



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

# Thomas Donovan Irwin

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 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.

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*Book of Common Prayer, Page 507*

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# THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

## RITE ONE

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11:00 am — April 9, 2026

### PRELUDE

SOLO I'll Fly Away

Albert E. Brumley

### 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 671

1 A - maz - ing\_\_ grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that\_\_ taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 The Lord has\_\_ prom - ised good to me, his  
 4 Through man - y\_\_ dan - gers, toils and snares, I  
 5 When we've been\_\_ there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a\_\_ wretch like me!\_\_\_\_\_ I once\_\_ was\_\_ lost but  
 grace my\_\_ fears re - lieved;\_\_\_\_\_ how pre - cious did that  
 word my\_\_ hope se - cures;\_\_\_\_\_ he will\_\_ my\_\_ shield and  
 have al - rea - dy come;\_\_\_\_\_ 'tis grace\_\_ that\_\_ brought me  
 shin - ing\_\_ as the sun,\_\_\_\_\_ we've no\_\_ less\_\_ days to

now\_\_ am\_\_ found, was blind but\_\_ now I see.  
 grace\_\_ ap - pear the hour I\_\_ first be - lieved.  
 por - tion\_\_ be as long as\_\_ life en - dures.  
 safe\_\_ thus\_\_ far, and grace will\_\_ lead me home.  
 sing\_\_ God's praise, than when we'd\_\_ first be - gun.

Words: John Newton (1725-1807), alt.; st. 5, from *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790 Music: New Britain, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831.

## THE COLLECT

BCP 493

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Thomas, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

*Congregation seated*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 25:6-9

Kirk Gentle

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
 a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,  
 of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

<sup>7</sup> And he will swallow up on this mountain  
the covering that is cast over all peoples,  
the veil that is spread over all nations.

<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever;  
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,  
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,  
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.  
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Ben Borcher

<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup> The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## The Gospel

John 11:21-27

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

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

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Patrick Miller

## 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.*

Leader: For our brother Thomas, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection and I am Life.” Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Thomas, and dry the tears of those who weep.

*People: Hear us, Lord.*

Leader: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

*People: Hear us, Lord.*

Leader: You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

*People: Hear us, Lord.*

Leader: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

*People: Hear us, Lord.*

Leader: Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

*People: Hear us, Lord.*

Leader: He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

*People: Hear us, Lord.*

Leader: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother Thomas; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*People: Hear us, Lord*

*Silence may be kept*

Celebrant: Father of all, we pray to you for Thomas, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

## THE COMMENDATION

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

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

Celebrant: 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.

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

Celebrant: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Thomas. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him 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

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; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

## HYMN



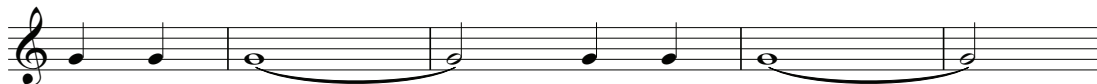
1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when sor - rows like  
3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought My sin not in  
4 And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled



sea - bil - lows roll; what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
part, but the whole is nailed to the cross and I  
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend, "E - ven so" it is well with my soul.



It is well \_\_\_\_\_ with my soul \_\_\_\_\_



it is well, it is well with my soul.

Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888); Music: *Ville du Havre*, Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876).

## POSTLUDE

*You are cordially invited to greet the family for a reception  
in Sumners Hall immediately following the service.*

### *Clergy*

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill

The Rev. Patrick Miller

### *Musicians*

John Meier, *organist*

Renée Rybolt, *soprano*

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## CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, *Rector*  
The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke, *Senior Vice Rector*  
The Rev. John D. Sundara, *Vice Rector*  
The Rev. Louise Samuelson, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Trent Pettit, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Libby Garfield, *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*

## MUSIC AND WORSHIP STAFF

Steven A. Newberry, *Director of Music and Worship*  
John Meier, *Associate Director of Music*  
Anna Teagarden, *Associate Director of Music*  
Grace Jackson, *Hancock Intern for Church Music*  
Sarah Gividen, *Director of Modern Music*  
Nick Gividen, *Associate Director of Modern Music*



THE CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN THE DIVINE  
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST