

**A Service of Thanksgiving  
for the Life of**

**John Davis Evans, Jr.**

**June 20, 1931 – September 25, 2024**



**October 10, 2024  
2:00 p.m.**

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia**

*Greetings and welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.*

*The Episcopal 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." Thus, the color for the altar hangings and vestments is white, the color of Easter and celebration of new life.*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian or unacknowledged. 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 bear the grief and pain of mourning.*

# The Burial of the Dead

*In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer,  
please observe silence upon entering the worship space and ensure that electronic devices have been silenced.  
All hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, the blue book in your pew rack.*

## Prelude

### Opening Anthems

*Please stand as you are able*

The Book of Common Prayer, page 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 8

Morning has broken

*Sung by all.*

*Bunessan*

*All hymns are found in The Hymnal 1982, the blue book in your pew rack.*

### The Collect

Prayer Book, p. 493

**Officiant** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Officiant** Let us pray.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

*Please sit.*

### The First Reading

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

John Tinsley

*Following the reading, the reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; \*  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 **You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 **You press upon me behind and before \*  
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 6 **Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
where can I flee from your presence?**
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 **If I take the wings of the morning \*  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me \*  
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 **If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
and the light around me turn to night,"**
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; \*  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**The Second Reading** Revelation 21:2-7

Cabell Williams

*Following the reading, the reader says*

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

**Homily**          The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins          *Please sit.*

**The Apostles' Creed**                                  *Please stand.*                                  Prayer Book, page 496

*Officiant*          In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

*Officiant and People*

**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

*Officiant and People*

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

*You may stand or kneel.*

Prayer Book, page 480

*Leader*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your 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 John to your never-failing love; receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people. **Amen.**

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all your saints, to receive the crown of life which you promise to all who share in the victory of your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Officiant** Father of all, we pray to you for John, 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 Commendation

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

**Officiant** 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.**

**Officiant** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant John. 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** Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel  
**Officiant** Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### Dismissal

**Officiant** Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**People** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**  
**Officiant** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn 287, v.1-4** For all the saints, who from their labors rest **Sung by all.**

*Sine Nomine*

### Postlude

*The family invites all gathered to a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.*



## Participants

Officiant and Homilist: The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins

Assisting: The Rev. William S. Stanley

Readers: John Tinsley, Cabell Williams, Liza Williams

Organist: Diana Chou

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