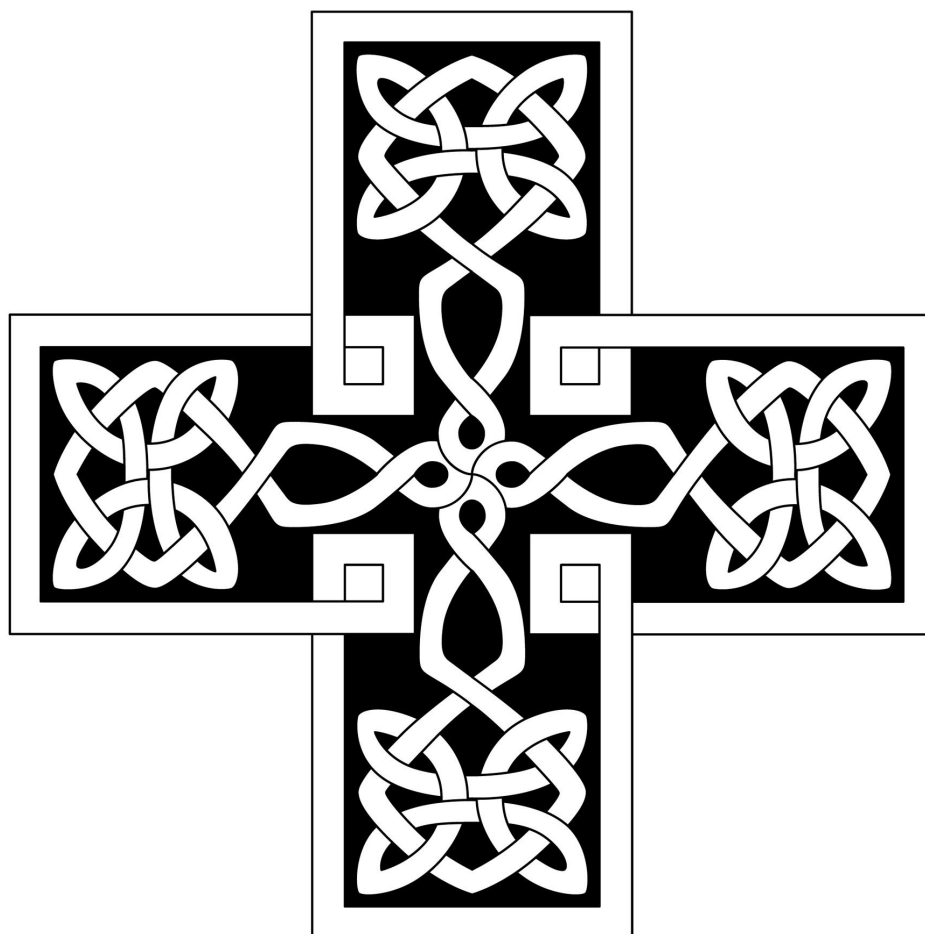




A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE
of
Mary Ann Lyons

September 8, 1936 - September 25, 2025



Saturday, November 1st, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Episcopal Church of the Ascension

BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE TWO

HYMN 376: Blue Hymnal

Joyful, joyful we adore thee

Hymn to Joy

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

OPENING ANTHEM

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.

THE COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Mary Ann. We thank you for giving her to us, her 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.**

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

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

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 sheet 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, Lo, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm will be read in unison

PSALM 121

- 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.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9

We do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for 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 clothed with our heavenly dwelling--if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still 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. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. 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 please him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

HYMN 470: Blue Hymnal

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Beecher

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we should take him at his word;
And our life would be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

THE GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Oliver M. Butler

Please stand

THE APOSTLES CREED

Celebrant 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant For our Sister Mary Ann, 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 Mary Ann, 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 sister eternal life.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give
 her fellowship with all your saints.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table
 in your heavenly kingdom.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

Celebrant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Mary Ann, who was reborn by
 water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her 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

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM

How can I keep from singing

Taylor Davis

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

***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.***

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

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

HYMN 693

Just as I am, without one plea

Woodworth

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive; wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, of thy great love the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above: O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

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. **Amen.**

Rejoice, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

With all the angel choirs, with all the saints of earth;
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rapture, noblest mirth;
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Your clear hosannas raise. and alleluias loud;
While answering echoes upward float, like wreaths of incense cloud.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go,
From youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Still lift your standard high, still march in firm array,
As warriors through the darkness toil, till dawns the golden day.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

At last the march shall end; the wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their Father's house, Jerusalem the blessed.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Then on, ye pure in heart! Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
People **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.

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

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552/2*

J.S. Bach



The Rev. Oliver M. Butler, Interim Rector

Glenn Stroh, Interim Organist & Choirmaster

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