

CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING  
FOR THE LIFE OF  
ROBERT BROWNING



ST THOMAS'S PARISH  
NEWARK, DELAWARE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2020  
11:00 AM

# God loves you. No exceptions.



The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.

Greetings! We're delighted you are here, and want for you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today. We suspect you may have some questions. Everybody you see here was a newcomer at one time, and we've *all* had questions- probably some of the same you have today.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Thomas's is alive and well. We are worshiping both in -person with appropriate precautions, and live streaming on YouTube. The full-text bulletins for our services can be found on our website, and by email request. We also continue to respond to the needs of the Newark Community through our collaboration with the Newark Empowerment Center and others. Those who would like to support our work may do so by going to our "Giving to St Thomas's" page.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill, all who are caring for them, and all who are striving to hear the voice of God in these challenging times.

## Our weekly services:

**Sunday 9am- Rite II (sung Eucharist)**

**Wednesday 12:00pm- Intercessory Prayer with Holy Eucharist**

**Thursday 7pm- evening Compline Prayer live via Zoom**

The Christian life is a source of endless fascination. Just when we think we have seen and heard everything it has to offer, something new turns up. Committing to a life of learning and growing in the faith is an excellent way to make sure there is always enough fuel in the spiritual tank.

There are many opportunities for Christian growth within our parish. During this time of social distancing, many of our meetings are happening online. Our groups include:

- Children's Ministries, age 18mo-6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Youth CREW, 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Youth Confirmation, grades 7 and 8
- ECM, college age students
- The Parlor Class, adult ed
- NovelTheology, all ages
- Lectionary Bible Study, all ages

In addition to these groups, we also welcome the occasional guest speaker or activity during coffee hour, as well as special 6-week lecture series. For more information about any of our educational offerings, please visit our website: [www.stthomasparish.org](http://www.stthomasparish.org).

In the Episcopal Church, everybody doesn't always do things the same way. But, **when you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!** If you need help, ask your question in the Live Chat, or contact Fr Howie directly. We are friendly, helpful people here at St Thomas. Please bear in mind, regardless of what anybody else is doing, do what makes you comfortable.

Thank you for joining us today, and we hope to see you again soon!

## Prelude

*All stand as the Celebrant begins the liturgy.*

*Celebrant* With faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the body of our brother Robert for burial. Let us pray with confidence to God, the Giver of life, that he will raise him to perfection in the company of the saints.

Deliver your servant, Robert, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him free from every bond; that he may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us also pray for all who mourn, that they may cast their care on God, and know the consolation of his love.

Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of your servants for whom we pray. Remember them, Lord, in your mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant then reads the anthems.*

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

standing

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

**People** **And also with you**

*Celebrant* Let us pray

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

*All sit for the reading of the lessons.*

## First Lesson **cC** 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.

*Reader* The word of the Lord

**People** **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 46:1-11

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the  
depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.

- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."

### **Second Lesson cC 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**

Hymn

standing

In the Garden

Levas #69



1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, \_\_\_\_\_ while the  
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice \_\_\_\_\_ is so  
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him \_\_\_\_\_ though the



dew is still on the ros - es; and the voice I hear, fall - ing  
sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; and the me - lo - dy that He  
night a - round me be fall - ing; but He bids me go through the



on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es.  
gave to me with - in my heart is ring - ing.  
voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.



And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He



tells me I am His own, \_\_\_\_\_ and the joy we share as we



tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er \_\_\_\_\_ known.

The Gospel cC John 11:21-27

standing

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

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.'

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Reflections

sitting

Homily

sitting

The Apostles' Creed

standing

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 Robert, 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 Robert, 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.

*The Celebrant concludes the prayers, saying:*

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

**standing**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
*People* **And also with you**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

**The Offertory**



## Here I Am, Lord

WLP #812

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin  
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,  
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

My hand will save. I who made the stars of night,  
 They turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,  
 My hand will save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my  
 Give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my  
 Till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

light to them? Whom shall I send? \_\_\_\_\_  
 word to them. Whom shall I send? \_\_\_\_\_  
 life to them. Whom shall I send? \_\_\_\_\_

Here I am, Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Is it I, Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ I have heard you  
 call - ing in the night. \_\_\_\_\_ I will go, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ if you  
 lead me, \_\_\_\_\_ I will hold your peo - ple in my heart. \_\_\_\_\_

## The Canon

standing

*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.**

*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.

## **Sanctus**

*All say together*

**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.*

*The Celebrant continues* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory,**

*The Celebrant continues* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the

Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Thomas, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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.**

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 Breaking of the Bread**

*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.

### **Distribution of Communion**

*Every baptized person is invited to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood at this Altar. If you are not baptized or do not wish to receive communion, please come forward when invited by the usher, cross your arms over your chest and the priest will say a short prayer.*

## Hymn

### You Who Dwell

WLP #810



1. You who dwell in the shel - ter of the Lord, who a -  
2. Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, \_\_\_\_\_ and  
3. For to the an - gels God's giv - en a com - mand \_\_\_\_\_ to



bide in this shad - ow for life, say to the Lord: "My  
fam - ine will bring you no fear; un - der God's wings your  
guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



ref - uge, \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ rock in whom I \_\_\_\_\_ trust!"  
ref - uge \_\_\_\_\_ with faith - ful ness your \_\_\_\_\_ shield.  
bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.



And I will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the



breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and



hold you in \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ palm of my hand."

## The Post Communion Prayer

kneeling

*People and Celebrant say together*

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

standing

*The Celebrant and other ministers take their places at the urn.*

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 concludes:*

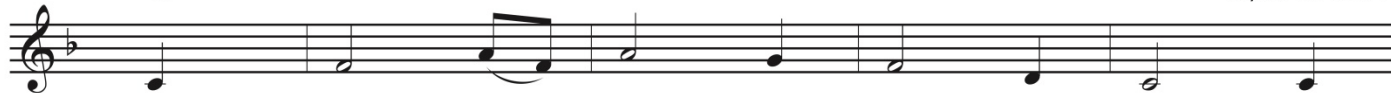
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Robert. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company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

## The Blessing

# Hymn

## Amazing Grace

Hymnal #671



1. A - maz - ing \_\_\_ grace! How sweet the sound, that  
2. 'Twas grace that taught me heart to fear, and  
3. The Lord has \_\_\_ prom - ised good to me, his  
4. Through man - y \_\_\_ dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a \_\_\_ wretch like me! I once \_\_\_ was lost but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
word my hope se - cures; he will \_\_\_ my \_\_\_ shield and  
have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace \_\_\_ that brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no \_\_\_ less \_\_\_ days to



now \_\_\_ am \_\_\_ found, was blind but \_\_\_ now I see.  
grace \_\_\_ ap - pear the hour I \_\_\_ first be - lieved!  
por - tion \_\_\_ be as long as \_\_\_ life en - dures.  
safe \_\_\_ thus \_\_\_ far, and grace will \_\_\_ lead me home.  
sing \_\_\_ God's praise than when we'd \_\_\_ first be - gun.





**LEADERSHIP OF ST THOMAS'S**

StThomasParish.org 302.368.4644

The Vestry

Rector's Warden: Joy Lynam  
Treasurer: Amy Keach

People's Warden: Mark Burchess  
Clerk of the Vestry: DJ Ferguson

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Larry Duggan  
DJ Ferguson  
Joy Lynam

Class of 2022

Mark Burchess  
LaRue Manning  
Jamie Sloan  
Kelly Tompkins

Class of 2023

Barbara Graham  
Jill Englund Jensen  
Madeline Johnson  
Kristin Sausville

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