



THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE II

3 pm • August 16, 2026

Matthew Herndon

May 26, 1984 - July 29, 2026

THE PRELUDE

The service will begin with a spoken anthem. Please rise as the family enters the sanctuary.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD, RITE II

BCP 491

OPENING ANTHEM

The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano

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.

OPENING HYMN

488. Be Thou My Vision

Slane

A COLLECT FOR BURIAL

The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we come before you this day in pain and sorrow. We grieve the loss of Matthew, a precious human life. Give your grace to those who grieve, especially Mary, David, and Anna, that they may find comfort in your presence and be strengthened by your Spirit. Be with this your family as they mourn, and draw them together in your healing love; in the name of the one who suffered, died, and rose for us, Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH (31:15-17)

Judy Smith

Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;
there is hope for your future,

says the Lord:
your children shall come back to their own country.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

AN EXCERPT FROM *INNOCENTS ABROAD* BY MARK TWAIN

Meredith Muller

Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things can not be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime.

The Excursion is ended, and has passed to its place among the things that were. But its varied scenes and its manifold incidents will linger pleasantly in our memories for many a year to come. Always on the wing, as we were, and merely pausing a moment to catch fitful glimpses of the wonders of half a world, we could not hope to receive or retain vivid impressions of all it was our fortune to see. Yet our holiday flight has not been in vain—for above the confusion of vague recollections, certain of its best prized pictures lift themselves and will still continue perfect in tint and outline after their surroundings shall have faded away.

HYMN

645. The King of Love

St. Columba

THE HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Gospel according to John (14:1-4)

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

EULOGY

Ryan Renfrow, Friend
Robert Cunningham, Brother
Mary Hilmer, Read by John Starcala

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Enigma Variations, Nimrod

Elgar

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the peace of God, let us pray, responding “Let Our Cry Come to you”

In the assurance of your mercy, in thanksgiving for the life of your child Matthew, and in confident expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we pray

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

Remember Matthew’s parents, David and Mary. Comfort them in their grief, heal their brokenness, and surround them with Your love.

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

We pray, remember Matthew’s sister, Anna, that she may be enfolded in love, comforted in fear, honored in their/his/her grief, and kept safe, we pray

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

Remember all the family and friends of Matthew, that they may know the consolation of your love, and may hold Matthew in their love all the days of their lives, we pray

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

Support them in their grief, and be present to all who mourn, we pray

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

Teach us to be patient and gentle with ourselves and each other as we grieve, we pray
Help us to know and accept that we will be reunited at your heavenly banquet, we pray

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

Finally, our God, help us become co-creators of a world in which children are happy, healthy, loved and do not know want or hunger, we pray.

People: Let Our Cry Come to You.

Out of the depths we cry to you, Merciful God for your child Matthew, dead by his own hand. Meet our confusion with your peace, our anger with your forgiveness, our guilt with your mercy, and our sorrow for your consolation. Help us to acknowledge

the mystery that our lives are hid with Christ in you, whose compassion over all whom you have made. **Amen.**

Compassionate God, your ways are beyond our understanding, and your love for those whom you create is greater by far than ours; comfort all who grieve for this child Matthew. Give them the faith to endure the wilderness of bereavement and bring them in the fullness of time to share with Matthew the light and joy of your eternal presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

CLOSING HYMN

671. Amazing Grace

New Britain

THE 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 Matthew. 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

THE POSTLUDE



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



Following the service, all are invited to join the family in Estill House for food and fellowship.



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.”

Their 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 herself wept at the grave of her 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