

A Service in Loving Memory of
Edward Bertis Ellis



June 20, 1938 – February 7, 2026

Saturday, June 6, 2026
11:00 a.m.



St. James' Episcopal Church
11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854
301-762-8040 ~ www.stjamespotomac.org

A Note about Today's Service

(From the Book of Common Prayer, page 507)

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy and a celebration of life. It finds 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.

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Participants in Today's Service

Celebrants and Homilist

The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner
The Rev. Catherine Manhardt

Readers and Intercessor

Peter Ellis
Thomas Ellis
Sampson Annan

Reflections

Charles Ellis
Linda Ellis

Ushers

Sampson Annan
Joyce Graf
Dan Zimmerman

Organist

Newton Lewis

Soloist

Emily Ellis Zdan

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Organ Prelude

At all times during the service, it is our custom to stand, kneel, or remain seated as one is able.

Procession *(The congregation stands and the Celebrant says)*

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.

Welcome *(sit)*

Opening Hymn *(stand)*

“For All the Saints”

Hymn 287
vss. 1, 2, 7, 8

The Collects

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

Let us pray.

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

The Liturgy of the Word

First Lesson *(sit)*

Isaiah 25:6-9

Peter Ellis

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 covering 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, "See, 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.**

The Psalm *(sit)*

"On Eagle's Wings"
Based on Psalm 91

Michael Joncas

Verse 1



You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a - bide in His shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My re - fuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And He will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in_ the_ palm of His hand.

Last time to Coda Φ

Verse 2

The snare of the fow-ler will ne-ver cap-ture you, and fa-mine will bring you no
fear; un-der His wings your re- fuge, His faith-ful-ness your shield. *Refrain*

Verse 3

You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by day, though
thou - sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

Verse 4

For to His an-gels He's gi-ven a com-mand to guard you in all of your ways; up-
on their hands they will bear you up lest you dash your foot a-gainst a stone. *Refrain*

Φ Coda

And hold you, hold you in the palm_____ of His hand._____

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And 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; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn *(stand)*

"The King of love my shepherd is"

Hymn 645
vss. 1, 2, 5, 6

The Holy Gospel *(stand)*

John 6:37-40

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

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

[Jesus said,] "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Reflections *(sit)*

Charles Ellis

Linda Ellis

Homily *(sit)*

The Reverend Meredith T. Heffner

The Apostles' Creed *(stand)*

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 Lord's Prayer *(stand)*

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 *(stand)*

Led by Sampson Annan

Leader In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For our brother Ed, 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 Ed, 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.

Leader You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.
People **Hear us, Lord.**

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

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.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant Father of all, we pray to you for Ed and for all those we love, but see no longer; grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. In your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace (*stand, remaining at your pew*)

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

You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Music (*sit*)

"His Eye is On the Sparrow"
St. James' Singers and Friends

Arr. by Jack Schrader
Music: Charles Gabriel
Text: Civilla Martin

The Great Thanksgiving (*stand*)

Eucharistic Prayer A; BCP 361-363

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

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

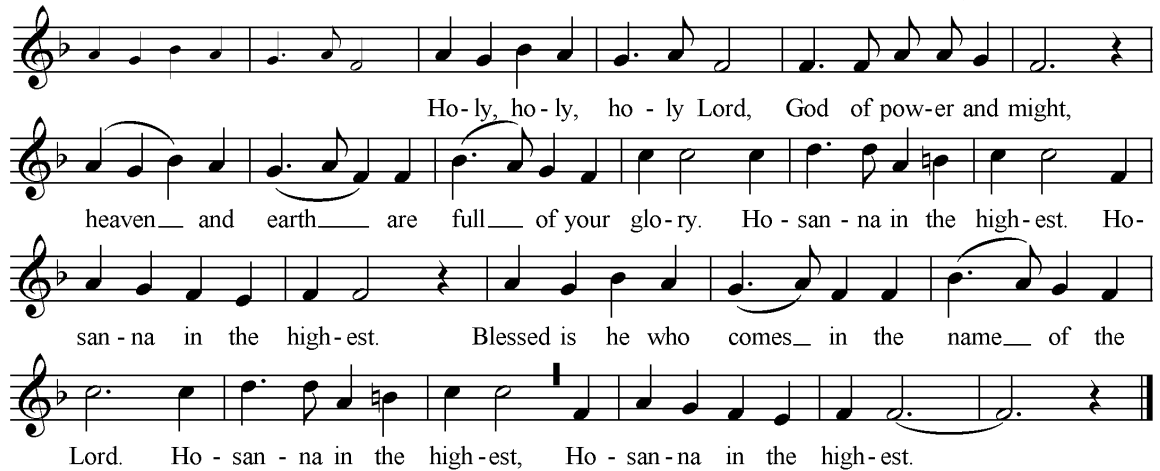
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope for everlasting life.

