

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

# William Temple Webber III

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026
1:00 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 ONE

1:00 pm — October 22, 2026

## PRELUDE

## OPENING ANTHEMS

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 469

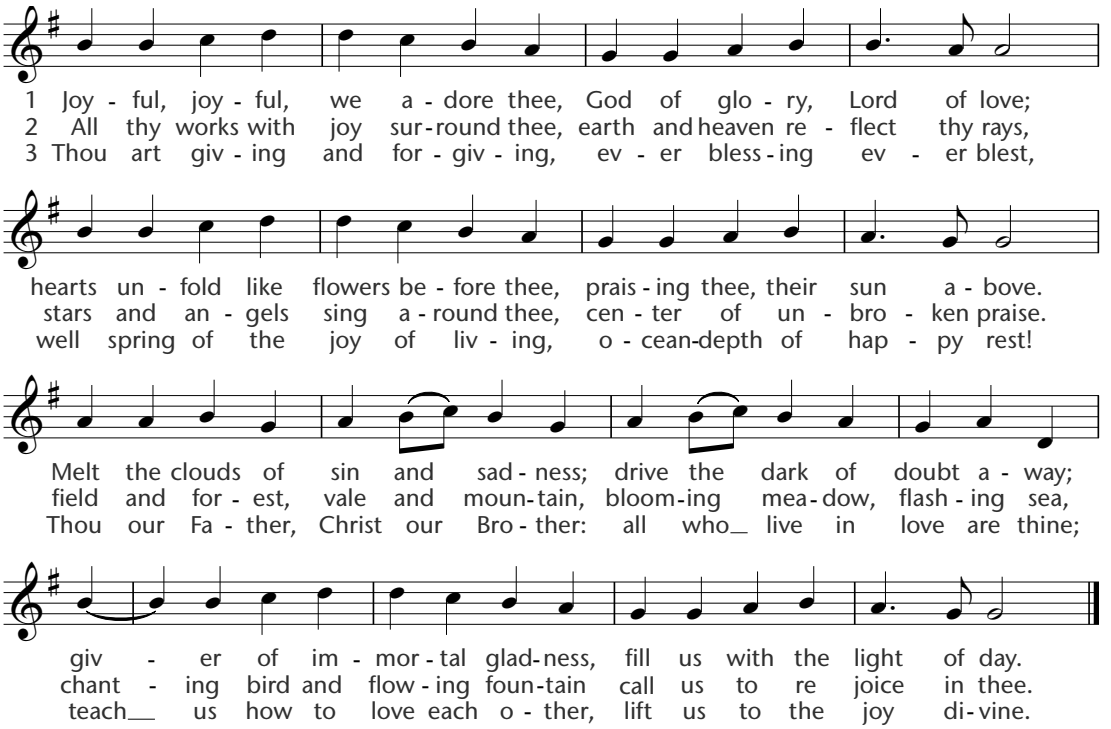
I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

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 376




Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933); Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1837), alt.

## THE COLLECT

BCP 469

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

*People: And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of thy servant Temple, and grant him 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 — Deuteronomy 15:7-9a, 10-11, 14

*read by* Will Webber

7 "If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be. 9 Take care lest there be an unworthy thought in your heart.

10 You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. 11 For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' 14 You shall furnish him liberally out of your flock, out of your threshing floor, and out of your winepress. As the Lord your God has blessed you, you shall give to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
*People: Thanks be to God*.

The Second Lesson — James 1:17, 22, 27; 2:14-18, 26

*read by* Rich Sheehy

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. 14 What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
*People: Thanks be to God*.

Solo Amazing Grace — Jay Althouse

The Gospel Luke 4:16-20

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
*People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom,
he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the
scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the
place where it was written,

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good
news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering
of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year
of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the
eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
*People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

## THE TRIBUTES

Bruce Zivley
Sarah Chase Barber & John Webber

## THE HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill

## 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.*

Solo The Lord's Prayer — Albert Hay Malotte

## 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 Temple to thy never-failing love; receive him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, he 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.

*People: 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 Temple. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him 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

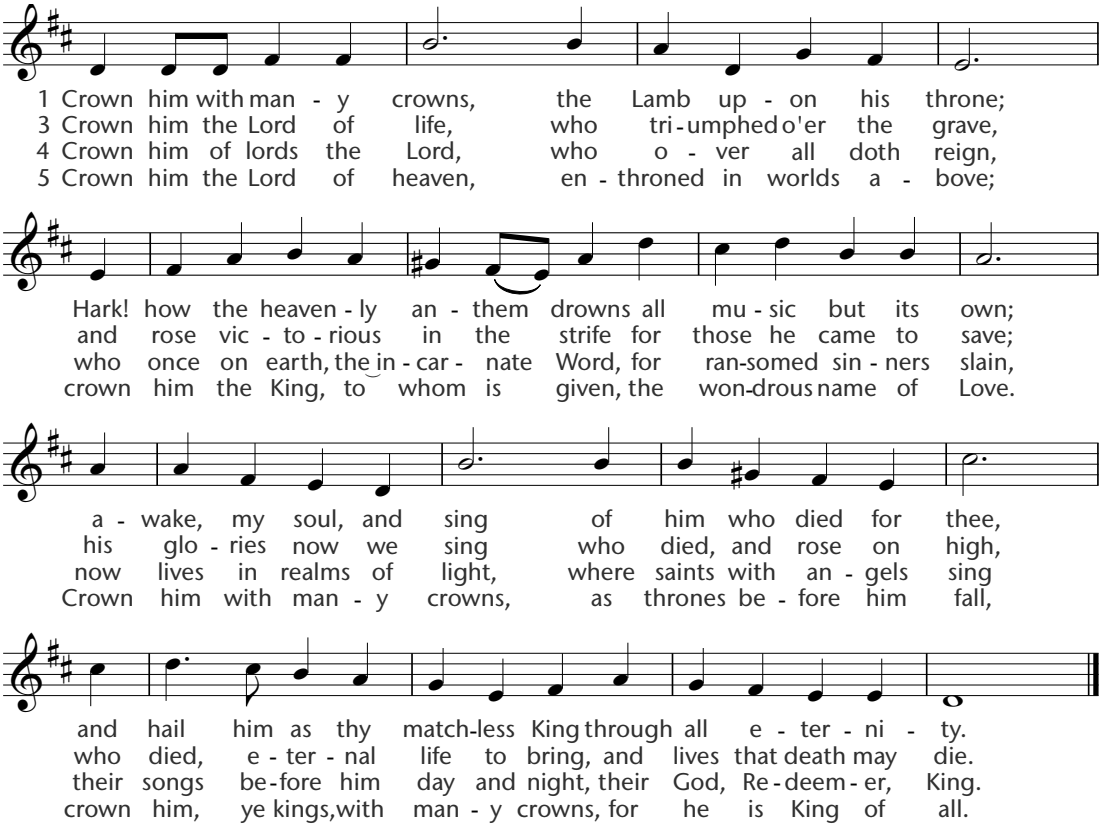
Celebrant: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

## THE DISMISSAL

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

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

## HYMN 494




Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894); Music: *Diademata*, G.J. Elvey (1816-1893)

## POSTLUDE

*Clergy*

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, *celebrant*

The Rev. Louise Samuelson

*Musicians*

Steve Newberry, *organist*

Emily Perry, *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. Lars Skoglund, *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*
Bryan Anderson, *Associate Director of Music*
Anna Teagarden, *Associate Director of 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

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