

A CELEBRATION OF NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Bowdre Phinzy Mays, Jr.

February 4, 1927 - April 15, 2026



**Saint Paul's Church
Augusta, Georgia**

**April 20, 2026
Three o'clock in the Afternoon**

A Note About this Service

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. 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.

THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD: RITE TWO

Organ Voluntary

Keith Shafer

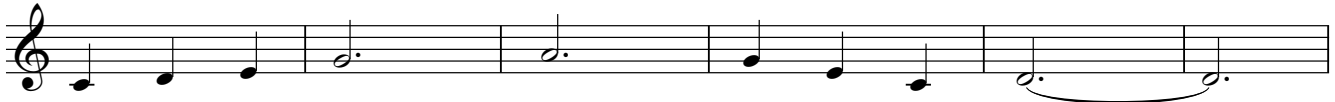
At the Procession, Hymn 8

“Morning has broken”

Bunessan



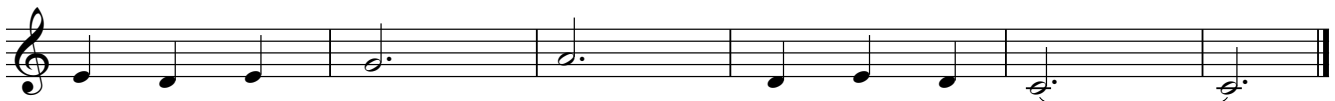
1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
born of the one light E - den saw play! _____



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
God's re - cre - a - tion, of the new day! _____

Burial Anthem

Officiant 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.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

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

Officiant Let us pray.

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

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with all who loved Bowdre 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.***

please be seated

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Reading

read by James M. Hull

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Lector A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

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 silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 293

"I sing a song of the saints of God"

Grand Isle



1 I sing a song of the saints of God, pa - tient and brave and
2 They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and his love made them
3 They lived not on - ly in a - ges past, there are hund - reds of thou - sands



true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the
strong; and they fol - lowed the right, for Je - sus' sake, the
still, the world is bright with the joy - ous saints who



Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and
whole of their good lives long. And one was a sol - dier, and
love to do Je - sus' will. You can meet them in school or in



one was a queen, and one was a shep - herd - ess on the green: they were
one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce wild - beast: and there's
lanes, or at sea, in church or in trains, or in shops, or at tea, for the



all of them saints of God, and I mean, God help - ing, to be one too.
not an - y rea - son no, not the least, why I should - n't be one too.
saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

The Second Reading

read by Frank M. Hull

John 14:1-5

Lector A reading from the Gospel according to John.

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?"

Lector The Word of the Lord.

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

Eulogy

Tracy Mays Olmsted

Homily

The Reverend Eric Bidy

The Apostles' Creed

The people are invited to stand

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

All ***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 Lord's Prayer

The people are invited to stand or kneel.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Officiant Let us pray.

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 Prayers of the People

Officiant For our brother Bowdre, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Officiant Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us all who mourn for Bowdre, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People ***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.

Officiant Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Bowdre, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. ***Amen.***

Musical score for the hymn "Lift high the cross". The score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim, till
 all the world a - dore his sa - cred Name.

1 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, the
 2 Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, as
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

Repeat Refrain

hosts of God in con - quering ranks com - bine.
 on the brow the seal of him who died.
 thou hast pro - mised, draw the world to thee.
 to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

The Commendation*The people are invited to stand*

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

Officiant 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.

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

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

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Toccata (Symphony No. 5, Op. 42)

Charles-Marie Widor

*All are invited to remain in place, standing or seated, through the Postlude.
The family invites all to a reception in the churchyard.*

Participants in this Service

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy	Officiant
The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn	Assisting Priest
Keith Shafer	Organist
Cobbs Nixon	Crucifer
James M. Hull	Lector first lesson
The Honorable Frank M. Hull	Lector second lesson
Naila Assad, Billy Badger, Cindy Shafer, Rex Teeslink	Ushers
Mark Albertin, Wright Montgomery	Audio/Visual Team

Memorial Gifts

*If so desired, memorial gifts may be sent to
Saint Paul's Church Endowment.*

Ithaka

*As you set out for Ithaka
hope your road is a long one,
full of adventure, full of discovery.*

*Laistrygonians, Cyclops,
angry Poseidon—don't be afraid of them:
you'll never find things like that on your way
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,
as long as a rare excitement
stirs your spirit and your body.*

*Laistrygonians, Cyclops,
wild Poseidon—you won't encounter them
unless you bring them along inside your soul,
unless your soul sets them up in front of you.*

*Hope your road is a long one.
May there be many summer mornings when,
with what pleasure, what joy,
you enter harbors you're seeing for the first time;
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations
to buy fine things,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
sensual perfume of every kind—
as many sensual perfumes as you can;
and may you visit many Egyptian cities
to learn and go on learning from their scholars.*

*Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.
But don't hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.*

*Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.
Without her you wouldn't have set out.
She has nothing left to give you now.*

*And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,
you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.*

C. P. Cavafy



Saint Paul's Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.
www.saintpauls.org | 706.724.2485
605 Reynolds Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901