

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
PETER ERIC RUHLIN



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025
10:00 A.M.

SAINT LUKE'S PARISH
DARIEN, CONNECTICUT

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Ansley E. Walker

ORGANIST

David Pulliam

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 Book of Common Prayer, p. 507

PETER ERIC RUHLIN
MAY 10, 1961 – JULY 27, 2025

Prelude

David Pulliam

Please stand as the opening sentences are said by the Officiant.

Opening Sentences

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.

The Collect

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

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Peter. 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 Peter's 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.**

Please be seated.

Remembrances

Whitney Ruhlin Muldowney
Gregory W. Powell
David C. Callahan

Hymn 618 v.1,2, 4

Sung by all.

Unison

1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright ser - a - phs, cher - u -
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more glo - rious than the
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye pa - tri - archs and
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su - per - nal an - them

Harmony *Unison*

bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain, Al - le - lu - ia! Cry
 ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! Thou
 pro - phets blest, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ye
 ech - o - ing, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! To

out, do - min - ions, prince - doms, powers, vir - tues, arch - an - gels, an - gels'
 bear - er of the e - ter - nal Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the
 ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the
 God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in

Harmony

choirs, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Lord, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 song, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 One, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

Unison

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

Text: John Athelstan Laurie Riley (1858–1945)

Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

The First Reading | 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Read by Charlotte Ruhlin

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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

Psalm 23 *Said by all.*

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 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.

The Second Reading | "Death is nothing at all"

Read by Lydia Ruhlin Brady

Death is nothing at all.
I have only slipped away to the next room.
I am I and you are you.
Whatever we were to each other,
That, we still are.

Call me by my old familiar name.
Speak to me in the easy way
which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed
at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me. Pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word
that it always was.

Let it be spoken without effect.
Without the trace of a shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same that it ever was.

There is absolute unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind
because I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you.
For an interval.
Somewhere. Very near.
Just around the corner.

All is well.

Reader Here ends the reading.

Hymn 383 *Sung by all, standing.*

1 Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, O thou of
2 Fair are the mea - dows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the

God and man the Son; thee will I cher - ish,
bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
twink - ling, star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, than all the an - gels heaven can boast.

Text: Text: German Composite; tr. pub. New York, 1850, alt.
Music: *St. Elizabeth*, melody from *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; harm. Thomas Tertius Noble (1867–1953)

The Gospel | John 14:1-6

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **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 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.'

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

The Homily

The Reverend Ansley E. Walker

The Apostles' Creed *Said by all, standing.*

Celebrant 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 Prayers of the People

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

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.**

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

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

Leader You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

The Officiant concludes the Prayers with the following:

Father of all, we pray to you for Peter, 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 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 Peter. 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 & Dismissal

Celebrant 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 among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

Hymn 287 v.1-4 *Sung by all.*



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!

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

Postlude

David Pulliam



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