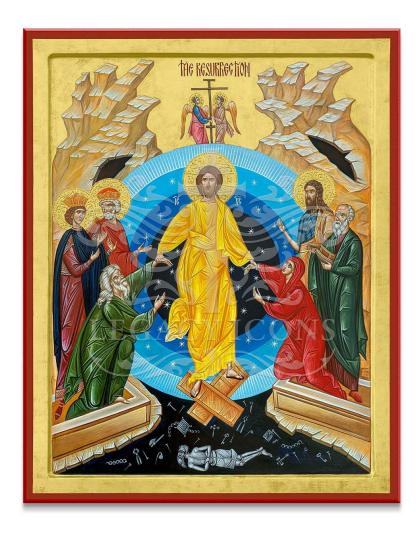
A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

PAUL DOUGLASS TWELVES

FEBRUARY 1, 1929 – JANUARY 5, 2025



A THANKSGIVING FOR HIS LIFE A COMMEMORATION OF HIS DEATH

APRIL 5, 2025 11:30 AM

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ~ CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

~ ORDER OF SERVICE ~

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Please stand as you are able.

The Crucifer and Celebrant process to the front of the church as the following sentences are read.

THE OPENING SENTENCES

Celebrant

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.

THE COLLECT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we remember before you this day our brother Paul. 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 be seated for the Readings from Holy Scripture

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 25:2-9

Reader A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

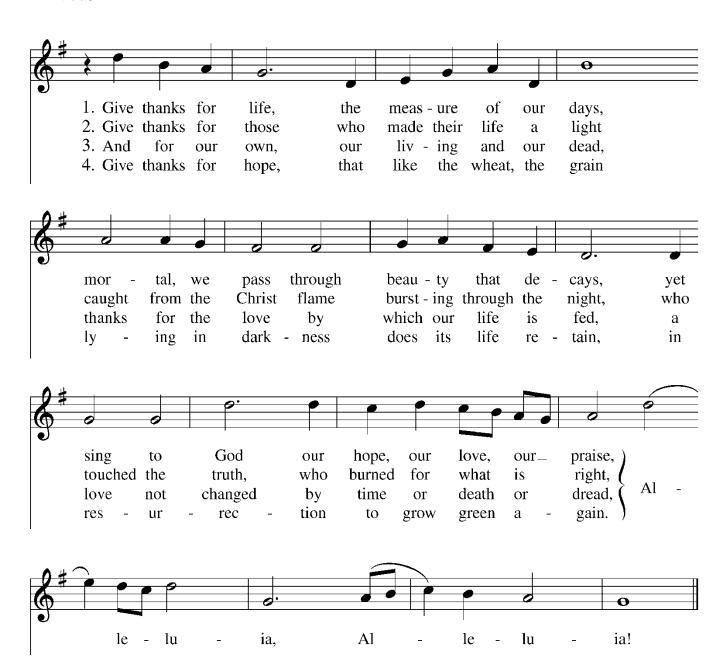
N THIS MOUNTAIN THE LORD OF HOSTS will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the

Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

Please stand as you are able and join in singing

HYMN 775

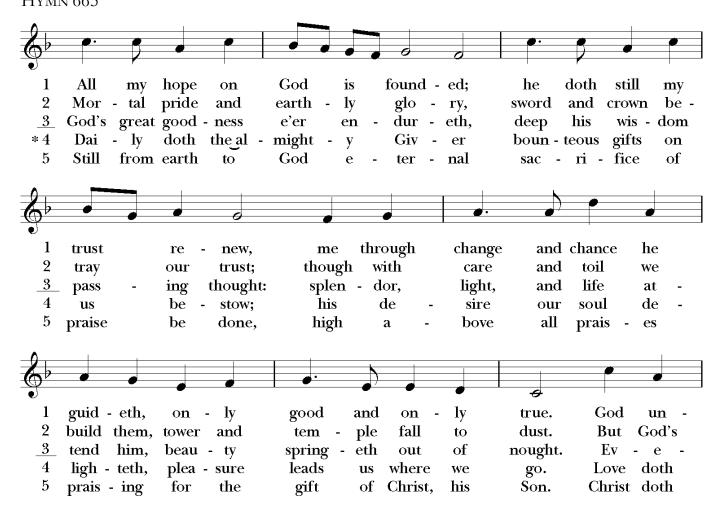


Words Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020) Music: Sine nomine, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Reader A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

GR ALL WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

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

Please stand as you are able and join in singing HYMN 665





Words: Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930), alt., after Joachim Neander (1650-1680) Music: Michael, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

THE GOSPEL John 14:1-6

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

REMEMBRANCES

HOMILY

Please stand as you are able.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For our brother Paul, 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 Paul, 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 our brother to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our brother 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 our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept.

