



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

Janis Ann Ross

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 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 TWO

11:00 am — May 14, 2026

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.

Refrain

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Wor-ship His ho - ly name.
Sing like nev - er be - fore; O my soul. I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name.

Verse 1

1 The sun comes up. It's a new day dawn - ing.
It's time to sing Your song a - gain.. What - ev - er may pass, and what

Repeat Refrain
ev - er lies be - fore me, let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.

Verses 2, 3

2 You're rich in love, and You're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day, when my strength is fail - ing, the
name is great, and Your heart is kind. For all Your good - ness, I will
end draws near and my time has come; still, my soul will sing Your

Repeat Refrain
keep on sing - ing; Ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
praise un - end - ing, Ten thou - sand years, and then for - ev - er - more.

THE COLLECT

BCP 493

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Janis. We thank you for giving her to us, her 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

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Carol Ann Maner

- 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 but, 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.

Susan Jennings

¹⁴ Knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

SONG Goodness of God

Jen Johnson

I love You, Lord

Oh, Your mercy never failed me

And all my days, I've been held in Your hands

From the moment that I wake up

Until I lay my head

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

All my life You have been faithful

All my life You have been so, so good

With every breath that I am able

Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God

I love Your voice

You have led me through the fire

In darkest night You are close like no other

I've known You as a Father

I've known You as a Friend

Oh, I have lived in the goodness of God, oh-oh-oh

Refrain

*Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me*
Refrain

The Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus 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 TRIBUTE

Elizabeth DeLuca

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.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP 497

Leader: For our sister Janis, 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 Judy, 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 sister eternal life.

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

Leader: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister Janis; 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 Janis, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

*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.

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

People and Celebrant

*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.*

- ✘ *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*
- ✘ *If you are not baptized, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*
- ✘ *If you are not baptized and want to be, please contact one of the clergy.*
- ✘ *Please be guided by the ushers to the communion rail.*
- ✘ *You may drink or intinct from the common chalice.*
- ✘ *Gluten-free wafers are available upon request at the altar rail.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

SONG Be Not Afraid

John Michael Talbot

*You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
And all will understand
You shall see the face of God and live*

Be not afraid

I go before you always

Come follow me

And I will give you rest

*Blessed are your poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs
Blessed are you that weep and mourn
For one day you shall laugh
And if wicked men insult and hate you all because of me
Blessed, blessed are you*

Refrain X3

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 498

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we thank you that in your 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

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 Janis. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive 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 DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

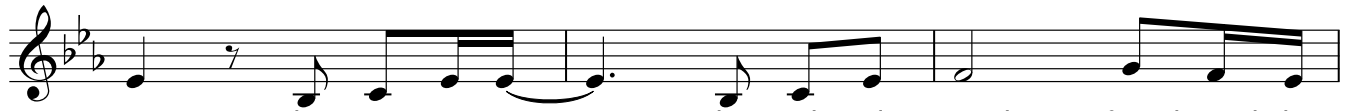
SONG In Christ Alone

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

*You are cordially invited to greet the family for a reception immediately following the service
at the home of Anthony and Elizabeth DeLuca, 3950 Inverness, Houston, Texas 77019.*



1 In Christ a-lone___ my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my
 2 In Christ a-lone___ who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help - less
 3 There in the ground___ his bo-dy lay, light of the world by dark - ness
 4 No guilt in life,___ no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in



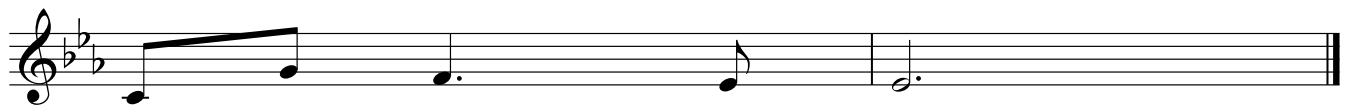
song; this cor - ner - stone,___ this sol - id ground, firm through the
 babe! This gift of love___ and right-eous - ness, scorned by the
 slain; then, burst - ing forth___ in glo - rious day, up from the
 me; from life's first cry___ to fin - al breath, Je - sus com -



fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of___ peace, when fears are
 ones He came to save. 'Til on that cross as Je - sus_ died, the wrath of
 grave he rose a - gain! And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 mands my des - ti - ny. No power of hell, no scheme of___ man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease. My com - fort er,___ my all in all, here in the
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - ry sin___ on him was laid; here in the
 lost its grip on me; for I am his___ and he is mine, bought with the
 pluck me from his hand; 'til he re turns___ or calls me home, here in the



love of Christ I stand.
 death of Christ I live.
 pre - cious blood of Christ.
 power of Christ I'll stand.

