

A Celebration of the Life
of
Louis Herman Levy



Saturday, February 28, 2026

Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta Georgia

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 Louis has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

Hymnal 688 – A Mighty Fortress is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -

fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side,
 do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed
 bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours

of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe
 the man of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?
 his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,
 through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,

doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:

and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two

All stand while the following anthem is said.

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.

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

The Celebrant may add the following prayer

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with Louis'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.**

The people sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

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 for ever. 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 (*read in unison*)

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou
art with me; thy rod and thy staff they
comfort me.**

**⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my
head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever.**

The Epistle

Revelation 21:2-7

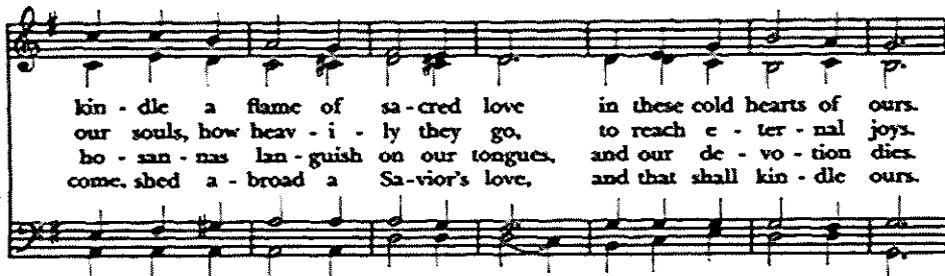
And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he 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.'

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymnal 510 – *Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove*



1 Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, heav - en - ly Dove, with all thy quick - ening powers;
2 See how we tri - fle here be - low, fond of these earth - ly toys:
3 In vain we tune our for - mal songs, in vain we strive to rise:
4 Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, heav - en - ly Dove, with all thy quick - ening powers;



kin - dle a flame of sa - cred love in these cold hearts of ours.
our souls, how heav - i - ly they go, to reach e - ter - nal joys.
ho - san - nas lan - guish on our tongues, and our de - vo - tion dies.
come, shed a - broad a Sa - vior's love, and that shall kin - dle ours.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
Music: Saint Agnes, John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876)

CM

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel

John 5:24-27

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life. 'Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man.

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

The Homily – *The Rev'd R. Kevin Kelly*

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

Celebrant 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.**

Prayers of the People

For our brother Louis, 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 Louis, 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.

Celebrant

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Louis, 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
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory – Hymnal 657 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion: pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
life re - ceive: sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
let us be: let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry.

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast thee

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 has taught us,
we are bold to say,

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

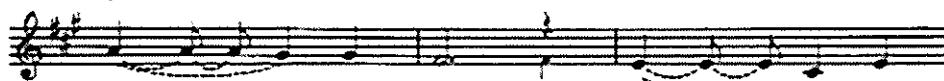
Hymn during Communion - Hymnal 335 - *I am the Bread of Life*



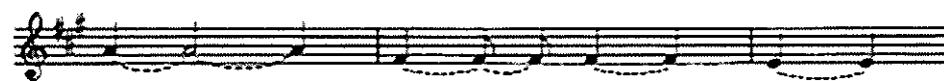
1 I am the bread of life: they who
 2 (The) Bread that I will give is my
 3 (Un-) less you eat of the
 4 I am the re - sur - rec - tion.
 5 (Yes.) Lord we be - lieve that



1 come to me shall not hun - ger; they who be -
 2 Flesh for the life of the world, and they who
 3 Flesh of the Son of Man and
 4 I am the life. They who be -
 5 you are the Christ, the

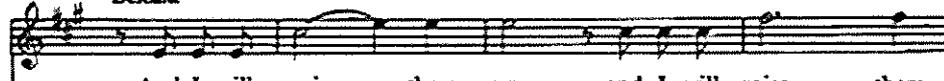


1 lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 2 eat of this bread, they shall live for
 3 drink of his Blood, you shall not have life with -
 4 lieve in me, c - ven if they
 5 Son of God who has



1 me un - less the Fa - ther draw them.
 2 ev - er, they shall live for ev - er.
 3 in you, you shall not have life with - in you.
 4 die, they shall live for ev - er.
 5 come in - to the world.

Descant



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them

Refrain



And I will raise them up, and I will raise them



up, and I will raise them up on the

up, and I will raise them up on the

last day. 5 Yes, day.

last day. 2 The 3 Un- day. 4 5 Yes, (♯)

The descant may be sung after stanzas 4 and 5.

Words: Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); adapt. of John 6

Music: *I Am the Bread of Life*, Suzanne Toolan (b. 1927); arr. Betty Pullingham (b. 1928)

Arr. with Refrain

Celebrant Let us pray.

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,
**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.

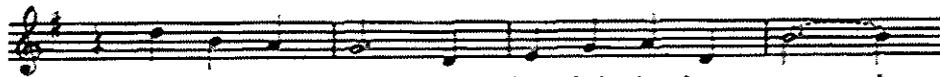
**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

The Celebrant, facing the body, says

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

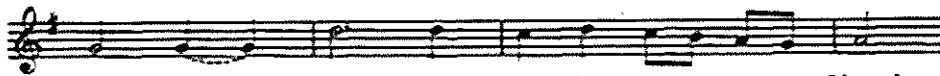
Hymnal 287 – *For All the Saints (vv 1-4)*



1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:—
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,—
 4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!—



thee— by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;—
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
 We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O— Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
 win, with— them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.
 all are— one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

*Remarks: Denise Levy
Brian Levy*

Celebrant: The Reverend R. Kevin Kelly

Homilist: The Reverend R. Kevin Kelly

Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Walter Hobgood

Vergers: Nancy Lutsko

Crucifer: Phyllis Holland

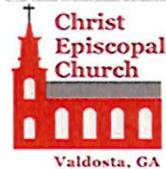
*Lectors: Michelle Russell
Gam Russell*

*Eucharist Ministers: Sheri Gravett
Phyllis Holland*

Organist: Sue Ellen Rumstay

*Ushers: Rita Watters
Eric Nielsen*

Please join the Levy family for a reception
in the parish hall immediately following the
service. Light refreshments will be served.



Mission Statement: As followers of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we share God's love, grace and mercy through worship, prayer and service, respecting the dignity of all.

The Rt Rev'd Frank Logue, Bishop of Georgia
All Christ Church Families & Friends are Ministers.

The Rev'd R. Kevin Kelly, Rector

The Rev'd Nancy Sartin, Deacon

Bobby Yarbrough, Sr. Warden

Ed Mistick, Jr. Warden

Molly Stevenson, Interim Administrative Assistant

Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper

Krystle Black, Treasurer

Jeri-Lyn Flowers, Director of College Ministry

Elise Sandbach, Director of Preschool & PMO

Kylee Creasy, Children's Ministries Leader

Ellie Copeland & Katie Wisenbaker, Youth Ministers (EYC)

Issa Young, Choir Director

Sue Ellen Rumstay, Director of Music

Nancy Lutsko, Verger

The 10:00 service is livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook

www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA

www.youtube.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchValdostaGA

The church office is located at 103 East College Street.

Mailing address: 1521 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31602

Office hours are Monday-Thursday, 10:00am – 2:00pm

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Phone: 229-242-5115

Bookkeeper: 229-242-0616

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