For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Celebrant Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All

Sanctus, Richard Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven__ and earth__ are full__ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes__ in the name__ of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died; Christ is ri - sen; Christ will come a - gain.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Celebrant Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 for ever.



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.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please follow the ushers' guidance to receive Holy Eucharist at the altar.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, cross your arms over your chest and the clergy will bless you.

Communion Music *(sit)*

"Pie Jesu" from *Requiem*
Sung by Emily Ellis Zdan

Gabriel Faure

Communion Hymn *(sit)* "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" *Attr. to St. Francis of Assisi*
Music: Sebastian Temple; arr. by Martin Neary

Verses

1. Make me a chan - nel of your peace: where
 2. Make me a chan - nel of your peace: where
 3. Make me a chan - nel of your peace: it
 4. Make me a chan - nel of your peace: where

there is ha - tred let me bring your love, _____ where
 there's de - spair in life let me bring hope, _____ where
 is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned, in
 there is ha - tred let me bring your love, _____ where

there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, and
 there is dark - ness, on - ly _____ light, and
 gi - ving of our - selves that we re - ceive, and in
 there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord, and

Refrain

wherethere's doubt, true faith _____ in _____ you. O
 wherethere's sad - ness, e - ver _____ joy.
 dy - ing that we'reborn to e - ter - nal life.
 wherethere's doubt, true faith _____ in _____ you. *(Fine)*

Mas - ter, grant that I may ne - ver seek so much to be con - soled as to con -

sole, _____ to be un - der - stood as to un - der -

stand, _____ to be loved, as to love with all my soul. _____

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Post Communion Prayer *(stand)*

Presider Let us pray.

All **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 *(stand)*

The Celebrant and altar party take their places at the body.

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

People **Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

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.

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

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Ed. 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

Closing Hymn *(stand)*

"Joyful, joyful we adore thee"

Hymn 376

Organ Postlude

"Toccata"

Charles-Marie Widor

from *Organ Symphony No. 5 in F Minor* (excerpt)

Following the service, the congregation is invited to the committal in the Memorial Garden, followed by lunch in the parish hall.

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Service of Committal for Edward Bertis Ellis

St. James' Memorial Garden

The Committal

BCP p. 501

Priest 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 Ed, and we commit his body to its 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.**

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

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.**

Priest Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;
People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

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

God of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Edward Bertis Ellis, beloved husband, father and grandfather, died unexpectedly on February 7, 2026.

The oldest son of Leonard Ellis and Reba Ruth Hambleton, Ed was born in Washington, DC June 20, 1938. He was raised in Arlington, Virginia, attended Washington-Lee High School where he was on the award-winning crew team, and graduated with the class of 1956.

Ed enlisted and served three years in the Army Dental Corp before earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Virginia Tech. He then joined the biomedical research team at Bionetics Research Laboratories where he met Linda Beadles, with whom he shared 60 years of marriage. While working and raising a family in Rockville MD, he earned an MBA

at American University. He then embarked on a new career as a Grants Management Specialist at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism where he worked until his retirement in 2001.

Shortly after their marriage, Ed and Linda joined the church choir and sang at the church's dedication in July of 1967. As a vestry member at the end of the Vietnam war, Ed was instrumental in helping St. James' sponsor a refugee family of six, the Duc Nguyens. A highlight for Ed, Linda and their children was hosting the Nguyen family for their first Thanksgiving in the United States in 1975. In addition to singing in the choir, Ed participated in numerous church committees including Finance, Memorial Garden, Facilities and Racial Justice. Through their years together, Ed and Linda were involved in many ministries of St. James' Episcopal Church and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Parishioners and clergy have acknowledged Ed's "fix-it" skills and willingness to keep the church and parish hall in good repair.

After retirement, the adventurous couple traveled in much of the world including Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and Scandinavia, as well as North and South America. They enjoyed meeting people of different traditions as well as observing the flora and fauna of the natural world, especially in bird watching.

Ed's parents and three brothers, Steve, Ronald and Roger, preceded him in death. After his parents' death, Ed took on oversight and management of his two youngest brothers who had special needs.

Ed is survived by his wife Linda and their children: Thomas, Charles and his wife Melissa, Peter, Emily and Katherine, and eight grandchildren whom he deeply loved and of whom he was immensely proud: Annalie, Samuel, Ainsley and Keira Ellis and Laurel, Sebastien, Elise and Jacob Zdan.

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Memorial gifts may be made to:

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