

In Celebration and Memory of

***Joanne Mola***

September 20, 1934 – April 4, 2026



**Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

10233 W. Peoria Ave.

Sun City, Arizona 85381

623-972-1100

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*Welcome to St. Christopher's today.*

*This service is taken from the Book of Common Prayer according to the use of The Episcopal Church—The Burial of the Dead Rite II which begins on page 491.*

*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, Lazarus. So, while we rejoice that Jo Ann has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we are sad and sympathize with those who mourn because we miss her.*

*May the peace of the Lord be with you always.*

Fr. Gerardo Brambila+  
Rector

## **Worship Leaders**

### **Celebrant**

The Rev. Gerardo Brambila

### **Verger**

Patty Emanuelson

### **Chalice Bearers**

Betty Roddy  
Judi Sock

### **Crucifer**

Judi Sock

### **Gospel**

Betty Roddy

### **Readings**

**Old Testament:** Wisdom 3:1-5,9

**The Psalm:** Psalm 116: 1-9

**New Testament:** Revelation 7: 9-17

**The Gospel:** John 11: 21-27

### **Ushers**

### **Altar Guild**

### **Organist & Music Director**

Mr. Donald Palm

## Burial of the Dead: Rite Two

### The Book of Common Prayer

#### Prelude

Processional: *Amazing Grace*

H-671

*Please stand as able*

Celebrant: 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 of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Joanne Mola. We thank you for giving her to us, her family, and friends, to know and to love as companions 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.

**People: Amen.**

Celebrant: Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously with the Mola family and all of us in our grief. Surround us with Your love, that we may not be overwhelmed by loss, but have confidence in Your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Old Testament: Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)**

Lector: A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon  
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

Lector: *The Word of the Lord*

People: Thanks be to God.

**The Psalm  
Psalm 116: 1-9**

I love the Lord, because he has heard \*

**my voice and my supplications.**

Because he inclined his ear to me, \*

**therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; \*

**the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called on the name of the Lord: \*

**O Lord, I pray, save my life!**

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; \*

**our God is merciful.**

The Lord protects the simple; \*

**when I was brought low, he saved me.**

Return, O my soul, to your rest, \*

**for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.**

For you have delivered my soul from death, \*

**my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

I walk before the Lord \*

**in the land of the living.**

**New Testament  
Revelation 21: 2-7  
(Behold, I make all things new)**

Lector: A Reading from the Book of Revelation

And I saw the holy city, 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, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among the people, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself

will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true. Then He said to me, it is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. I will give *water* to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life, without cost. The one who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as you are able for the hymn and the Gospel reading*

**Gospel Hymn:** *Alleluia, Alleluia* H-178, Vs 1, 2

**The Gospel**  
**John 11: 21-27**

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

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

Celebrant: Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother 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.’

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

*Please be seated for the sermon.*

**The Sermon**  
**The Rev. Gerardo Brambila**

**Family Remembrances**

Celebrant: In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

**Celebrant** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**& People:** 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.

Celebrant: For our sister Joanne 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 Joanne and dry the tears of those who weep.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

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

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

Celebrant: You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

Celebrant: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

Celebrant: Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

Celebrant: She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

**People: Hear us, Lord.**

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

*Silence may be kept*

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Joanne who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her 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.*

### **Exchanging of a Sign of Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **Offertory**

## The Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are able.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus                    *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

S-129

**All: Holy, holy, holy, 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.**

*Please kneel or stand as you are able.*

Celebrant: 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 was 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:

**All: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: 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 forever.

**People: Amen.**

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 forever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

### **The Distribution of Communion for the People**

*The people come forward to receive communion.*

***Please note: Everyone is invited to come forward during the distribution of bread and wine. Dip the tip of the host into the cup offered to receive the wine. If you choose to receive only a blessing, approach the priest with arms crossed over your chest to signify your desire.***

### **Receiving the bread:**

Celebrant: The body of Christ. The bread of heaven.

**Receiver: Amen.**

### **Receiving the wine:**

Chalice Bearer: The blood of Christ. The cup of salvation.

**Receiver: Amen.**

**Communion Hymn:** *I Am The Bread of Life*

H-335

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Celebrant: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### **The Commendation**

Celebrant: Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,

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

Celebrant: 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.

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

*The Celebrant, facing the body, says*

Celebrant: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Joanne. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her 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 Committal**

Celebrant: 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.

*Then, while earth is cast upon the urn, the Celebrant says these words.*

Celebrant: In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Joanne, and we commit her body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace. *Amen.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us pray

Celebrant: Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord.

**People: And let light perpetual shine upon her.**

Celebrant: May her soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

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; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Dismissal Hymn:** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

H-376

**Postlude:**

*Thank you for joining Joanne Mola's family and friends today to remember and celebrate our dear sister, mother, aunt, grandma, and friend. You are invited to enjoy light refreshments in the hall next door to continue to share stories of Joanne Mola's life with us.*

