

*A Celebration of Life*



Robert Lowell Howard  
June 24, 1936 – May 3, 2022

## **Prelude**

### **Opening Procession**

*The Celebrant says,*

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.  
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,  
even though they die.  
And everyone who has life,  
and has committed themselves 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 have life in ourselves,  
and none becomes our own master when we die.  
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.

## Amazing Grace

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my 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

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

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

*The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.*

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            ***And also with you.***  
*Celebrant*        Let us pray.

## Collects for Burial

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Bob, 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 forever. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with the Howard 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.**

## 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.

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

## Second Reading

Revelation 21:2-7

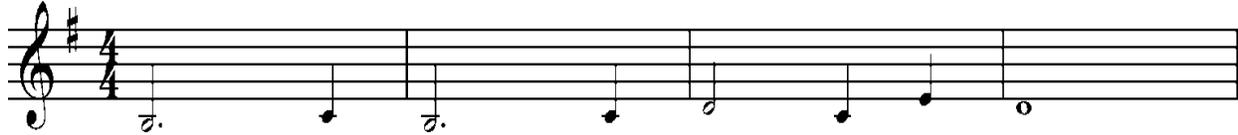
I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without

cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

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

All stand.

*I, the Lord of sea and sky*



*Verses*

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

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

save.                    I who made the stars of night,  
 way.                    I will break their hearts of stone,  
 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 - si - 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? \_\_\_\_\_

*Refrain*

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.

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## Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

*Deacon*  
*People*

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "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 don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

*Deacon*  
*People*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## Eulogies & Homily

## **Apostles' Creed**

*All stand as the Celebrant says*

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say together,

***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 Bob eternal life.

***Hear us, Lord.***

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our brother Bob to the joys of heaven.

***Hear us, Lord.***

Our brother Bob 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 Bob; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

**Peace**

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

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

*"I Sing A Song of the Saints of God"*



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, \_\_\_\_\_  
2 They loved their Lord so \_\_\_\_\_ dear, so dear, and \_\_\_\_\_  
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are



pa - tient and brave and true, who \_\_\_\_\_ toiled and \_\_\_\_\_ fought and \_\_\_\_\_  
his love \_\_\_\_\_ made them strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for \_\_\_\_\_  
hund - reds of thou - sands still, the \_\_\_\_\_ world is \_\_\_\_\_ bright with the



lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And \_\_\_\_\_  
Je - sus' sake, the \_\_\_\_\_ whole of their good lives long. And \_\_\_\_\_  
joy - ous saints who \_\_\_\_\_ love to do Je - sus' will. You can



one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and one was a shep -  
one was a sold - ier, and one was a priest, and one was \_\_\_\_\_ slain  
meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains,



herd - ess on the \_\_\_\_\_ green: they were all of them saints of \_\_\_\_\_  
by a fierce wild \_\_\_\_\_ beast; and there's not an - y rea - son -  
or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of \_\_\_\_\_ God are just



God— and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.  
no, not the least, why I should-n't be one too.  
folk like \_\_\_\_\_ me, and I mean to be one too.



God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, as you give us Jesus as our greatest gift, so we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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 the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. With Christ, make us a living sacrifice of praise. 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 forever. *AMEN.*

*The Celebrant then continues*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say together,

***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,  
forever and ever. Amen.***

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized persons are welcome and encouraged to receive both the bread and the wine of the Eucharist. People who are not baptized or who prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward and cross their arms to receive a blessing. Those desiring a gluten-free wafer may request one from the priest when they come forward to receive communion.*

## Commendation

*Celebrant* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Bob 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 humankind; 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.

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

*The Celebrant then 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.***

## Blessing

May the Holy and Undivided Trinity guard your soul, guide your feet into the way of peace, and receive you into that place where there is no pain or grief but life eternal, and may the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

*The Deacon says,*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
***Thanks be to God.***

In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to:

Boys and Girls Country of Texas  
18806 Roberts Road  
Hockley, Texas 77447

The Howard Family Scholarship Fund at Rice University  
Office of Development MS-81  
PO Box 1892  
Houston, Texas 77251

or

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration  
PO Box 1000  
Vail, Colorado, 81658

## **Worship Leaders**

*Celebrant & Homilist*

The Reverend Stuart Brooks Keith III  
*Rector,*  
*Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration*

*Assisting*

The Reverend Mike Williams  
*Parish Deacon,*  
*Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration*

*Readers*

David Parker Howard  
Katherine Pully  
Lyssie Ropp

*Eulogists*

David Howard  
Diana Howard  
Debra Ropp

*Musicians*

Jan Govreau  
Michael Lancaster

*Ushers*

Lee & Jan Leaman