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# CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of  
**John E. O'Rourke**  
August 27, 1937—January 21, 2024  
Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 11 o'clock in the morning  
in the Lady Chapel

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*The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its 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 Lazarus. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.*

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Prelude

*Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Elegy*

George Thalben-Ball

*Nimrod (from Enigma Variations)*

Edward Elgar

*O World, I Must Now Leave Thee*

Johannes Brahms

## BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Entrance Anthem

*All stand.*

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 Celebrant then says*

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 John, 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.*

The First Reading

*Read by Elizabeth Pentin*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

The Word of the Lord.

*All* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23     *Dominus regit me*

*Read by Stephen Shandor*

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.  
He revives my soul; and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
    for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
    you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.  
Surely your 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 Second Reading

*Read by the Rev. David Eichelberger*

2 Timothy 4:1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

*All* Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

*all stand*

John 14:1-6

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

*People* 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.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Cameron J. Soulis

The Apostles' Creed

*all recite the Creed together, 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.

### The Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Grant, we beseech you, to your whole Church in paradise and on earth, your light and your 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 your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. *Amen.*

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

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your fatherly care, that, casting all their grief on you, they may know the consolation of your 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 grace to entrust John to your never-failing love; receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor which you show to your people. *Amen.*

Grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of you, he may go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service in your heavenly kingdom. *Amen.*

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

### The Peace

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness*

Brahms

### Eucharistic Prayer A

*The people stand. The Celebrant says*

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.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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.

*The people stand or kneel. 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.

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,

*All* 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 *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.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Altar Rail.*

Music during Communion *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* John Bacchus Dykes

The Postcommunion Prayer *said by the Celebrant*

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

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

*People* where sorrow and pain are no more,  
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

*Celebrant* 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 Celebrant, facing the body, says*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant John. 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

*The Celebrant blesses the people, and all say Amen.*

The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

*Fugue in C major*

Johann Sebastian Bach

*The Congregation is invited to gather in the Parish Hall for luncheon immediately following the service, and are welcome to accompany Peggy to the interment at Allegheny County Memorial Park in Allison Park at 2:30 p.m.*



John E. O'Rourke, 86, passed away at Concordia Fox Chapel on January 21, 2024. John was born in Ambridge, PA in 1937. After graduating from Ambridge High School, he moved to Connecticut, and shortly thereafter joined the US Marine Corps, where he served for 4-1/2 years. He was stationed in Okinawa, Hawaii, and aboard ship in Lebanon. After his tour of duty, he attended the University of Connecticut where he earned a degree in political science. He then moved to Detroit, MI for his career in the US Customs Service. It was there that he met his wife, Peggy -- an office romance that lasted 54 years. They lived in Alexandria, VA, for nearly 30 years. Much of his career was spent in Washington, DC, and his official duties took him to many wonderful places: Paris, Greece, Cyprus, Indonesia, China, Japan, El Salvador, Portugal, Austria, Egypt, and Israel, as well as many cities in the US and Canada. John was an avid reader, and could often be seen in his favorite chair smoking his pipe, reading a good book. After retiring, he earned a masters degree in history from George Mason University. He was a sports fan, and enjoyed the Washington (now) Commanders football team, and attended many Washington Capitals hockey games. He enjoyed watching the Steelers, Penguins and Pirates on TV. When Peggy also retired, they moved to Pittsburgh in 2001. John loved big dogs, and over the years had a series of 5 dogs, three of which were rescues. They have been members of Calvary Episcopal Church since moving to Pittsburgh. He leaves behind his wife of 54 years, and his brother-in-law Joseph Savage of New Mexico.

  
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