



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BETHESDA-BY-THE-SEA
PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

A SERVICE IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

ALEJANDRO MANUEL GUTIERREZ

23 OCTOBER 1973 — 6 AUGUST 2021

21 AUGUST 2021

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele J.S. Bach
Elegy George Thalben-Ball
“Nimrod” from *Enigma Variations* Edward Elgar

REMEMBRANCES

The congregation stands as the Celebrant begins.

OPENING SENTENCES

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.*

COLLECTS

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your
Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life
and immortality to light: Grant that your servant
Alex, being raised with him, may know the strength
of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who
with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one
God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you
this day our brother Alex. 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 congregation may be seated.

LESSON 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 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.

READER The Word of the Lord.
PEOPLE *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 121 *(in unison)*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out
and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

LESSON 1 John 3:1–2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

READER The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE *Thanks be to God.*

The congregation stands.

HYMN 208 The Strife is o'er *Victory*

THE GOSPEL John 5:24–27

Before the Gospel

DEACON The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

PEOPLE *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, 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 judgment, because he is the Son of Man."

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo, "En verdad, en verdad os digo: el que oye mi palabra y cree al que me envió, tiene vida eterna y no viene a condenación, sino que ha pasado de muerte a vida. En verdad, en verdad os digo que viene la hora, y ahora es, cuando los muertos oirán la voz del Hijo de Dios, y los que oigan vivirán. Porque así como el Padre tiene vida en sí mismo, así también le dio al Hijo el tener vida en sí mismo; y le dio autoridad para ejecutar juicio, porque es el Hijo del Hombre."

After the Gospel

DEACON The Gospel of the Lord.

PEOPLE *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

HOMILY Pastor John Velsor

A brief period of silence follows the Homily.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS

For our brother Alex, 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 Alex, 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 concludes

Father of all, we pray to you for Alex, 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*

THE PEACE

CELEBRANT The peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE *And also with you.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.**The Celebrant continues*

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.*

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

CELEBRANT AND PEOPLE

*Please join in reading the Lord's Prayer in your preferred language
Únase a leer el Padrenuestro en su idioma preferido*

*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.*

*Padre nuestro que estás
en el cielo, santificado
sea tu Nombre; venga
a nosotros tu Reino;
hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en
el cielo. Danos hoy
nuestro pan de cada
día. Perdona nuestras
ofensas, como también
nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en
la tentación y líbranos
del mal. Porque tuyo
es el reino, el poder y
la gloria Ahora y por
siempre. Amén.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist. This is the Lord's table; it is the Lord who invites you. It is his wish that those who want him should meet him here. Please follow the ushers' direction for communion. If unable to come forward, please signal to an usher for the clergy to bring communion to you. Our custom in the Episcopal Church is to receive the host by putting hands forward, palms crossed and facing upward. Please note that receiving the bread alone is fully receiving communion. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms across your chest.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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

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 says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Alex. 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.*

En tus manos, piadoso Salvador, encomendamos a tu servidor Alejandro. En humildad te rogamos que lo reconozcas como oveja de tu propio rebaño, cordero de tu propio redil, pecador que has redimido. Abrázalo en tu misericordia, en el bendito descanso de la paz eterna y la compañía gloriosa de tus santos y santas en la luz. *Amén.*

THE BLESSING

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, to whom be glory for ever and ever; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

HYMN How great thou art *See insert*

THE DISMISSAL

DEACON Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
PEOPLE *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

"St. Anne" Fugue in E-flat J.S. Bach

The Rev. Margaret McGhee
Associate for Stewardship and Digital Ministry

Dr. Stuart Forster
Associate for Music and Liturgy, Organist and Choirmaster

Pastor John Velsor
*Lead Pastor at Northstar Community Church
Minneapolis, Minnesota*

Members of the Bethesda Choir
*Remembrances: Max Bunge, Lissette Valdes
Lectors: Otto Moreno, Isabella Valdes
Altar Guild: Phyllis Goodner, Yvonne Wagner
Crucifer: Bill Cini*

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Masthead drawing by Wallace McTammany
