

**A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE  
OF**

**GERARD JOSEPH ENNIS**

**NOVEMBER 1, 1930 - OCTOBER 23, 2024**



**Trinity Episcopal Parish  
Wilmington, DE  
November 1, 2024  
11:00 am**

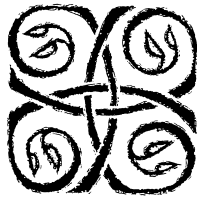
## CONCERNING FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

From the *Book of Common Prayer*

*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.*



### PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

The Reverend Patricia Downing—*Rector, Trinity Episcopal Parish*

David Simmons—*Director of Music, Trinity Episcopal Parish*

Robbie Smith—*AV*

Sarah Berninger, Ray Stiles—*Servers*

Katie Ennis Mullen, Melissa Ennis, Barbara Ennis—*Readers*

# A Celebration of the Life of Gerard Joseph Ennis

Prelude (Piano)

“Ragtime Blue”

Bill Boyd

**Knell: the tolling of the bell** *It is tradition that the lowest bell be played once for every year in celebration of the person’s life.*

*The Officiant begins with these words, those who are able standing*

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.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Gerry, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

# Hymn TH 287

# For All The Saints



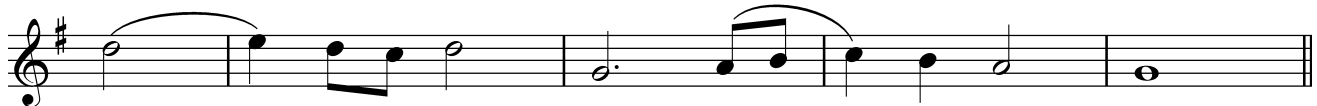
1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who  
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:\_\_\_  
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,\_\_\_  
 4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!\_\_\_



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!

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The First Reading

Job 5:8-11, 25-7

As for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause. He does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number. He gives rain on the earth and sends waters on the fields; he sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety. You shall know that your descendants will be many, and your offspring like the grass of the earth. You shall come to your grave in ripe old age, as a shock of grain comes up to the threshing-floor in its season. See, we have searched this out; it is true. Hear, and know it for yourself.'

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

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.***

**The Second Reading**

2 Corinthians 4:16—5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

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

Gradual Hymn TH 688

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side,  
 do us; we will not fear, for God hath willed  
 bid - eth; the Spi - rit and the gifts are ours



of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe  
 the man of God's own choos - ing; dost ask who that may be?  
 his truth to tri - umph through us; the prince of dark - ness grim,  
 through him who with us sid - eth: let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and power are great,  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his Name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bo - dy they may kill:



and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for ev - er.

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

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

‘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 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.

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

**Eulogy**

Christopher Ennis, Mary Ennis-Smith, Peter Ennis

**Homily**

The Reverend Patricia Downing

**The Prayers of the People**

*The Leader says*

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***Hear us, Lord.***

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

***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.*

*The Officiant continues*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Gerry, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

**The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And also with you.*

**The Holy Communion**

*All are invited to join in receiving Communion.*

**Offertory Hymn**

America, The Beautiful

1 O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain,  
 2 O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing strife,  
 3 O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the years

for pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain!  
 who more than self their coun - try loved, and mer - cy more than life!  
 thine al - a - bas - ter ci - ties gleam, un - dimmed by hu - man tears!

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,  
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,

and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.  
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.  
 and crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*And also with you.*  
*We lift them to the Lord.*  
*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*



*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:

*Celebrant and People*

***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.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Holy and gracious Father: 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:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, 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. 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. **AMEN**

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

*Celebrant and People*

***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**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!***

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are welcome to receive communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers.*

Communion Hymn TH 376

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

*Celebrant and People*

***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

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 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 unto 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.***

*Celebrant*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Gerry. 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.***

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

Recessional Hymn

When The Saints Go Marching In



1. O when the saints go march - ing in,  
2. O when the sun re - fused to shine,  
3. O when the trum - pet sounds its call,  
4. And when they crown you Lord of all,



O when the saints go march - ing in,  
O when the sun re - fused to shine,  
O when the trum - pet sounds its call,  
O when they crown you Lord of all,



O Lord, I want to be in that num - ber  
O Lord, I want to be in that num - ber  
Lord, how I want to be in that num - ber  
O Lord, I want to be in that num - ber



when the saints go march - ing in.  
when the sun re - fused to shine.  
when the trum - pet sounds its call.  
when they crown you Lord of all.

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*Please join the family for a reception in the dining room immediately following the service.*

## Gerard J. “Gerry” Ennis

Gerard J. “Gerry” Ennis passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, in Hockessin, DE. He was born in November of 1930 in Elizabeth, NJ to William J. and Anna (Schleck) Ennis.

He graduated from St. Mary’s High School in Elizabeth, NJ in 1948, and from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ in 1952.

During his early academic career, he was high school class president and valedictorian, elected New Jersey Boys’ State Governor, and attended Boys’ Nation. He even shook hands with President Harry Truman at the White House. Over the years he competed in speech and debate contests that were sponsored by the American Legion and the Hearst Newspapers. Additionally he was capped by a tournament competition held at New York City’s Metropolitan Opera House. During his time at Rutgers, he was the head announcer at WRSU and a member of Phi Beta Kappa alongside honorary journalism and debate fraternities.

Upon leaving Rutgers he answered the honorable calling to join the United States Air Force where he served in San Antonio, TX, Buffalo, NY, Port Deposit, MD, Salina, KS, and Shreveport, LA. He had duty assignments ranging from head of the English department at the Naval Academy Prep School to ICBM Crew Commander during the Cuban Missile Crisis. While in the service he earned his Master’s degree from Kansas State University.

Gerry went on to join Atlas Chemical Company (now AstraZeneca) in Chattanooga, TN, which later moved its headquarters to Wilmington, DE. He worked on training projects both internationally and nationally, eventually moving into the Stuart Pharmaceuticals Division. During his career with Stuart, his most notable work was with marketing break-through advances in cardiovascular, oncology, and anesthesiology products. He retired in 1992.

Over his lifetime, Gerry was active with the Brandywiners and the Ardensingers, once even as Guildmaster. He was part of a number of church choirs and choral groups. In addition, he served in Literacy and ESL groups, as an AARP Tax-Aide, and a long-term driver safety instructor. Gerry was an accomplished writer having written histories for both the Chester County and Pocopson County historical societies. He wrote a text on supervisory skills and had several articles published in national magazines on topics such as training, marketing research, and technical research.

Gerry is predeceased by his parents and two of his beloved children, Patti and Bill. He is survived by his loving wife, Marianne, with whom he shared 72 years of marriage, as well as his children Melissa Ennis, Chris Ennis (Susan Fullerton), Peter Ennis (Debbie), Barbara Ennis, Mary Ennis-Smith (Greg), and daughter-in-law Roni Ennis (Bill). He is also survived by his grandchildren, Katie Mullen (Bernie), Jim Ennis (Heaven), Breanna Ennis, Parke Ennis, Andrew Knox, Matthew Knox, Ethan Knox, several great-grandchildren, and countless friends and loved ones.

Friends and family are invited to a visitation held on Friday, November 1, 2024, at 10:00 am at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE. A service will follow at 11:00 am. Interment will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to St. Jude’s Hospital or Doctors Without Borders.





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**PARISH STAFF**

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