

VIGIL FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
THOMAS A. RAMSAY
JANUARY 1, 1955 ✠ APRIL 24, 2020



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BAYSIDE, NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020
8:00 PM

PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
THOMAS A. RAMSAY

JANUARY 1, 1955 ✕ APRIL 24, 2020

Prelude

The Officiant begins

Dear Friends: It was our Lord Jesus himself who said “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Let us pray, then, for our brother, Thomas, That he may rest from his labors, and enter into the light of God’s eternal Sabbath rest.

Officiant: Receive, O Lord, your servant, for he returns to you.

Response: *Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother, Thomas.*

Wash him in the holy font of everlasting life, and clothe him in his heavenly wedding garment.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother, Thomas.

May he hear your words of invitation, “Come, you blessed of my Father.”

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother, Thomas.

May he gaze upon you, Lord, face to face, and taste the blessedness of perfect rest.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother, Thomas.

May angels surround him, and saints welcome him in peace.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our brother, Thomas.

Deliver your servant, Thomas, O Sovereign Lord Christ, from all evil, and set him free from every bond; that he may rest with all your saints in the eternal habitations; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Let us also pray for Eileen, Kathleen, and all who mourn, that they may cast their care on God, and know the consolation of his love.

Silence may be kept; after which the Officiant says

Almighty God, look with pity upon the sorrows of your servants for whom we pray. Remember them, Lord, in mercy; nourish them with patience; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; lift up your countenance upon them; and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

Psalm 23

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.



A Reading from the Gospel of John

John 14:1-6

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?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Homily

The Rev. Laurence G. Byrne

In Memoriam

The Miracle That's Next

Tom Espenshade

The Officiant Continues Let us pray

O God, the King of saints, we praise and glorify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear: for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all your other righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we pray that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Father of all, we pray to you for Tom 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 Officiant says

Let us pray together in the words our savior Christ has taught us

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 Officiant concludes

Almighty God, our Father in heaven, before whom live all who die in the Lord: Receive our brother, Thomas, into the courts of your heavenly dwelling place. Let his heart and

soul now ring out in joy to you, O Lord, the living God, and the God of those who live.
This we ask through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Abide with Me

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness;
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.



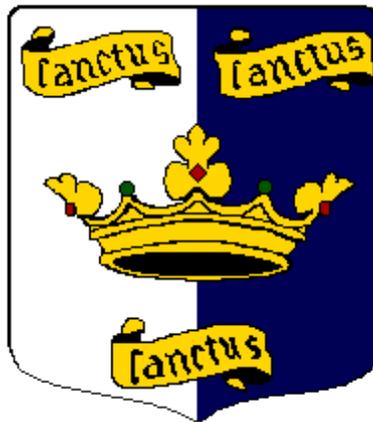
The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia

A fuller memorial service and celebration of Tom's life will be held when it becomes possible for us to gather in person.



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Sunday Service Live-stream each week at 10:00 AM on our website and on Facebook. Join us!

The Rev. Laurence Goodwin Byrne, Rector

The Rev. Marjorie Boyden-Edmonds, Deacon

Mr. Arkady Leytush, Organist/Choirmaster

Mr. Clifton Seale, Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus

Mrs. Nancy McCarthy, Parish Secretary, Sexton