

**A Service of Thanksgiving**  
**for the Life of**  
**Matthew Gilmour Thompson**  
**June 3, 1942 – September 24, 2025**



**Tuesday, October 14, 2025**  
**10:30 a.m.**

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

# The Burial of the Dead

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.*

***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

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 287 (vv. 1-4) For all the saints**

**Sung by all.**

*Sine Nomine*

## The Collect

**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, Matt. 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.**

## Remembrance

*Please sit.*

Matthew G. Thompson, Jr.

### The First Reading Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Read by Matthew G. Thompson III

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "THE Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the LORD will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

*Following each reading, the reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 121

Led by Liza Thompson Highfill

*Please remain seated and read responsively by whole verse.*

Prayer Book, page 473

**Hymn 645 (vv. 1-2, 5-6)** The King of love my shepherd is *Sung by all, standing.* *St. Columba*

### The Gospel John 14:1-6

*Please be seated.*

Read by Belle O'Keefe

Jesus said, "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." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

### Homily

The Rev. William S. Stanley

**Hymn 482** Lord of all hopefulness

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Slane*

### 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

Prayer Book, page 497

*Leader*

For our brother Matt, 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 Matt, 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 our brother eternal life. **Hear us, Lord.**

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

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

*A period of silence is kept.*

**Leader** Father of all, we pray to you for Matt 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, Matt. 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** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

**Hymn 473** Lift high the cross *Sung by all.* *Crucifer*

### **Postlude**

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*God grant that I may  
Live to fish  
Until my dying day  
And when it comes to my last cast  
I then most humbly pray  
When in the Lord's safe landing net  
I'm peacefully asleep,  
That in his mercy I be judged  
Good enough to keep.  
Amen.*  
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*Following the service, all are invited to a reception next door in the Large Fellowship Hall.*

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**Participants:** *Clergy:* The Rev. William S. Stanley, the Rev. John D. Rohrs; *Remembrance:* Matthew G. Thompson, Jr.; *Readers:* Matthew G. Thompson III, Liza Thompson Highfill, Belle O'Keefe; *Organist:* Dr. Christopher Reynolds; *Crucifer:* Barbara Massey

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