

# A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

Benjamin Merrick

*March 2, 1974 – January 5, 2025*



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 10, 2025

11:00 AM

# A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

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## Rite II and Holy Eucharist

### PRELUDE

### ENTRANCE RITE

BCP P. 491

*At the sound of the bell, all stand as they are able for the Entrance of the Ministers into the church.*

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.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

## A COLLECT FOR BURIAL

BCP P. 493

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Ben, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant may add the following prayer.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Ben's family and friends 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.**

## OPENING HYMN

LIFT EVERY VOICE & SING – 188

It is well with my soul

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like seabillows roll;  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Refrain:*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
And has shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain*

3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought  
My sin not in part, but the whole

Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*

4 And, Lord, hast the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
'Even so' it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 25:6-9  
JIM WILLIAMS

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

On 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 covering 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,

"See, 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.**

*Remain seated.*

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, \*  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who  
stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, \*  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, \*  
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; \*  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.

- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; \*  
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, \*  
the LORD will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; \*  
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, \*  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living!

Reader: A reading from the Second Letter of John to the Corinthians.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that, if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly dwelling, for surely when we have been clothed in it we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan under our burden because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. The one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a down payment.

So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please sit.*

HOMILY

THE REV. JIM BERNACKI

*Following the homily, we will have a time of quiet to consider Ben's life as a gift to us.*



## APOSTLES' CREED

*All stand.*

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.**

Leader: For our brother Ben, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Leader: Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Ben, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother to the joys of heaven.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader: He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People: **Hear us, Lord.**

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

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Ben, 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.**

*All stand.*

PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

OFFERTORY HYMN

WONDER, LOVE, & PRAISE – 812

Here I am, Lord

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
My hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

*Refrain:*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them,  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them,  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? *Refrain*

## HOLY COMMUNION

*All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Kneel or stand at the rail and receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Take the small cup that is offered to you. Another alternative is to take the wafer only. If you are not receiving communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP P. 361

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels

and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP P. 364

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

*People and Celebrant*

**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, the power, and the glory,**

**Forever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## MUSIC AT COMMUNION

DAN LOCKLAIR

“The peace may be exchanged.” from *Rubrics*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP PG. 498

Celebrant: Let us pray.

### *Celebrant and People*

**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

*The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the body, while the following anthem is said:*

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

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

Celebrant: 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, Ben.

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.**

#### BLESSING

Celebrant: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People: **Amen.**

#### DISMISSAL

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



It is well with my soul

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

*Refrain:* Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. *Refrain*

3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art. *Refrain*

*The congregation follows the procession into the columbarium for the Committal.*

Celebrant: Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;  
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead  
will also give new life to our mortal bodies  
through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy,  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Ben; and we commit his body to its final resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy Name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it 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, the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your great mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:

People: **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Celebrant: May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People: **Amen.**

*The Celebrant dismisses the people with these words*

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please join the family for a reception in honor of Ben  
in the Welcome Center immediately following the service.*

# PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGY

CELEBRANT

The Reverend Jim Bernacki

OLD TESTAMENT & PSALM

Jim Williams

NEW TESTAMENT

Chuck Collier

ORGANIST

Brian Sapp-Moore, MM

