



THE BURIAL SERVICE FOR

# Thomas Parker Mason

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 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 TWO

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11:00 am – April 23, 2026

### PRELUDE

ANTHEM     God be in my head

Andrew Carter

### OPENING ANTHEMS

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 491

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though he die.  
And everyone who has life,  
And has committed himself to me in faith,  
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives  
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.  
After my awaking, he will raise me up;  
and in my body I shall see God.  
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him  
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself,  
and none becomes his own master when he dies.  
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,  
and if we die, we die in the Lord.  
So, then, whether we live or die,  
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on  
are those who die in the Lord!  
So it is, says the Spirit,  
for they rest from their labors.

## HYMN 207



1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um-phant ho - ly day, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav-en-ly King. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love, Al - - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's King. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all ye heav-en-ly host, Al - - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - - le - lu - ia!

Words: Latin, 14th cent; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, and Charles Wesley (1707-1783); Music: *Easter Hymn*, from *Lyra Davidica* and *The Complete Psalmodist* 1749.

## THE COLLECT

BCP 493

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Parker. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE LESSONS

*Congregation seated*

### The First Lesson

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

<sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

<sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 23 *Read in unison*

- <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.*

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:1-2, 5:9

<sup>16</sup> So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling. <sup>5</sup> He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup> So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> 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.*

## Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- <sup>6</sup> So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- <sup>8</sup> The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

## The Third Lesson

Revelation 21:2-7

<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.*

SOLO Ave Maria

Franz Schubert

The Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

*People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE TRIBUTES

Tom Mason

Dan Harris

Patrick Sheehy

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

THE APOSTLES' CREED *standing*

BCP 496

*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.*

SOLO The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

Leader: For our brother Parker, 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 Parker, 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 Parker; 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 Parker, 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 Parker. 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

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

## HYMN 473

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.

1 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, the  
2 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, as  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

*Repeat Refrain*

hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.  
of the brow the seal of him who died.  
thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.  
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Words: George William Kitchin (1827-1912); Music: *Crucifer*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947).

## POSTLUDE

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

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### *Celebrant*

The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

### *Musicians*

Steven A. Newberry, *organ*

Grace Jackson, *assisting conductor*

Wes Miller, *trumpet*

Nancy Curtis, *soprano*

The SJD Chorale Ensemble



THOMAS PARKER MASON  
(1991-2026)





## 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. Sutton Lowe, *Curate*  
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