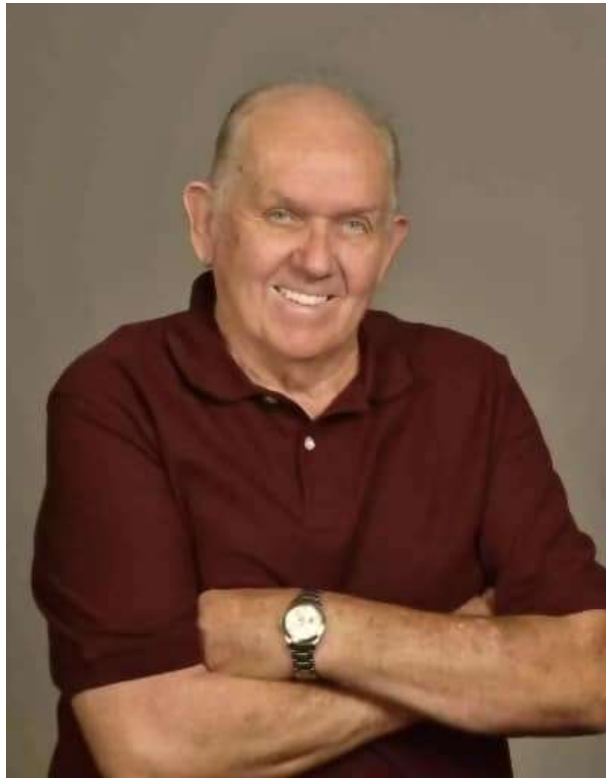


# Joseph F. Mee, Jr.

*July 25, 1942 - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
January 23, 2024 - Glendale, Arizona*



## **The Burial of the Dead, Rite II**

*April 6, 2024, 11:00 a.m.*

**The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist,  
Glendale, Arizona**

*Presider, The Rev. Timothy J. Gianni  
Deacon, The Rev. Cn. Chuck Milboan  
Joyful Noise Choir*

## **Welcome**

On behalf of the clergy, staff, vestry, and people of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, it is a pleasure to welcome you to this service today. It is an honor to remember the life of Joe, a beloved child of God. If you are visiting with us today, please know you are welcome here.

Today's service is an Easter service. We light the paschal (Easter) candle to remind us of the glory of the risen Lord. As the Prayer Book says, "even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia" (BCP P. 499). Although we celebrate Joe's life today, our service is designed to hold the tension between happiness on his behalf that he now feasts with his Lord, but also the sadness that we feel because he is no longer with us here. It is appropriate to feel both happy for Joe and sad for our loss at the same time. Grief is complex. Yet we are assured of the love of God, and we can take comfort in the knowledge he is with us always, especially in our grief.

We remember with love and fondness our brother Joe. In his loving memory, you are invited to participate fully today, including with the reception of Holy Communion. No one is turned away from the table of the Lord. You are always welcome at St. John's and we assure you we will continue to keep Joe's memory alive and well. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

## **About Joe**

Joseph "Joe" Mee passed peacefully on January 23, 2024, surrounded by family. Born to Joseph and Claire Mee in Philadelphia on July 25, 1942, Joe was the oldest of 5 siblings. His life was a journey marked by love, adventure, and an unyielding pursuit of his dreams. Fate guided him to Linda Smith, on the eve of his 23rd birthday at a local hamburger drive-in. A year later they wed, setting the stage for a lifetime of shared adventures. An unexpected opportunity surfaced in 1978, jumpstarting their dream of moving out west. Within months they relocated their family of three girls from Pennsylvania and settled in Glendale, Arizona. Family meant everything to Joe. Survived by his wife Linda, and their daughters Tracey, Janie (George), and Samantha (Markus). A legacy of seven grandchildren: Cassandra, Alex, Taylor, Luke, Sierra, Ryan,

and Gavin – and three great-grandchildren: Rory, Elijah, and Tatum. He was affectionately known as Grandpop or PopPop. A proud member of the Sheet Metal Union, Joe worked at Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant for many years. His relentless desire for advancement eventually led him to work in the commercial construction field. He managed several projects that forever changed the Phoenix skyline. Joe supervised the Sky Harbor Airport Rental Car Structure, The Maricopa County South Court Tower, the Miami Airport Terminal Expansion, and new construction at the Los

Alamos National Laboratory. His proudest professional achievement was overseeing the HVAC system construction and installation for the Arizona Diamondbacks' stadium. Upon retirement, Joe and Linda traveled extensively, both domestically and globally, visiting Ireland, Germany, Austria, Barcelona, Bonaire, and more. Joe was elated when they purchased their RV, "The Coach". The couple crisscrossed the United States many times. Joe loved the open road and shared that freedom with his family. Joe and Linda's home was always a place to gather for great times. Eagles and Phillies games, visits from their PA family, countless birthdays, graduations, anniversaries and even a wedding. Laughter and love were always on tap at the Mee home. Joe had the privilege and honor of going on his grand adventure with Linda for 57 years. The couple have been the roots of a great family tree that has grown to be so strong and so beautiful, like Joe's life itself. His booming voice, his gregarious personality, sarcastic, yet endearing wit, and pure blanket of love for his family will be thought of always. He was a man who lived life on his own terms, loved the wind in his face and, most of all, his girl, Linda, by his side.



## PRELUDE

*How Great is Our God*

*Presider* 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.

