

A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of  
**The Rev. Dr. John Santosuosso**

February 21, 1939 – June 14, 2026



**ST. PETER'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

10:30 am | Saturday, June 27, 2026  
Burial Office - Rite II with Holy Communion

*This liturgy 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.*

*From the Book of Common Prayer, page 507*

## Prelude

Lacrymosa (from Requiem)	<i>Giuseppe Verdi</i>
Largo in G (Xerxes)	<i>G. F. Handel</i>
Shall We Gather at the River	<i>Robert Lowry</i>
Processional (Onward, Ye Peoples!)	<i>Jean Sibelius</i>

### **Processional Hymn: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (H1982 #460)** *please stand*

1 Alleluia! sing to Jesus! his the scepter, his the throne;  
Alleluia! his the triumph, his the victory alone;  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by his blood.

3 Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, thou on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to thee from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

4 Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own:  
Alleluia! born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil hast entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim in the eucharistic feast.

### *Celebrant*

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.

### **Pastoral Welcome**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Celebrant*

O God, by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant John, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Reading: Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33** *(be seated)*

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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

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

**The Psalter: Psalm 121** *People respond singing bold text*

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*

**from *where* is my help to come?**

2 My help comes from the LORD, \*

**the maker of heaven *and* earth.**

3 He will not let your foot be moved \*

**and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*

**shall *neither* slumber *nor* sleep;**

5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*

**the *LORD* is your shade at your *right* hand,**

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*

***nor* the moon *by* night.**

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*

**it is *he* who shall keep *you* safe.**

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*

**from *this* time forth for evermore.**

## **The 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 adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them as their God;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then 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 as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People*   **Thanks be to God.**

## Sequence Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (H1982 #490)

*please stand*

I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus,

### **Refrain:**

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus. Clear sun of  
righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus. When we  
have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

## **The Gospel: John 10:11-16** (*standing*)

*Gospeller* The ✠ Holy Gospel of our ✠ Lord Jesus ✠ Christ  
according to John.

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

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the  
sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the  
sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the  
wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because  
a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know  
my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the  
Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not  
belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice.  
So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord

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

**Homily: The Rev. Derek Larson** *(be seated)*

*A moment of quiet reflection will follow the sermon*

**The Apostles' Creed** *(standing)*

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

**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 of the People** *(Please stand or kneel, as able)*

*Clergy* For our brother John, 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 John, 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.

*A moment of silence*

*Celebrant* Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother John, 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.**

**The Peace** *(Please stand, as able)*

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

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

**Offertory Meditation:**

**Ave Verum Corpus** – *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

*Lisa Screeton, Soloist*

*Jesu, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Born the Virgin Mary's Son,  
Who upon the Cross a victim hast man's salvation won,  
From whose side, which man had pierced,  
Flow'd the water and the Blood,  
By thy sacred Body broken  
Be in life and death, our food,  
Be Thou in life in death, in life and death our food.*

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving *(Eucharistic Prayer C, BCP p.369 – 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 God thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

***Glory to you for ever and ever.***

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

***By your will they were created and have their being.***

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

***Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

***By his blood, he reconciled us.***

***By his wounds, we are healed.***

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

*Celebrant and People (H1982 S-125)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. ✠ Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be 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." ✠

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,  
as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the

grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

***Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.***

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.** ✠

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

*Celebrant and People*

**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.

*You are invited to receive communion this afternoon, an ancient practice intended for all baptized Christians, no matter your tradition. You may receive just the bread (which is full participation in the sacrament), or both the bread and the wine by sipping directly from the chalice. You may also receive by intinction, in which case the minister will dip the bread in the chalice for you. You may receive the bread in your hand or on your tongue.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.*

*If you would prefer not to receive communion, you may also come forward and cross your arms over your chest for a blessing.*

## **Communion Hymn:**

### **Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees (H1982 #325)**

Let us break bread together on our knees;

let us break bread together on our knees;

**Refrain:**       when I fall on my knees,  
                  with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

let us drink wine together on our knees; **Refrain**

Let us praise God together on our knees;

let us praise God together on our knees; **Refrain**

## **Communion Meditation:**

**Panis Angelicus** – *Cesar Franck*

*Lisa Screeeton, Soloist*

O Lord most holy, O Lord most mighty, O loving Father, Thee  
would we be praising alway. Help us to know Thee, know Thee  
and love Thee, Father, Father, grant us Thy truth and grace;  
Father, Father, guide and defend us.

Rule Thou our wilful hearts, Keep Thine our wand'ring thoughts;  
In all our sorrows, let us find our rest in Thee; And in temptation's  
hour, Save through Thy mighty pow'r, Thine aid O send us; Hear us  
in mercy. Show us Thy favor, So shall we live, and sing praise to Thee.

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The people stand or kneel, as able.*

**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.

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

*Celebrant* 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 Priest blesses the people*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the ✠ blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

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

**Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (H1982 #376)**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.

field and forest, vale and mountain, blooming meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

+ + +

***The congregation is invited to a reception in Bender Hall.***

***The family will join you after a brief***

***Service of Committal in the Memorial Garden.***

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## The Committal

Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;  
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead  
will also give new life to our mortal bodies  
through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;  
My body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life  
In your presence there is fullness of joy,  
And in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother John, and we commit his body to his resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**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.**

*Celebrant*

Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord:

***And let light perpetual shine upon him.***

May his soul, and the souls of all the departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

## Service Participants

Officiant: The Rev. Derek Larson

Assisting Priest: The Rev. Barry Kubler

Organist: Helen McCraw Jones

Verger: Eda Snyder

Thurifer: Erick Corryn

Readers: Millie Schaeffer, Chris Bender

Eucharistic Minister: Diana Weeks

Ushers: Ron Everett, Mark Conner, Bruce Nichols, Craig Davidson

St. Peter's Altar Guild

Deacon: The Rev. Denise Healy

Cantor: Lisa Scott Screeton

Crucifer: Trey Stevens

Acolytes: Evie Johnson, Jack Johnson

Live Stream: Michael Dotson

St. Peter's Hospitality Guild



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