The Celebrant adds the following collect.

ORD JESUS CHRIST, we commend to you our brother Paul, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen**.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

WELCOME

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as you are able and join in singing

HYMN 625



Words: Richard Baxter (1615-1691); rev. John Hampden Gurney (1802-1862) Music: Darwall's 148th, melody and bass by John Darwall (1731-1789); harm. by William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt. Descant: Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)

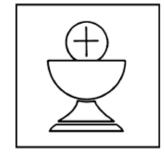
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

CelebrantPeopleCelebrantThe Lord be with you.And also with you.Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

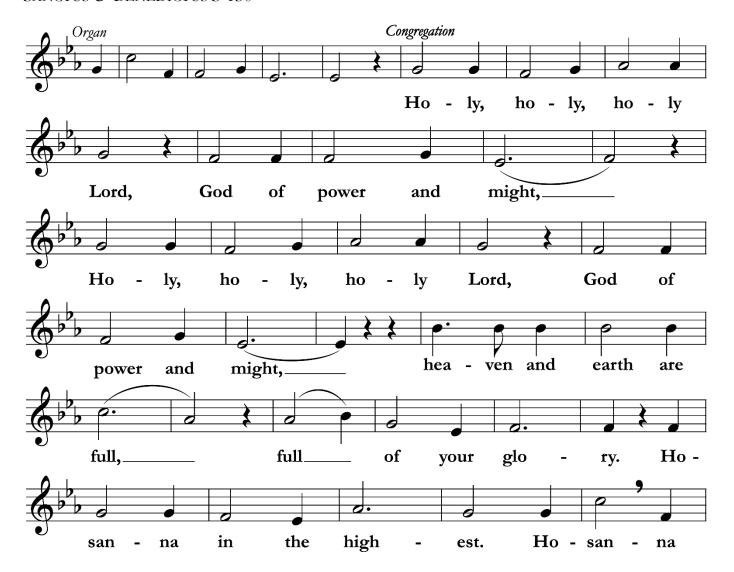
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

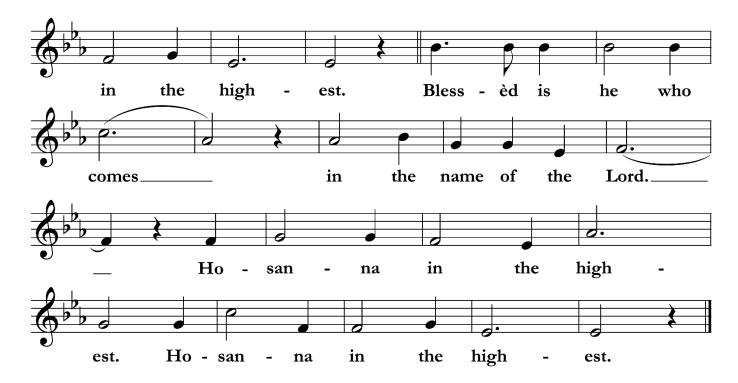


Celebrant

T IS TRULY RIGHT TO GLORIFY YOU, FATHER, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and ture, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS S-130





Setting: from Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant

E ACCLAIM YOU, HOLY LORD, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new. And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

People We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Celebrant

ORD, WE PRAY THAT IN YOUR GOODNESS AND MERCY your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace. Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us!

People Therefore, let us keep the feast! Alleluia!

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ

died for you, and feed on him in your hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

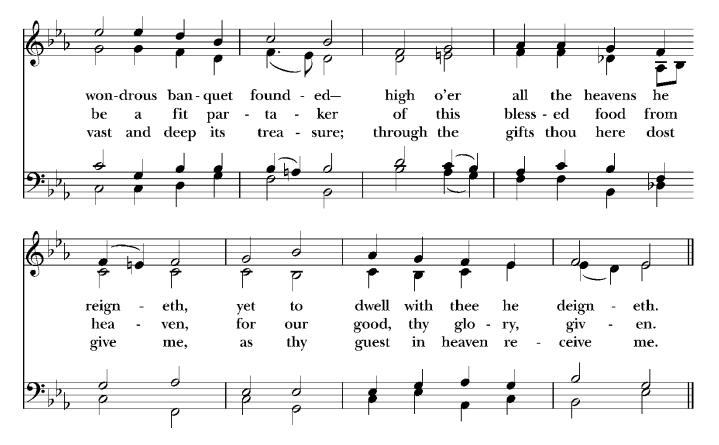
THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who wish to receive communion are welcome.



