



THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE TWO

April 11, 2026

Norris Thurston

October 11, 1937—December 27, 2024

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Crucifer: Lift High the Cross

Christian Schoen

BURIAL OF THE DEAD, RITE II

BCP 491

OPENING ANTHEM

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 for 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.

OPENING HYMN

208. The strife is o'er

Victory

Antiphon (at the beginning)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 *3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es
 4 He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell, the bars from
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

Antiphon (at the end)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Ped.

A COLLECT FOR BURIAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Norris. 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.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Norris' family in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES (3:1-8)

Mary-Benton Gordon

The For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
 serve the Lord with gladness
 and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
 he himself has made us, and we are his;
 we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
 go into his courts with praise; *
 give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
- 4 For the Lord is good;
 his mercy is everlasting; *
 and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION (21:2-7)

Carl Bass

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then 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 water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children."

PSALM 23 (*spoken*)*Dominus regit me*
Ellen Thurston

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
 I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
 and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
 and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
 I shall fear no evil; *
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your 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 HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (14:1-4).
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

EULOGY

Christopher Thurston

MEMORIES: The Rt. Rev. Cliff Ives

John Gordon

HOMILY

The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Elegy

George Blake

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: NEW ZEALAND PRAYER BOOK

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God. You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You came to us before we came to you. You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God. You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship you.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEPARTED

For our brother Norris, 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 Norris, and dry the tears of those who weep. **Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow. **Hear us, Lord.**

You raised the dead to life; give to Norris eternal life. **Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring Norris to the joys of heaven. **Hear us, Lord.**

He was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints. **Hear us, Lord.**

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom. **Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of Norris; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Father of all, we pray to you for Norris, 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

COMMENDATION

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

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.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Norris. 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.**

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL

687. A mighty fortress is our God

Ein feste Burg

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

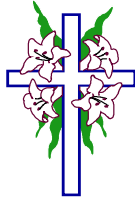
POSTLUDE

Hallelujah Chorus (from The Messiah)

George Frideric Handel



You are welcome to join us or to continue to Curry Hall for a gathering following the service.



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 the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

The Book of Common Prayer, 507

Church of the Nativity

A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
8849 Ray Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-846-8338

