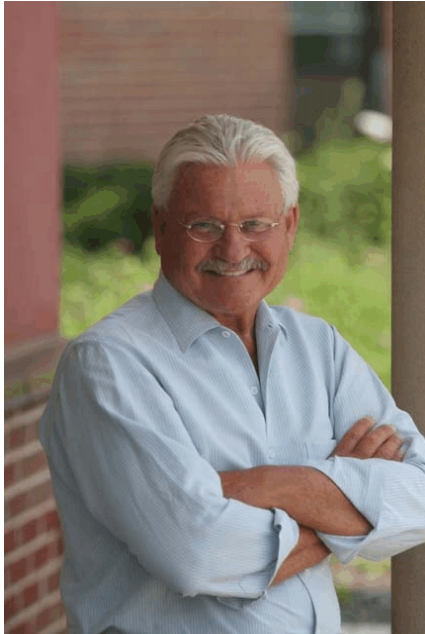


Dr. Robert Eugene Webber

November 27, 1933 - April 27, 2007



Friday, June 15, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Church
Orange Park, Florida

“Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Come now, thou greatest of feasts on the journey to freedom eternal;
Death, cast aside all the burdensome chains and demolish the walls of our temporal body,
the walls of our souls that are blinded,
so that at last we may see that which here remains hidden,
Freedom, how long we have sought thee in discipline, action and suffering;
Dying, we now may behold thee revealed in the Lord.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
from *Letters and Papers from Prison*

A Note from Bob

Dear Friends,

As a Christian I have always believed in Christ as the Victor over sin and death. I believe that Christ was the Second Adam, sent to this earth as God Incarnate, suffered death, was buried and rose from the dead to restore the entire creation. I believe that it is God who narrates the entire world and creation, from start to finish. Consequently I have no fear of death although I do fear the process.

Today, there are literally hundreds of different styles one can follow and model for a funeral. However, historic Christian funerals were always about God. I was able to think about my own funeral and truly want it to be about God who created this world, defeated Satan at the cross and rose victorious over death and the grave. Today we begin with several eulogies, then when those are done, the real funeral begins and it's all about God. I want my funeral to be a testimony to the God who raises us from hopelessness and blesses us with new life in Him.

I hope these few words help to explain why my funeral is being done in a more ancient than modern way.

Bob Webber

The Lord be with you!

Prelude

Processional Hymn #450 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Eulogies

- Dr. Andrew E. Hill, *Wheaton College colleague, IWS Faculty Member*
- Dr. James R. Hart, *IWS Provost/President -Elect*
- Dr. Darrell A. Harris, *IWS Dean of the Chapel*
- Dr. John H. Lindsell, *IWS Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Brother-in-Law to Robert Webber*

Song of Preparation “I Love You, Lord”

Burial of the Dead

All stand. The celebrant says the following 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.

The Celebrant then says
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 Bob, 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

The Lessons

The People sit as the appointed lessons are read.

First Lesson Isaiah 25:6-9

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

Standing
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave *
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, *
and your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.

20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding,
and harken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.

22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.

(Bowing)
Glory to the Father, and to the | Son, and to the Holy | Spirit.*

(Rising)
as it was in the beginning, is | now, and will be forever. A | men.

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

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

The congregation stands for the Gospel Hymn and the reading of the Gospel

Gospel Hymn “Celtic Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel John 11:11-27

After the Gospel, the Reader says
The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily The Very Rev’d G. Richard Lobs, III

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

The Apostles’ Creed

*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

For our brother Bob, 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 Bob, 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Bob,
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 Celebrant says to the People

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

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

“The Lord is My Shepherd”
 (from Requiem)
 IWS Choir and instrumentalists and Grace Anglican Church Choir
 Conducted by Dr. Dan Sharp, IWS Professor, Brother-in-Law to Robert Webber

John Rutter

The Great Thanksgiving
The People remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings

Celebrant

The Lord be with you.

People

And al - so 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 continues

It is right and a good and joy - ful thing, al ways and everywhere to

give thanks to you, Fa - ther Almighty, Cre - a - tor of heav'n and

earth, through Je - sus Christ our Lord; who rose vic - to - rious from the dead,

and com - forts us with the bless - ed hope of ev - er - last - ing life. For to

your faithful people, O Lord, life is chang'd not end - ed; and when our mor -

tal bo - dy lies in death, there is pre - par'd for us a dwell - ing place e -

ter - nal in the hea - vens.

There - fore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Arch - an - gels and
with all the company of hea - ven, who for ev - er sing this hymn to pro -
claim the glo - ry of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

The People kneel.

The Prayer of Consecration

Then the Celebrant continues

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.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People together:

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

The Celebrant continues

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 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 u-ni-ty of the Ho-ly Spi-rit
all ho-nor and glo-ry is yours, Al-migh-ty Fa-ther, now and for ev-er.
A-men.

