

A Celebration of the Life
of
Richard Thomas Saeger



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

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta Georgia

Praise the Lord through every nation

1 Praise the Lord through ev - ery na - tion; his ho - ly
2 Je - sus, Lord, our Cap - tain glo - rious, o'er sin, and

arm hath wrought sal - va - tion; ex - alt him on his
death, and hell vic - to - rious, wis - dom and might to

Fa - ther's throne. Praise your King, ye Chris - tian le -
thee be - long: we con - fess, pro - claim, a - dore

gions, who now pre - pares in heaven - ly re -
thee; we bow the knee, we fall be - fore

gions thee; un - fail - ing man - sions for his own: with
thy love hence - forth shall be our song. The

voice and min - strel - sy, ex - tol his ma - jes -
cross mean - while we bear, the crown ere - long to

ty: Al - le - lu - ia! His praise shall sound all
wear: Al - le - lu - ia! Thy reign ex - tend world

na - ture round, and hymns on ev - ery tongue a - bound.
with - out end; let praise from all to thee a - scend.

The Burial of the Dead: Rite One

All stand while one or more of the following anthems are sung or said

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord;
he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

I know that my Redeemer liveth,
and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth;
and though this body be destroyed, yet shall I see God;
whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold,
and not as a stranger.

For none of us liveth to himself,
and no man dieth to himself.
For if we live, we live unto the Lord.
and if we die, we die unto the Lord.
Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;
even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*
People ***And with thy spirit.***
Celebrant *Let us pray.*

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

The people sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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 505 – *O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God*

1 O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God, in
 2 O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God, in -
 3 O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God, make
 4 O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God, en -

ev - ery need thou bring - est aid; thou com - est
 crease our faith in our dear Lord; un - less thy
 us to love thy sa - cred word; the ho - ly
 light - en us by that same word; teach us to

forth from God's great throne, from God, the Fa - ther and the
 grace the power should give, none can be - lieve in Christ and
 flame of love im - part, that char - i - ty may warm each
 know the Fa - ther's love, and his dear Son, who reigns a -

Son; O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God.
 live; O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God.
 heart; O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God.
 bove; O Spi - rit of Life, O Spi - rit of God.

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel

John 11:21-27

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O 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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech thee, to thy whole Church in paradise and on earth, thy light and thy peace. **Amen.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Amen.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that thy Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Amen.**

Grant to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind. **Amen.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy love. **Amen.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a reasonable and holy hope, in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Amen.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. **Amen.**

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirt.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right so to do.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

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

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The people kneel or stand.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting
in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We
are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son
Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in
him, and he in us. Amen.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

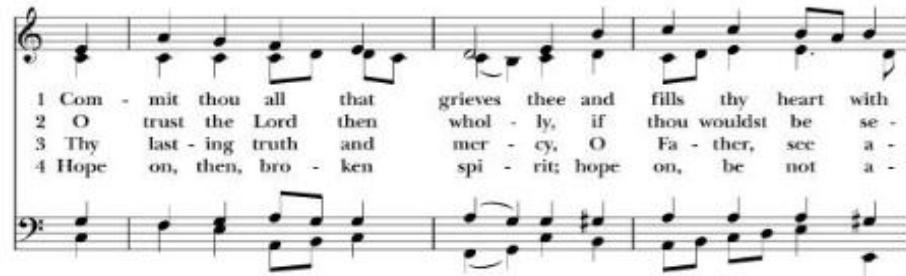
1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.

who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

Hymnal 669 – *Commit thou all that grieves thee*



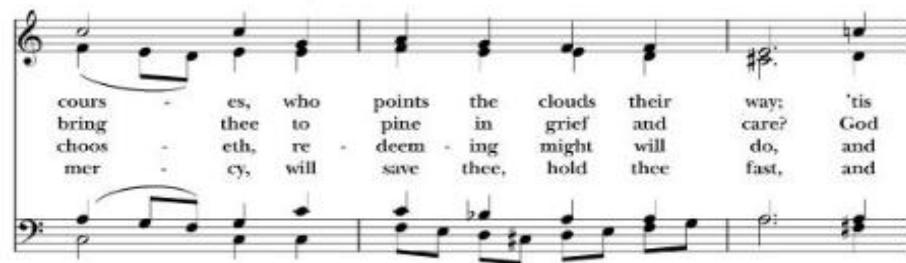
1 Com - mit thou all that grieves thee and fills thy heart with
2 O trust the Lord then whol - ly, if thou wouldst be se -
3 Thy last - ing truth and mer - cy, O Fa - ther, see a -
4 Hope on, then, bro - ken spi - rit; hope on, be not a -



care to him whose faith - ful mer - cy the
cure; his work must thou con - sid - er for
right the needs of all thy chil - dren, their
fraud: fear not the griefs that plague thee and



skies a - bove de - clare, who gives the winds their
thy work to en - dure. What prof - it doth it
an - guish or de - light: what lov - ing wis - dom
keep thy heart dis - mayed: thy God, in his great



cours - es, who points the clouds their way; 'tis
bring thee to pine in grief and care? God
choos - eth, re - deem - ing might will do, and
mer - cy, will save thee, hold thee fast, and



he will guide thy foot - steps and be thy staff and stay.
ev - er sends his bless - ing in an - swer to thy prayer.
bring to sure - fill - ment thy coun - sel good and true.
in his own time grant thee the sun of joy at last.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank thee that in thy great love thou hast fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and hast given unto us a foretaste of thy heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be unto 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 thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Commendation

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.

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

Thou only art immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and unto earth shall we return. For so thou didst ordain when thou createdst me, saying, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." All we go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

The Celebrant, facing the body, says

Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant Dick. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

The Sun of Righteousness is gloriously risen, giving light to those who sat in darkness and in the shadow of death.

The Lord will guide our feet into the way of peace, having taken away the sin of the world.

Christ will open the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in his Name, saying, Come, O blessed of my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you.

Into paradise may the angels lead thee; and at thy coming may the martyrs receive thee, and bring thee into the holy city Jerusalem.

The Committal

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. He that raised up Jesus from the dead will also give life to our mortal bodies, by his Spirit that dwelleth in us.

Wherefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoiceth; my flesh also shall rest in hope.

Thou shalt show me the path of life; in thy presence is the fullness of joy, and at thy right hand there is pleasure 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 Dick; 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 unto him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O Almighty God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, who by a voice from heaven didst proclaim, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord: Multiply, we beseech thee, to those who rest in Jesus the manifold blessings of thy love, that the good work which thou didst begin in them may be made perfect unto the day of Jesus Christ. And of thy mercy, O heavenly Father, grant that we, who now serve thee on earth, may at last, together with them, be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; for the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In place of this prayer, or in addition to it, the Celebrant may add additional Prayers.

Then may be said

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:
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 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; through Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Remarks: *James LaPlant*
Emily Saeger Jarvis

Celebrant: *The Reverend R. Kevin Kelly*

Homilist: *The Reverend R. Kevin Kelly*

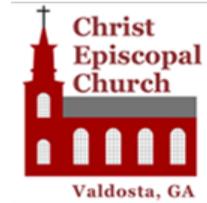
Vergers: *Nancy Lutsko*
Crucifer: *Phyllis Holland*

Lectors: *Sheri Gravett*
Jane Kinney

Eucharist Ministers: *Tammy Borders*
Eric Nielsen
Molly Stevenson

Organist: *Sue Ellen Rumstay*

Ushers: *Jerry Byrd*
Sparky Greneker



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.

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

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.

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e-mail address: Church Office - office@christchurchvaldosta.org

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Bookkeeper: 229-242-0616

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