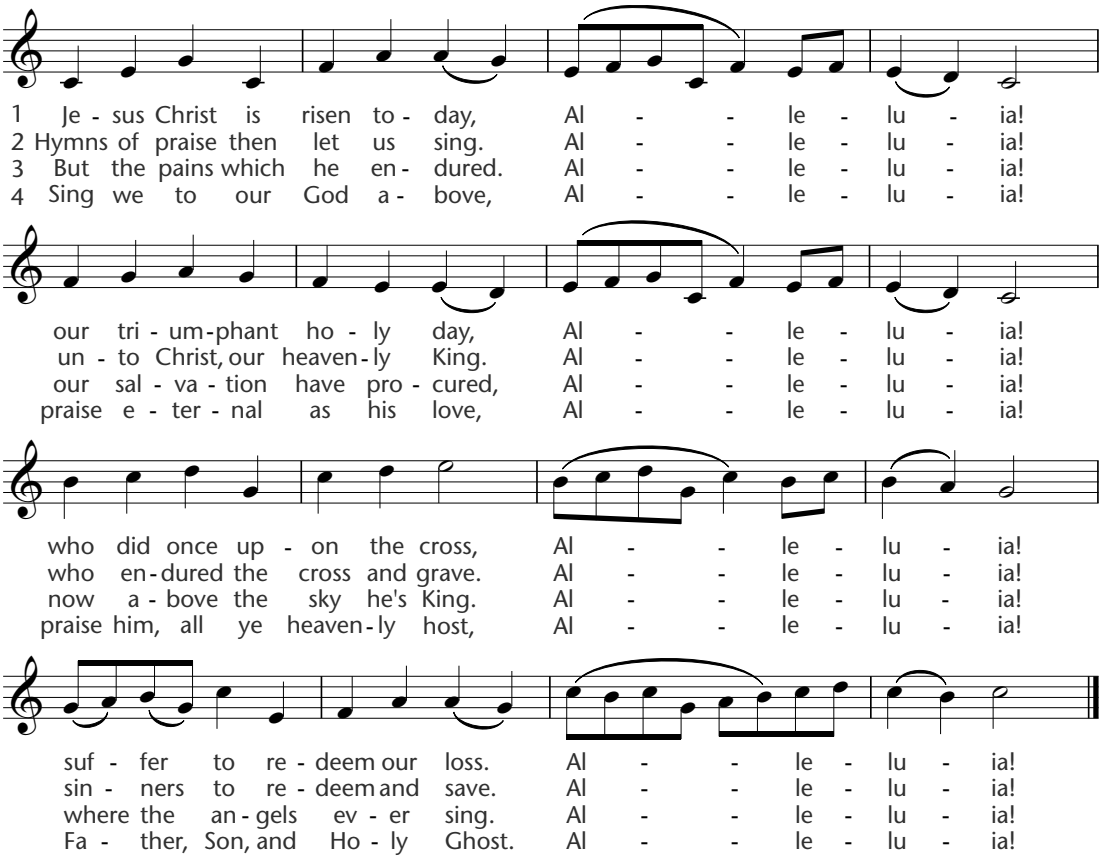
Celebrant: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

## THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## HYMN 207




Words: Latin, 14th. c.; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708 Music: *Easter Hymn,* from *Lyra Davidica*

## POSTLUDE

*Celebrant*
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke

*Musicians*
Bryan Anderson, *organist*
Hanna Frampton, *mezzo-soprano*

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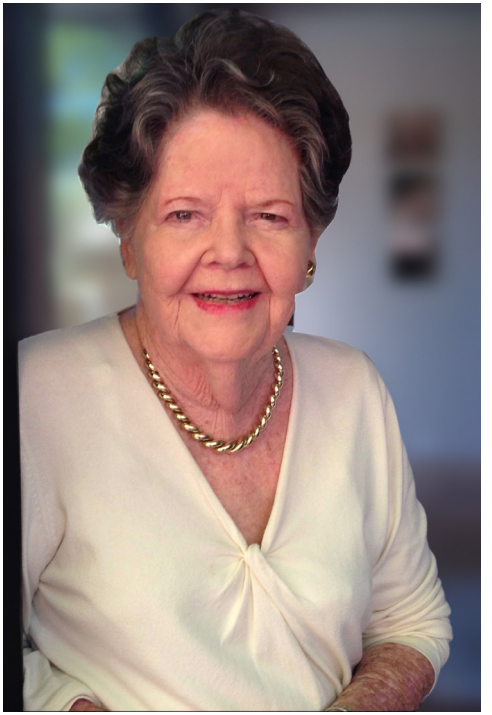

Helen English Bering

January 14, 1927 — September 21, 2026

## CLERGY

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The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, *Senior Vice Rector*
The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Lars Skoglund, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow, *Priest Associate*
The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, *Bishop in Residence*
The Rev. Dr. Charles M. Stiernberg, *Deacon*

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Steven A. Newberry, *Director of Music and Worship*
Bryan Anderson, *Associate Director of Music*
Anna Teagarden, *Associate Director of Music*
Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*

THE CHURCH OF
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CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST

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