

The Burial of the Dead
&
A Celebration for the Life of
Robert Arthur Wilson

November 17, 1930 – December 25, 2023



All Saints' Episcopal Church
Chelmsford, Massachusetts
10:00 AM
Saturday, December 30, 2023

THE ENTRANCE

Prelude

Opening Anthems

Book of Common Prayer p. 491

All stand while one or more of the following anthems are said.

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.

All things bright and beautiful

Blue Hymnal 405

The Celebrant then says

The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Silence may be kept; after which the Celebrant says one of the following Collects

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Bob. 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

Old Testament Reading

Whitney Chagnon

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 for ever.
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 27 (Spoken by all)

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

On Eagle's Wings

Soloist: Mairin Chagnon

Michael Joncas

New Testament Reading

Kyle Chagnon

First book of Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Then, all standing, the Deacon or Minister appointed reads the Gospel, first saying
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

A reading from the Gospel of John

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.’

At the end of the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord

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

Family Remarks

Rob Wilson

Homily

The Rev. Sean Maloney

Apostles’ Creed

BCP p. 496

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.**

Prayers of the People

For our brother Bob, 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 Bob, 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 one of the following or some other prayer

Father of all, we pray to you for Bob., 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

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

I sing a song of the saints of God

Blue Hymnal 293

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

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 every- where 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

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

**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

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,

Celebrant and People

**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 Bob 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.*

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

People and Celebrant

**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

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey of faith,
you are welcome to receive the communion of Christ.
Non-wheat bread is available at communion for those who are
gluten intolerant. Please ask the server for a rice wafer host.*

Post-Communion Prayer (said together)

BCP p. 498

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

Commendation Sentence:

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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, facing the body, says

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

We plow the fields and scatter

Blue Hymnal 291

Blessing & Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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STATEMENT OF INCLUSION FOR ALL SAINTS' PARISH

All Saints' Episcopal Church welcomes all people who seek the love of God without regard to ability, age, color, economic circumstance, ethnic background, family configuration, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation.

We promise to "seek and to serve Christ in all persons, ...strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." (From the Baptismal Covenant).

PARTICIPANTS

Clergy

Ushers:

Chalice Bearer

Acolytes

The Rev. Sean Maloney

Greg Sparks and Corey Chagnon

Carol Bilsbury

Braden Chagnon and Aubrey Kelley

Robert A. Wilson, 93, a resident of Tewksbury, passed away on Monday, December 25, 2023, at Lowell General Hospital following a period of failing health. He was a 41-year resident of Chelmsford and a 13-year resident of Tewksbury. He was the husband of Mary Jean (Page) Wilson whom he married in 1954.

Bob was born in New Bedford in 1930, the son of the late William K. and Iolean (Vaughan) Wilson.

He was educated in the public schools of Fairhaven and Corpus Christi, TX. At the University of Rhode Island, he was Secretary of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, completed Naval OCS, and graduated in 1952. He served in a fleet aircraft squadron until 1956, retiring from the Naval Reserve in 1970. Following his naval service, Bob's career was in engineering and management. He worked for Chase Brass and Copper in Waterbury, CT and American Standard in Stratford, CT. He then worked for Sonoco Products Co for 32 years in Mystic, CT, Holyoke, MA and retired from the Lowell facility in 1992.

In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his children, Robert A. Wilson, Jr. and his wife Roberta (Laird) of Centerville, Sally Chagnon and her husband Bud of Newburyport, and Barbara A. Sparks and her husband Bill of Newburyport; and his grandchildren, Braden Chagnon and his wife Mairin (Brunt) of Tyngsboro, Corey Chagnon and his wife Jackie (Klein) of West Newbury, Whitney Chagnon of Austin, TX, Kyle Chagnon of Allston, Aubrey (Sparks) Kelley and her husband Ryan of Johnston, RI, Greg Sparks of Billerica, and Jennifer Sparks of Chelmsford. He also leaves two great grandchildren and a niece and nephew in Texas.

He is preceded in death by two brothers, Bill Wilson of Mattapoisett and Earl Wilson of Frisco, TX.

Memorial donations in Bob's memory can be made to All Saints' Episcopal Church 10 Billerica Road Chelmsford MA 01824 and the Mowat-Wilson Syndrome Foundation, 4009 Tyler William Ln., Las Vegas, NV 89130-2628, mowat-wilson.org/support.