



THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

*Sarah Oliphant Suttles*

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2025

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 — November 21, 2025

### PRELUDE

Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone

### 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  
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  
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.  
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 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 Sarah, 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

Isaiah 43:1-5

David Suttles III

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
“Fear not, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my eyes,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give men in return for you,  
peoples in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Fear not, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you.

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.

<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>3</sup> if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> 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. <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.*

Hymn 635



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through  
2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what - e'er be - tide thee,  
faith - ful - ly, and trust his word, though un - de - serv - ing;



and bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in God's un -  
 thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er yet for -  
 chang - ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.  
 sook in need the soul that trust - ed him in - deed.

Words: Georg Neumark (1621-1681), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); Music: *Wer nur den lieben Gott*, Georg Neumark.

## The Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

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

<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 . 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 be to thee, O Christ.*

## THE TRIBUTES

David Suttles

## THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

## 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 Sarah 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.

Celebrant: *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 Sarah. 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

## THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

## HYMN

1 O God, be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sa-vior, ac-cept the love we bring,  
and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
its fra-gile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fav-or may serve you as our king;  
for we can on-ly won-der at ev'-ry gift you send,  
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown:  
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,  
at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
we will tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to praise you still:  
we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,  
for Christ the man from heav-en from death has set us free,  
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,  
we ho-nor and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.  
and we through him are giv-en the fin-al vic-to-ry.  
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Words: Michael Perry (1942-1996) Music: Thaxted Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

## POSTLUDE

*Celebrant*

The Rev. Dr. Douglas W. Richnow

*Musicians*

Steven A. Newberry, *organ*

Alecia Lawyer, *oboe*

## 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