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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

Musicians

Zach Meeks

Sarah Gividen

Nick Gividen



JANIS ANN ROSS
(1935-2026)

Janis Ross

May 28, 1935 - April 21, 2026

Janis Ann Cruse Ross was born in London, England and lived in Enfield. Janis was a vivacious little girl who loved riding her bike, playing tennis, and reading.

When she was 4, WW2 began. Janis was so young but very aware of all that was going on in Enfield at that time. When most people had to go to the underground during the air raids, her family was able to go to their back garden and into an air raid shelter designed and constructed by her father, Eric.

Janis had a shrapnel collection and could identify the German airplanes by the sound of their engines. She also could tell her father what type of bomb was dropping by the sounds as well. She rode her bike to school with her gasmask strapped to her backpack.

These hardships affected her in ways that you might not suspect. She liked to eat eggs for lunch every day as eggs were impossible to get during the war. She wasted nothing as she was used to wartime scarcity. She also was quite short tempered at times and had no patience for laziness or complaining. “Buck up my girl” and “pull your self up by your bootstraps...” were phrases she stated to her four daughters often.

Having Janis as a mother made us strong, independent, and capable, following her example.

Janis travelled to the US at age 25; she lived in NYC and worked at the English Embassy, then travelled by bus down the East Coast and then across the Gulf Coast to Texas. On that bus she saw, mid way down the East Coast, that people of color were told to move to the back of the bus. They could not continue in the seats they had chosen up North. This was bewildering to her, as in England and NYC she had not seen racism. This experience changed her life, and she became an outspoken advocate for persons of color.

When Janis arrived in Houston to stay at the home of her parent’s dear friends, they hosted a party for her, and one of the invited guests was Edward Price Ross III. He took a shine to that beautiful English woman and asked her out for the next evening. After two weeks Edward asked her to marry him, and she said yes.

A July wedding in London was planned, and then the young couple moved to Houston where they lived happily, raising their 4 daughters. Janis, a lifelong Catholic, attended St. Anne’s Church and was one of the first women lay ministers there. She loved to read at mass and to give communion also.

If you knew Janis well, you knew her to be artistic, outspoken, tough, and outgoing. She had one passion and it was pottery. Janis learned to be a potter and started the Houston Potters Guild Shop in Rice Village. She loved to create pottery, invent new glazes, teach pottery, and discuss pottery. She donated many of her pots to a museum in San Angelo and was immensely proud of that.

Janis finally became a US citizen in 1997 after the death of her husband, Edward. She was very proud of that and even told the interviewer to ask her harder questions during the oral test. She said that she wanted to tell him the name of every Supreme Court Justice and to list all the amendments to the constitution. She was told that was NOT necessary much to her chagrin.

Janis travelled all her life and loved to travel alone in later years. She went to Korea, Turkey, Portugal, Argentina, Chile, Switzerland, Hungary and France. She travelled to Spain twice to visit her granddaughter, Allison. Nothing stopped Janis.

Janis taught pottery until the age of 90, in the studio behind her home, she was in England for the last time at 88 years old, before the decline of her physical health limited her travel there.

Janis is survived by her four daughters, Carol Ann Maner and her husband, Paul, of Cypress, Texas, Elizabeth DeLuca and her husband, Anthony, of Houston, Susan Jennings and her husband, Lee, of College Station, Texas, and Elena Baer and her husband, Wayne, of Magnolia, Texas. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, Lauren DeLuca, Allison DeLuca Gonzalez (Fidel), Virginia-Claire Kordes (Landon), Kendall Baer Johnson (David), Ross Baer, Price Baer, Rebecca Jennings and Amanda Jennings, and her two beloved great granddaughters, Ellie and Avery Johnson.

Janis joins in heaven her parents Eric and Ada Cruse, her husband Edward P. Ross III, and her granddaughter Caroline Louise DeLuca, and many friends. Her wish was to greet her precious Granddaughter with a large hug.

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