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

Eric Wyse

The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

Our Fa-ther in hea-ven,
hal-lowed be your Name, your king-dom come, your
will be done on earth as in heav'n.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins
as we for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of
trial, and de-liv-er us from e-vil.
For the king-dom, the pow-er, and the glo-ry are
yours, now and for ev-er. A-men.

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The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei

Words: traditional
Music: Jim Hart

O Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world: Grant us peace, grant us peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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 Communion of the People

Visitors who have been baptized, who know Christ to be their Savior, and who would be welcome to receive Communion in their home church, are welcome at the Lord's Table in this church. Children whose parents do not want them to receive Communion, or others who do not wish to do so, are encouraged to come forward, cross their arms across their chests, and receive a prayer of blessing.

Communion Music

"Pie Jesu"

Andrew Lloyd Webber

(from *Requiem*)

IWS Choir and instrumentalists and Grace Anglican Church Choir

Soloists: Jude Gotrich and Erika Hart

Conducted by Dr. Dan Sharp, IWS Professor, Brother-in-Law to Robert Webber

Jesus, Remember Me
Eat this Bread
There is a Redeemer
I am the Bread of Life

Music Insert

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Postcommunion Prayer

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 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

Blessing

May the blessing of the Lord, God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, redeemer of humankind, rest upon you, dwell within you, be the song of your heart, the word of your mouth, the strength of your life, today and always.

Processional Hymn #618 “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones” arr. John Ferguson

The people are dismissed with this charge

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People

Postlude “Hallelujah, Amen” G. F. Handel
(from Judas Maccabeus)
IWS Choir and instrumentalists and Grace Anglican Church Choir
Conducted by Dr. Dan Sharp, IWS Professor, Brother-in-Law to Robert Webber

Rector
Preacher
Concelebrants

Deacon
Organist
Worship Song Leader

The Rev’d Kurt H. Dunkle
The Very Rev’d G. Richard Lobs, III
The Rev’d Celeste Tisdelle
The Rev’d Dr. John Kreutzwieser
The Rev’d Donna B. Lobs
Beryl Elwood
Dr. James R. Hart

The Institute for Worship Studies and the Webber family would like to thank
Grace Episcopal Church
for their gracious hospitality and willingness to hold this service
and for their generous help in the planning.
We have experienced the ministry of Christ through this community.

Memorials may be made to:
The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies
Robert E. Webber Endowment Fund
151 Kingsley Highway
Orange Park, Florida 32073
or
The Robert E. Webber Center for an Ancient Evangelical Future
Northern Seminary
660 East Butterfield Road
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Photograph on cover and display taken by Jim Whitmer, Wheaton, IL

Biography

Bob Webber was born on November 27, 1933 in Pennsylvania. Chester and Harriet (Basto) Webber, were missionaries with African Inland Missions, and Bob spent the first six years of his life in The Congo. They returned home in 1940 and resettled in Pennsylvania. Bob's father took several pastorates including Montgomery Baptist Church outside Philadelphia.

After high school Bob went to Bob Jones University in South Carolina. After graduation from there, he went back to Philadelphia where he enrolled at the Reformed Episcopal Seminary. It was here that Bob fell in love with theological thinking which led to both a MA from Covenant Seminary and a ThD in Historical Theology from Concordia Seminary.

From 1968 to 2000, he was a Professor of Theology at Wheaton College and was named Professor Emeritus upon his retirement in 2000. He was appointed William R. and Geraldine D. Myers Professor of Ministry and Director of M.A. in Worship and Spirituality at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in the fall of 2000. He was a popular, innovative and inspiring teacher. He absolutely loved teaching and mentored many of his students over the years.

Once he started writing in the late 1970's he never stopped. He never wasted a moment, carrying yellow legal pads at all times since he wrote all his books in long-hand. His most recent book is *The Divine Embrace*, published by Baker Books as part of his Ancient-Future series. Several books will be published posthumously including: *Who Gets to Narrate the World?* and *Ancient-Future Worship*.

In 1998, Bob Webber founded The Institute for Worship Studies, now the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. This was a dream and a goal he'd had for years. The school is located in Orange Park, Florida and combines distance learning with one-week, on-campus, intensive courses involving students, faculty, and alumni from around the globe.

Bob will be missed by many but those who will hold his memory dearest are his wife Joanne, his companion and loyal caregiver of almost 29 years, his son John and wife Isabel, his daughter Alexandra and her husband Jack Wilson, his daughter Stefany and her husband Tom Welch and his son Jeremy Buffam and his wife Susie. Also left to cherish his memory are seven grandchildren: Natalie, Tommy, Ben, Jack, Lexie, Quinn, and Raquel. He also leaves a sister Eleanor Entwistle, his brother Kenneth Webber and many nieces and nephews.