

Burial Rite: A Celebration of the Life of

Richard Floyd Rigby

July 23, 1938 – November 2, 2025



The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all 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."

This 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 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 mourn.

Monday, November 10, 2023

Christ Episcopal Church

Valdosta, GA

Burial Rite: A Celebration of the Life of

Richard Rigby

Monday, November 10, 2025

Noon

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the Entrance of the Ministers into the church.

The following is said, all standing

I am the resurrection and the 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

On Eagle's Wings

CHORUS:

And He will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
hold you in the palm of His hand.

Copyright © 1979 NALR, 10802 N. 23rd Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85029, CSC 3720

VERSES:

1. You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My Rock in whom I trust!"
2. The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear:
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.
3. You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.
4. For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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

People **Amen.**

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

All sit.

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.

Psalm 46 (Unison)

Deus noster refugium

- 1 **God is our hope and strength, a very present help in trouble.**
- 2 **Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;**
- 3 **Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**
- 4 **The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**
- 5 **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy habitation of the Most High.**
- 6 **God is in the midst of her;
She shall not be overthrown God Shall help her at the break of day.**
- 7 **The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.**
- 8 **The LORD of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.**
- 9 **Come now and look upon the works of the LORD,
what awesome things he has done on earth.**
- 10 **It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.**
- 11 **"Be still, then, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.**
- 12 **The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Second Reading

Revelation 21:2-7

I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”

All stand to sing

Gospel Hymn – Glorify Thy Name

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff. It consists of three lines of music. The first line has four measures with chords C, F, G7, and C above them. The lyrics are: 'Fa - ther, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we a - dore Thee. Glo - ri - fy Thy'. The second line has four measures with chords F, G7, C, and G above them. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we a - dore Thee. Glo - ri - fy Thy'. The third line has four measures with chords F, G7, C, and G above them. The lyrics are: 'Soir - lit, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we a - dore Thee. Glo - ri - fy Thy'. The fourth line has four measures with chords F, G7, C, and G above them. The lyrics are: 'name in all the earth. Glo - ri - fy Thy name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.' The fifth line has four measures with chords E, Am, Fm, and C above them. The lyrics are: 'name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.' The sixth line has four measures with chords Em, Dm, G7, and C above them. The lyrics are: 'name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.' The seventh line has four measures with chords E, Am, Fm, and C above them. The lyrics are: 'name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.' The eighth line has four measures with chords Em, Dm, G7, and C above them. The lyrics are: 'name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name. Glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.'

© 1976 and 1981 Maranatha! Music, P.O. Box 1396, Costa Mesa, California 92626. All rights reserved.
International copyright secured. Used by permission only. CCLI 873009

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

All stand.

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

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

Jesus said to his disciples, “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.”

At the end of the Gospel, the Reader says

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Walter Hongood

All stand as you are able.

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

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker 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 people respond to every petition with Hear us, Lord.

For our brother, Richard 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 Richard 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 her 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.

The Officiant concludes with the following prayer

Father of all, we pray to you for Richard, 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.**

Holy Eucharist

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.**

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 us 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:

Celebrant and People

**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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.**

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

People and Officiant

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 Breaking of the Bread

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

Post Communion Prayer

Officiant Let us pray.

People and Officiant

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 .

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:

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

The Officiant, facing the body, says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Richard. 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 Officiant may then bless the people, and another Minister may dismiss them, saying

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn – Peace Give I to You

Peace give I to you, Peace give I to you.
Not as the world give, give I to you.
Peace give I to you.

Love give I to you, Love give I to you.
Not as the world give, give I to you.
Love give I to you.

Joy give I to you, Joy give I to you.
Not as the world give, give I to you.
Joy give I to you.

Service of Burial – Sunset Hill Cemetery Episcopal Book of Common Prayer

The Committal

Officiant:

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

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

Then, while earth is cast upon the coffin, the Officiant says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother Richard, and we commit his body to the ground; 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 to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

The Officiant says: The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you

Officiant:

Let us pray.

**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.**

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered: Make us, we pray, deeply aware of the shortness and uncertainty of human life; and let your Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days; that, when we shall have served you in our generation, we may be gathered to our ancestors, having the testimony of a good conscience, in the communion of the Catholic Church, in the confidence of a certain faith, in the comfort of a religious and holy hope, in favor with you, our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;
People: **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

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

The Officiant dismisses the people with these words

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

Clergy

The Rev. Walter Hobgood
The Rev. Dcn. Stella Clark

Lectors

Phyllis Hiers
Molly Stevenson

Ushers

Bobby Yarborough
Mike Tanner

Verger

Nancy Lutsko

Crucifer/Acolyte

Molly Stevenson

Guitarist

Sparky Greneker

Christ Episcopal Church

Mailing address: 1521 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602
The church office is located at 103 East College Street.

Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3 PM
Phone: 229-242-5115 FAX: 229-242-2247

Church website: www.christchurchvaldosta.org

www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA
www.youtube.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA