



THE BURIAL SERVICE FOR

Dr. James William "Jim" Walters

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026
3:00 PM

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

3:00 pm — January 22, 2026

PRELUDE

SOLO Give me Jesus

Traditional

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



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der con - sid - er
 3 And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me



all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
 die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
 bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.
 ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God how great thou art.

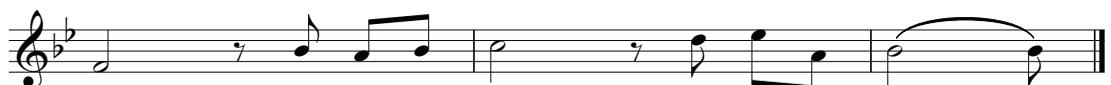
Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee; _____ How great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

Words: Stuart K. Hine; last st. setting by Eugene Thomas; Music: *O Store Gud*, Stuart K. Hine © 1953, 1981 by MANNA MUSIC, Inc

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 Jim, 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

Psalm 46 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

Deus noster refugium

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the
depths of the sea;*
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 *The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, *
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 *God is in the midst of her;
she shall not be overthrown; *
God shall help her at the break of day.*
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; *
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 *The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, *
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 *It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; *
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.*
- 11 “Be still, then, and know that I am God; *
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”
- 12 *The LORD of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

Pauline Higgins

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ 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!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

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

The Gospel

John 5:24-27

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

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

²⁴ Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

²⁵ "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE TRIBUTES

Jeff Cole

Dr. Julio Arroyo

Eugenia Walters

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill

The Rev. Reagan W. Cocke

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 brother Jim, 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 Jim, 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 Jim; 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 Jim, 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 PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

SOLO Holy is His Name

John Michael Talbot

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

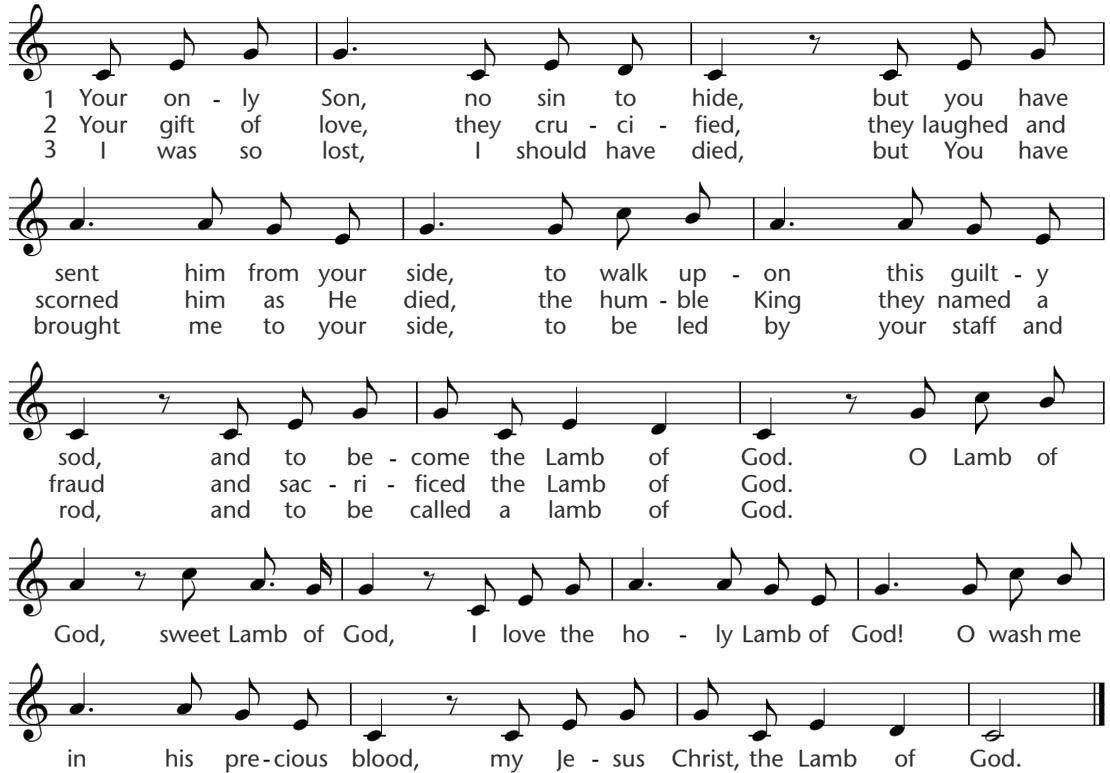
Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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

- ✠ *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.*

Song

Twila Paris



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love, they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but You have
 sent him from your side, to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as He died, the hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to your side, to be led by your staff and
 sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, and to be called a lamb of God.
 God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me
 in his pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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Song

Richard Gillard



1,6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you.
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - lers on the road,
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you, in the night - time of your fear,
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing, when you laugh, I'll laugh with you,
 5 When we sing to God in hea - ven we shall find such har - mo - ny,
 Pray that I might have the grace to let you be my ser - vant too.
 we are here to help each o - ther walk the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and a go - ny.

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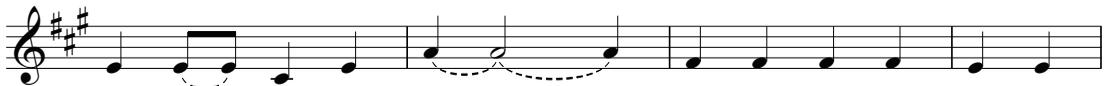
Hymn 335



1 I am the bread of life; they who come to me shall not
 2 (The) Bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the
 4 I am the res - sur - rec - tion, I am the



hun - ger; they who be - lieve in me shall not thirst.
 world, and they who eat of this bread,
 life. They who be - lieve in me,



No one can come to me un - less the Fa - ther draw them.
 they shall live for - ev - er, they shall live for - ev - er.
 e - ven if they die, they shall live for ev - er.



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will



raise them up on the last day. 2 The
 4 —

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); adapt of John 6

Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b.1927); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928)

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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 Jim. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your 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.*

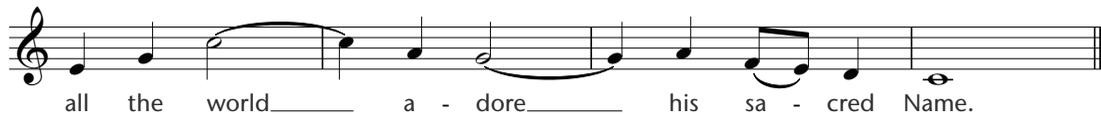
THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

HYMN 473



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



on the brow the seal of him who died.

thou hast pro - mised, draw the world to thee.

to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

Words: George William Kitchin (1827-1912); alt. Michael Robert Newbolt (1874-1956)

Music: *Crucifer*, Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

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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. Reagan W. Cocke

Musicians

John Meier, *organist*

Nancy Curtis, *soprano*

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