Words: Latin, 1695: tr. Francis Pott 91832-1909), alt. Music: Victory, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-1594); adapt. And arr. Wiliam Henry Monk (1823-1889)





Words: Johann Frank (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: Schmücke dich, melody Johann Cruger (1598-1662); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

We stand and say together

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank you that in your great love

you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet.

Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE COMMENDATION

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

People 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.

People Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Celebrant

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Paul. 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.

People Amen.

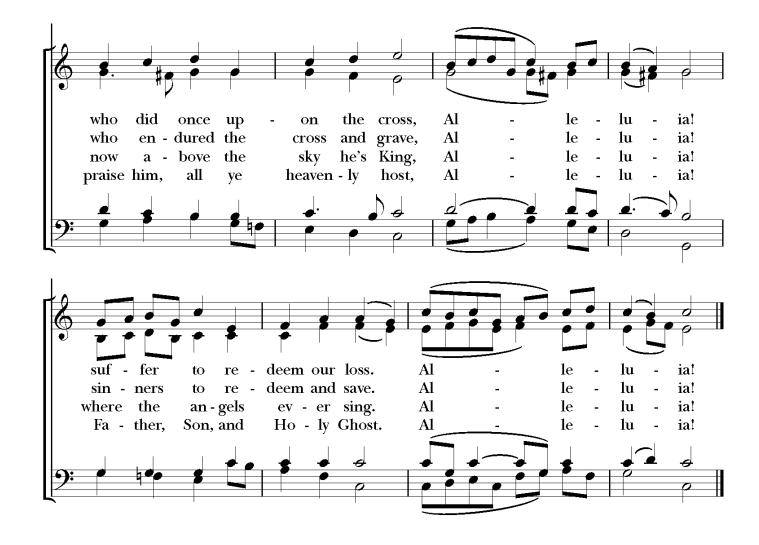
Celebrant

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 and all-loving, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and for ever.

People Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN 207





Words: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. Lyra Davidica, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Easter Hymn, from Lyra Davidica, 1708; adapt. The Complete Psalmodist, 1749, alt., Descant: Vincent Edwards (b. 1968)

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The congregation is invited to a reception in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.

LEADING OUR WORSHIP

Celebrant & Homilist
Organist
Lectors
Remembrances
Prayers of the People
Chalice Bearer

The Reverend Sean Maloney
Maggie Marshall
James Wassell, Roger Miller
Barry Dickson, Maggie Marshall, Zachary Dickson
Carol Twelves
Katie La Rochelle

From Joy: Paul was an ordained Episcopal Priest for an astonishing 70 years. About 10 years ago when we were celebrating his 60-year ordination anniversary at St. John's Church in Barrington, I wrote a poem for Paul reflecting the highlights of his ministry. I offer it again today.

Celebrating 60 years in the Priesthood

As a child you were determined not to follow in your father's priestly footsteps.

But God was more persuasive than you thought.

You found you shared many of your father's beliefs,

And then had to try to fill his shoes.

Fresh out of seminary you showed up on the steps of All Saints' in Chelmsford, convinced that you didn't know anything about anything.

But within 2 short decades, you had built a thriving congregation, an excellent music program, not to mention a bigger and better church building.

Motivated by a sense of civil rights and social justice,
And wanting to make the world a better place,
You marched with thousands of others on Selma Alabama,
While many in your own congregation voiced their disapproval.

The next decade found you at St Peters near Philadelphia near parents and sisters, and you made them proud.

Another person arrived in your life

An unexpected Joy.

Then came approximately 15 interim ministries: Syracuse, Columbus, Dayton, Lynchburg, Kansas City, Bedford, Amherst and a whole bunch in Rhode Island.

You found you had a gift for transitional ministry, giving people a harder time than they could give to you.

One of your greatest joys is music, especially those many Episcopal hymns. You can, and often do, sing all four parts. You know every page number, author, and composer!

One more thing I need to say, Congratulations for an amazing 60 years of ministry. God has been good to you and you have served God well.