



**February 14, 2026**



**Foster James Billingsley**  
**January 16, 1964 - January 11, 2026**

# The Burial of the Dead: Rite Two

## Prelude

*“Unforgettable”  
“Nessun Dorma” from Turandot*

*All stand while the following anthem is said.*

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.

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his  
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 \* 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but  
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me  
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The Presider then says

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother, Foster. 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: Be gracious to Foster'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.**

*The people sit.*

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Book of Wisdom**

*Wisdom 3:1-5,9*

Mark Eastham

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.

In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,  
and their going from us to be their destruction;  
but they are at peace.

For though in the sight of others they were punished,  
their hope is full of immortality.

Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good,  
because God tested them and found them worthy of himself.

Those who trust in him will understand truth,  
and the faithful will abide with him in love,  
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,  
and he watches over his elect.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*All:* **Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 23**

*Dominus regit me*

Tammy Lewis

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 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.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 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.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hymn 488

*Be thou my vision*

*Slane*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 High King of hea - ven, when vic - tory is won,



all else be nought to me, save that thou art—  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach hea - ven's joys, bright hea - ven's Sun!



thou my best thought,— by day or by night,  
 thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be;  
 Heart of my heart,— what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 still be my vis - ion, O Ru - ler of all.

## The Gospel

*John 11;21-27*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John  
**All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother, Lazarus, would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All: Praise to you Lord Christ.**

*(All seated)*

## Homily

The Rev. Benjamin R. Badgett

*(All standing)*

## The Apostle's Creed

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.**

## Prayers

Ryn Kennedy

For our brother Foster, 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 Foster, and dry the tears of those who weep.

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

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

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

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

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

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

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

He was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

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

***All: Hear us, Lord.***

## The Peace

*Presider:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***All:* And also with you.**

*(Please stand as you are able. All greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

*(Please be seated)*

## Words of Welcome

# The Holy Communion

*(All standing)*

**The Great Thanksgiving:** Eucharistic Prayer B

*Presider:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Lift up your hearts.

**All:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All:** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of 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. 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:

**Sanctus**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest.*

*Presider:* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

*(Continued Next Page)*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All: We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;**

*Presider:* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Foster and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Presider:* Let us pray together as our Lord Jesus Christ has taught us to pray:

**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**

*The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be sung or said*

*Presider:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*Presider:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **AMEN**

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **AMEN**

**The Holy Communion:** *You are welcome to share in Communion.*

**To Receive Communion, or a Blessing:**

Come to the altar rail when directed by the usher. Once at the altar, either kneel or stand.

**For Communion:**

Receive the bread by placing both palms up, with one hand on top of the other.

You may either consume the bread, and then drink from the cup,  
or hold onto the bread and dip it in the chalice—a custom known as Intinction.

**Consuming either the bread or wine alone is full communion.**

If you choose to drink from the cup, assist the bearer by guiding it to your mouth.

*If you have any mobility difficulties, remain seated and the clergy will bring communion to you.*

**For a Blessing:**

If you prefer a blessing instead of Communion, simply cross your arms over your chest.

*Unison or harmony*

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each  
 4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der  
 2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -  
 3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us  
 4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship  
 5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.  
 2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.  
 3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.  
 4 bet - ter known: we see, and praise him here.  
 5 in the world, we'll live and speak his praise.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### Post Communion Prayer

*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

*The Presider and other ministers take their places.*

*Presider:* Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

***All: where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.***

*Presider:* 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.

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

*Presider:* Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Foster. 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

*The Presider dismisses the people, saying*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

***All: Thanks be to God.***

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,  
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
 teach - us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

**Postlude**

**A Reception Follows Downstairs in the Parish Hall.  
 All are Welcome to Attend.**

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# Foster James Billingsley

January 16, 1964 – January 11, 2026



Foster James Billingsley passed away on January 11, 2026 after a prolonged illness. Foster is survived by his husband, William W Martin, their rescue dog, Monty, his mother-in-law, Jane Martin of Virginia Beach, and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Michael and Kim Martin of Dunn, North Carolina. He is preceded in death by the father, Foster E. Billingsley, his mother, Barbara Billingsley and his sister, Jeanette (Billingsley) Bayse.

Foster graduated from University of Connecticut with a degree in Computer Science and another degree from Old Dominion University in Theatre Arts and Communications. In the 1990's, he worked as an Actors' Equity Stage Manager on and off Broadway and as the Facilities Manager and Stage Manager at the Berkshire Theatre in Stockbridge, MA. Foster served as the Production Coordinator and Company Manager for the Virginia Opera Association from 1999 to 2001. He served as Deputy Director and as Director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts between 2001 and 2014 and then from 2014 to 2016, he worked as General Manager of the Virginia Stage Company in Norfolk. His last job before retiring was as the Business Manager of the Diocesan Missionary Society and Secretary/Treasurer of the Trustees of the Funds (now Virginia Episcopal Investment Funds) of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Foster loved his work in the theatre and the time he spent with friends and family. Being with his dog, Monty, was his greatest joy.

In lieu of flower, please consider making a donation to Richmond Triangle Players in Foster's name.

**Our Service Assistants:**

**The Rev. Benjamin R. Badgett, Presiding Priest**

**Amos Goldie, Music Director**

**Douglas D'Urso, Verger, Crucifer & Chalice**

**Paul Shane, Gospel Bearer & Chalice**

**Mark Eastham, Tammy Lewis, Sanford Eberly, Lectors**

**Ryn Kennedy, Intercessor**

**Elam Jarrell, Harold Wright, Steve Clark, Ushers**

**Malinda Collier, Zoom Host**

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.



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