

*Thanksgiving for the Life of
Gregory Paul Lesch*

August 17, 1962-February 10, 2025



St. Michael's Episcopal Church
26 April 2025
Brattleboro, Vermont

“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 the one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.”

The Book of Common Prayer

PRELUDE

“Be thou my vision”

arr. David S. Abramsky

* ACCLAMATION

The congregation stands while the officiants and the other ministers enter the church. During the entrance, the Rt. Reverend Thomas Brown, Bishop of Maine and former rector of St. Michael’s, will read the opening acclamation.

* COLLECT

* HYMN 400, vs. 1, 4-6

All Creatures of our God and King



- 1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us
- *2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -
- *3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
- 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our
- 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your
- *6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal
- 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



- 1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing
- 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing
- 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -
- 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and
- 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that
- 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back
- 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



- 1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,
- 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,
- 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,
- 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:
- 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:
- 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:
- 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:



The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Greg's niece, Katie Whittmore, reads from Ecclesiastes.

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Jerry Goldberg, Greg's dear friend, reads:

THE MOURNER'S KADDISH

Greg's nephew and niece, Rowan Tjernell and Sophie Gramani, leads:

PSALM 23 *King James Version*

The LORD is my shepherd; *

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; *

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; *

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; *

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; *

thou anointest my head with oil;

my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Greg's nieces, Kelsey and Meghan Kinsman, read from Second Corinthians.

A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9

* HYMN 81

Hymn is printed on the next page.

Lo, How a Rose

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal* 1940. St. 3, Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

The Reverend Lars Hunter, Deacon at St. Michael's proclaims

* THE GOSPEL

John 6:37-40

Then, all standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel,

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

People

Glory be to you, Lord Christ.

At the end of the Gospel, the Deacon says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Mary D. Lindquist

The Reverend adwoa Wilson, Assistant Priest at St. Michael's bids

* THE PRAYERS

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in thy care, that, casting all their grief on thee, they may know the consolation of thy 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 Greg to thy never-failing love; receive him into the arms of thy mercy, and remember him according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people. ***Amen.***

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

Grant us, with all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, to have our consummation and bliss in thy eternal and everlasting glory, and, with blessed Michael. and

all thy saints, to receive the crown of life which thou dost
 promise to all who share in the victory of thy Son Jesus
 Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy
 Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ANTHEM

Ubi Caritas

Maurice Durufle

Eric Cutler, who was like a brother to Greg, shares a eulogy.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

Eric Cutler

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME

* HYMN 645, verses 1-2,4,6

The King of Love

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
 2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
 * 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 * 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
 5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
 6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness

1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
 2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
 3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
 4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
 5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
 6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I

1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
 2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-lestial feed-eth.
 3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
 4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
 5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
 6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23. Music: *St. Columba*, Irish melody, harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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.

Celebrant and People

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. based on a two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933).

The Celebrant recalls and makes present for all Jesus' life and last supper.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant asks the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine to be God's holy food.

Then the Celebrant proceeds

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,
and deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant breaks the bread and says the following Invitation

We who are many are one Body, for we all share one bread and one cup.

Invitation to Receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

At St. Michael's, we believe that God's love is unconditional. We welcome all people and we affirm the worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a beloved child of God. In our celebration of the Eucharist, there is no one here who is ineligible or unwelcome; no one who has too many doubts or too few beliefs. This is the table of a loving God set for all creation through the power of Jesus Christ. You, who are part of that creation, are welcome.

Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Please indicate that preference to the liturgical minister.

Receive the Bread in your open palm followed by the Common Cup, taking the cup by its base and guiding it to your lips. You may also receive the Bread only, with arms folded over your chest afterwards. Or if you wish to come to the Altar for a blessing only, please fold your arms over your chest.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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

The Rt. Reverend Thomas Ely, retired Bishop of Vermont, leads the Commendation.

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 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.

**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 Greg. 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

* HYMN 287, verses 1-4, 7

For all the Saints



1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:—
3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,—
4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!—



thee— by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;—
fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and
We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O— Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.
thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.
win, with— them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.
all are— one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



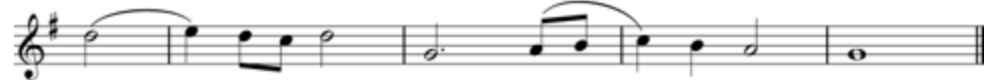
*7 But lo! there breaks a yet more glo - rious day; the
*8 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



saints tri - umph - ant rise in bright ar - ray; the
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host—



King of— glo - ry pass - es on his way.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Words: William Walsham How (1823-1897). Music: *Sine Nomine*, Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958).

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

POSTLUDE

Keltic Lament

John Foulds

Please join Greg's family for a reception at the Brattleboro Museum, 10 Vernon Street, Brattleboro.



Participants

Rowan Tjernell, Sophie Gramani, Katie Whittmore, Kelsey Kinsman and Meghan Kinsman- Readers; **Jerry Goldberg** – The Mourner's Kaddish; **Eric Cutler** – Words of Remembrance; **Ann Ely** – Thurifer; **Miranda Smith** – Crucifer/Lay Assistant; **Craig Irvine, Ricky Davidson,** Acolytes; **Alan & Judith McBean, Andy & Elise Burrows, Liz & Craig Hammond** – Ushers; **Ori Johnson, David Treadwell** – Livestream; Cellist- **Sabine Rhyne**; **St. Michael's Choir-** Anthem; **Dr. Keane Southard-** Organist and Choirmaster; **The Rt. Reverend Thomas Ely, The Rt. Reverend Thomas Brown, The Reverend adwoa Wilson** – Assisting Clergy; **The Reverend Mary Lindquist** – Presider and Preacher