

A Celebration of Life

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*St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
Hempstead, TX*

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***Our service today follows the form of an Easter service;
Because Jesus conquered death on the third day,
all those who have died in Jesus have the sure
hope of rising with him.***

Prelude

Celebrant:

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.

The Celebrant then says

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

*Silence may be kept; after which the Celebrant says the
following Collect:*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Russell. 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 Liturgy of the Word

From the Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9

Here on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, the Lord of Hosts will spread a wondrous feast for everyone around the world—a delicious feast of good food, with clear, well-aged wine and choice beef. At that time he will remove the cloud of gloom, the pall of death that hangs over the earth; he will swallow up death forever. The Lord God will wipe always all tears and take away forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. The lord has spoken—he will surely do it! In that day the people will proclaim, “This is our God, in whom we trust, for whom we waited. Now at last he is here.”

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks Be to God

Psalm 121 (NRSV)

I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

From the New Testament: Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. And so we should not be like cringing, fearful slaves, but we should have like God’s very own children, adopted into the bosom of his family, and calling to him, “Father, Father.” For his Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts, and tells us that we really are God’s children. And since we are his children, we will share

his treasures—for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. Who then will condemn us Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honour next to God, pleading for us there in heaven. Who then can ever keep Christ's love from us? When we have trouble or calamity when we are hunted down or destroyed, is it because he doesn't love us anymore? And if we are hungry or penniless, or in danger, or threatened with death has God deserted us? But despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death cant and life cant. The angels won't and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our feats for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are –high above the sky or tin the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks Be to God

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his Name's sake. Yea, 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.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over. Surely 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 Gospel Fr. Frank Hawkins

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John 14:1-6

‘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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Eulogy

Sermon Fr. Frank Hawkins

Celebrant: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say the **Apostle’s Creed**.

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.

Celebrant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name, hallowed be your Name,
thy kingdom come, your kingdom come,
thy will be done, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those as we forgive those
who trespass against us. who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, Save us from the time of trial,
but deliver us from evil. and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, For the kingdom, the power,
and the power, and the glory, and the glory are yours,
for ever and ever. Amen. now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: For our brother Russell, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life.". The response is "Hear us, Lord":

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Russell 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 with the following prayer:

Father of all, we pray to you for Russell, 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 Commendation

The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the body.

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(s) 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 *Russell*. 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*.

Blessing

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!