## COLLECT

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Joe and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

*Wisdom 4:7-13*

*Read by Grandson, Alex Montoya*

But the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.  
For old age is not honored for length of time,  
or measured by number of years;  
but understanding is grey hair for anyone,  
and a blameless life is ripe old age.  
There were some who pleased God and were loved by him,  
and while living among sinners were taken up.  
They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding  
or guile deceive their souls.  
For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,  
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.  
Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 23

*Read by Grandson, Luke Peters*

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.

### SECOND READING

*Revelation 21: 1-5a, 6b-7*

*Read by Granddaughters, Cassandra Richards and Sierra Crum*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the 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, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.'

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

## Sequence Hymn

*I Love You Lord*

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*John 14:1-6*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

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

## THE SERMON

*The Rev. Timothy J. Yanni*

## EULOGY

*Daughters, Samantha Antenen and Janie Peters*

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Deacon* For our brother Joe, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

*Leader* Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Joe, 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.**

*Presider* Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Joe, 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

*Presider* The Peace of Christ be always with you.

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

## Offertory Hymn

*Scars in Heaven*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Eucharistic Prayer 1*

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Presider* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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

*Presider and People*

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power 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.**

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

*Presider* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Sarah and Abraham you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Presider* Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with The Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

**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**

### **Fraction Anthem**

*Celebrant* Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

### **Communion**

*On Eagle's Wings*

*All are invited to receive Communion at St. John's. Those who do not wish to receive Communion may come to the priest and cross their arms in front of their chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free bread is available for those who need it.*

### **THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food of the Body 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**

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

*People* **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 then we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*People* **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, Joe. 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 Priest Blesses the People

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 eternal 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 almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, now and always.

## Closing Hymn

*For those Tears I Died*

## THE DISMISSAL

**Deacon** Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**People** **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**  
**Deacon** Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
**People** **Thanks be to God.**



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Music for Joseph F. Mees**

**Memorial Service      April 6, 2024**

***Joyful Noise***

**PRELUDE**

***How Great Is Our God***

**GLORIA**

***Glorify Thy Name***

Verse 1

The splendor of the King  
Clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice  
All the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
And trembles at His voice

(Chorus)

How great is our God  
Sing with me  
How great is our God  
And all will see how great  
How great is our God

Verse 2

And age to age He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the End  
Beginning and the End  
The Godhead three in one  
Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb

[Chorus]

(Bridge) X 2

Name above all names  
Worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God

[Chorus] X 2

Verse 1

Father we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Verse 2

Jesus we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Verse 3

Spirit we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

***I Love You Lord***

I love You Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship You  
O my soul rejoice  
Take joy my King  
In what You hear  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound  
In Your ear

(Repeat)

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

Verse 1

If I had only known  
The last time would be the  
last time  
I would have put off all the things  
I had to do  
I would have stayed a little longer  
Held on a little tighter  
Now what I'd give for one more  
day with you

Verse 2

'Cause there's a wound here in  
my heart  
Where something's missing  
And they tell me that it's going to  
heal with time  
But I know you're in a place  
Where all your wounds have  
been erased  
And knowing yours are healed is  
healing mine

(Chorus)

The only scars in heaven  
They won't belong to me and you  
There'll be no such thing  
as broken  
And all the old will be made new  
And the thought that makes me  
smile now  
Even as the tears fall down  
Is that the only scars in heaven  
Are on the Hands that hold  
you now

Verse 3

I know the road you walked was  
anything but easy  
You picked up your share of scars  
along the way  
But now you're standing in  
the sun  
You've fought your fight and your  
race is run  
The pain is all a million miles away

[Chorus]

***Scars In Heaven***

(Bridge)

Hallelujah, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, for the Hands that hold  
you now

Verse 4

There's not a day goes by that I  
don't see you  
You live on in all the better parts  
of me  
Until I'm standing with you in  
the sun  
I'll fight this fight and this race  
I'll run  
Until I finally see what you can see

[Chorus]

**COMMUNION HYMN**

***On Eagle's Wings***

Verse 1

You who dwell in the shelter of  
the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my  
rock in whom I trust!"

(Refrain)

And He will raise you up on  
eagles' wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of  
His hand

Verse 2

The snare of the fowler will never  
capture you  
And famine will bring you no fear  
Under His wings your refuge,  
His faithfulness your shield  
[Refrain]

Verse 3

You need not fear the terror of  
the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not  
come

[Refrain]

Verse 4

For to His angels He's given  
a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear  
you up  
Lest you dash your foot against  
a stone

[Refrain]

And hold you,  
hold you in the palm of His hand

**CLOSING HYMN**

***For Those Tears I Died***

Verse 1

You said You'd come  
And share all my sorrows  
You said You'd be there  
For all my tomorrows  
I came so close to sending  
you away  
But just like You promised  
You came there to stay  
I just had to pray

(Chorus)

And Jesus said  
Come to the water  
Stand by My side  
I know you are thirsty  
You won't be denied  
I felt ev'ry tear drop  
When in darkness you cried  
And I strove to remind you  
That for those tears I died

Verse 2

Your goodness so great  
I can't understand  
And dear Lord I know  
That all this was planned  
I know You're here now  
And always will be  
Your love loosed my chains  
And in You I'm free  
But Jesus why me

[Chorus]

Verse 3

Jesus I give You  
My heart and my soul  
I know that without God  
I'd never be whole  
Savior You opened  
All the right doors  
And I thank You and praise You  
From earth's humble shores  
Take me I'm Yours

[Chorus]

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***On Eagle's Wings*** lyrics

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