

**GERALD “GARY” KOCH**  
**JUNE 18, 1944-DECEMBER 19, 2022**



**A CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023

11:00 AM PACIFIC TIME

2:00 PM EASTERN TIME

## **Welcome to the Celebration of the life of Gary Koch.**

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 unfaithful. 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.

I know how moved Gary would be that we are gathering from multiple places.

I offer welcome to Gary’s friends, and all those drawn to be here on this occasion. The service follows our Burial Office found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Though the form of this funeral service is Episcopal, it is our hope that all people, regardless of affiliation, will feel uplifted and surrounded by God’s love.

# The Burial Office

## Welcome

### Opening Anthem

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.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Gary Koch. We thank you for giving him to us, 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, we are reunited the those wo have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Thank you for dealing graciously with Gary's friends in our grief. Surround us with your love, that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## **Romans 8:14-16, 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.

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.

Presider: The word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

## Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; \*

**I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

**and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul \*

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil; \*

**for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*

**you have anointed my head with oil,**

**and my cup is running over.**

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

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

**On Eagles Wings**

*Mark Williams*

*Musical Accompaniment*

*Ramona Curtis*

## **John 14:1-6**

*The Rev. Andrew Green*

Reader: A reading from the Gospel, according to John.

“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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **Reflections**

*Peg & Cathy Calamia-Downing  
Colin Ingram*

## **Homily**

*The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

# The Lord's Prayer

Presider: Let us pray,

**Our father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**



## Prayers For the Dead

God, your will for us is abundant life; receive Gary now into the fullness of life in your presence.

**Hear our prayer.**

You know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith: shed the brightness of your light on Wes, who also sought understanding.

**Hear our prayer.**

You are greater than all our ideas and images of you; draw Gary into the mystery of your being.

**Hear our prayer.**

We praise you as the giver of life; gather all who mourn into the hope of renewed life.

**Hear our prayer.**

The Church commends all who die to the care of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, and so we commend Gary to you, giving thanks for the gift of his life.

**Hear our prayer.**

Presider May the Holy one, to whom all the desires of our hearts are known before we ask, hear our prayers for Gary, and for all who mourn, and grant us newness of life, and peace **Amen.**

## 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 us, 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 Gary. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a soul 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**

## *Let us pray*

We seem to give him back to you, dear Lord, who gave him to us. Yet as you did not lose him in giving, so we have not lost him by his return. For what is yours is ours always: and life is eternal and love is immortal; and what we sometimes call death is only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing but the limit of our sight. Lift us up, O God, that we may see further. Cleanse our eyes that we may see more clearly; draw us closer to yourself that we may know ourselves nearer to our beloved who are with you, that where they are, and you are, we too may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

Presider:           May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you this day and remain with you always.

**All:                    AMEN!**

## **Dismissal**

Presider:           Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People:            Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

