

Celebration of Life



Matthew Andres Irby

Sunrise September 14th, 1999 - Sunset February 17th, 2026

March 1, 2026

3:00 P.M.

LIFE SKETCH

Matthew Andres Irby

Matthew Andres Irby, Andresito to his Abuelita, and lovingly known as Matti-Matt by Mom and Dad, and Matt by his family and friends, was born on September 14th, 1999 to Tom and Emma Irby. He was the youngest of three sons, but finally became a big brother in 2007 when his baby sister Anya was born.

Matt spent the first two years of his life in Maplewood, NJ before crossing the pond to live in Peterborough, England when he was two and a half years old. The majority of his twelve years in England were spent in the quaint, bucolic village of Castor. It was there that he developed a love of skateboarding that he would nurture well into his young adult years. Matt, his brothers, and his mates, spent many a day riding bikes, climbing trees, playing in the woods, and just being carefree, sometimes naughty boys. Matthew always said he had the happiest times in his life there.

When the family returned to the states, Matt attended Fairfax County and Loudon County Public Schools with aspirations of becoming a screenwriter and going into the film industry. Matthew chose not to attend university because in his own words, “Mom, Steven Spielberg didn’t graduate from film school and look what he accomplished! You just gotta do it!” Matt loved spending special moments with his family playing board games, watching films and family videos, or singing karaoke. He also loved playing military strategy games and having deep conversations about politics, art, and philosophy. Matt also loved comic books and had written a complete comic which he hoped to publish. This last year, Matthew had turned his creative talents to cooking and made delicious meals for the family despite getting up at 4AM in the morning and working 50 to 60 hour work weeks.

Matthew also had a strong network of online friends who he gamed with, and they loved him. They describe him as smart and funny. Matthew was a spiritual person who believed in the power of love, and who wanted to be closer to God. In 26 years, Matthew taught us more about love and resilience than most learn in a lifetime. He has left behind a void that can never be filled, but also a legacy of joy and affection that will never fade. While we grieve the many years we imagined sharing with him, we choose to celebrate the beautiful, complex, and wonderful person he was.

Matthew is predeceased by his grandparents: Thomas R. Irby Jr, and Evelyn Irby. He leaves to cherish his loving memory, parents Thomas R. Irby III and Emma Matos Irby, brothers, Thomas R. Irby IV, Alejandro M. Irby, and sister Anya T. Irby, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Goodbyes are not forever, goodbyes are not the end, they simply mean I’ll miss you, until we meet again. Rest easy, dear Matthew; you are forever young and forever loved.

BURIAL SERVICE

RITE II

PRELUDE

ANTHEM

The people remain standing, as able.

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.

SALUTATION

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Matthew. 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.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with Matthew's family and friends 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.

People: Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Psalm 23, KJV

Clarke S. Jackson, English
Ariana Valera, Spanish

Reader: A reading of Psalm 23 | *Una lectura del Salmo 23*

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

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

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

⁴Yea, 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.

⁵Thou 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.

¹ El Señor es mi pastor; nada me faltará.

² En verdes pastos me hace descansar; junto a aguas de reposo me pastorea.

³ Él restaura mi alma; me guía por sendas de justicia por amor de su nombre.

⁴ Aunque ande en valle de sombra de muerte, no temeré mal alguno, porque tú estás conmigo; tu vara y tu cayado me infundirán aliento.

⁵ Preparas mesa delante de mí en presencia de mis enemigos; unges mi cabeza con aceite; mi copa rebosa.

⁶ Ciertamente el bien y la misericordia me seguirán todos los días de mi vida, y en la casa del Señor moraré por siempre.

THE SECOND READING Romans 8:38-39 Diana Duncanson, *Spanish*
Ricardo Rosado, *English*

Reader: Lectura de la carta de san Pablo a los Romanos | *A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans*

Porque estoy seguro de que ni la muerte, ni la vida, ni ángeles, ni principados, ni potestades, ni lo presente, ni lo por venir, ni lo alto, ni lo profundo, ni ninguna otra cosa creada nos podrá separar del amor de Dios, que es en Cristo Jesús Señor nuestro.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

SONG SELECTION

Titi

THE GOSPEL

John 10:11-16

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

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

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord

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

HOMILY

The Rev. Dina Widlake

REFLECTIONS

Video Reflections

Justine Hutchins | Cathy Brooks | Austin Jackson | Magalys Valera |
Tan Wood | Charlie Howard

Live Reflections

Thomas R. Irby IV | Clarke Jackson | Indigo Jackson | Vallon Rochester |
Emma Matos Irby

LIFE SKETCH

Lynn Irby Hill

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand, as able.

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

**People: 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 LORD'S PRAYER

Please remain standing, as able.

Officiant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, in the language of our hearts

People and Officiant

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.

Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Y perdónanos nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a quienes nos ofenden. Y no nos dejes caer en la tentación, mas líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

THE PRAYERS

The Officiant continues:

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: Hear us, Lord.

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

People: 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.

CLOSING COLLECT

Father of all, we pray to you for Matthew, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May his soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

THE COMMENDATION

Officiant: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,

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

Officiant: 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 with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

The Officiant, facing the remains, says:

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Matthew. 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

DISMISSAL

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SONG SELECTION

Titi

POSTLUDE

Ushers & Streaming Support

Jeff Rubin, Nadia Baker

Clergy

The Rev. Dina E. Widlake

Musicians & Soloists

Cathy Lard and Tiara (Titi) L. Holt



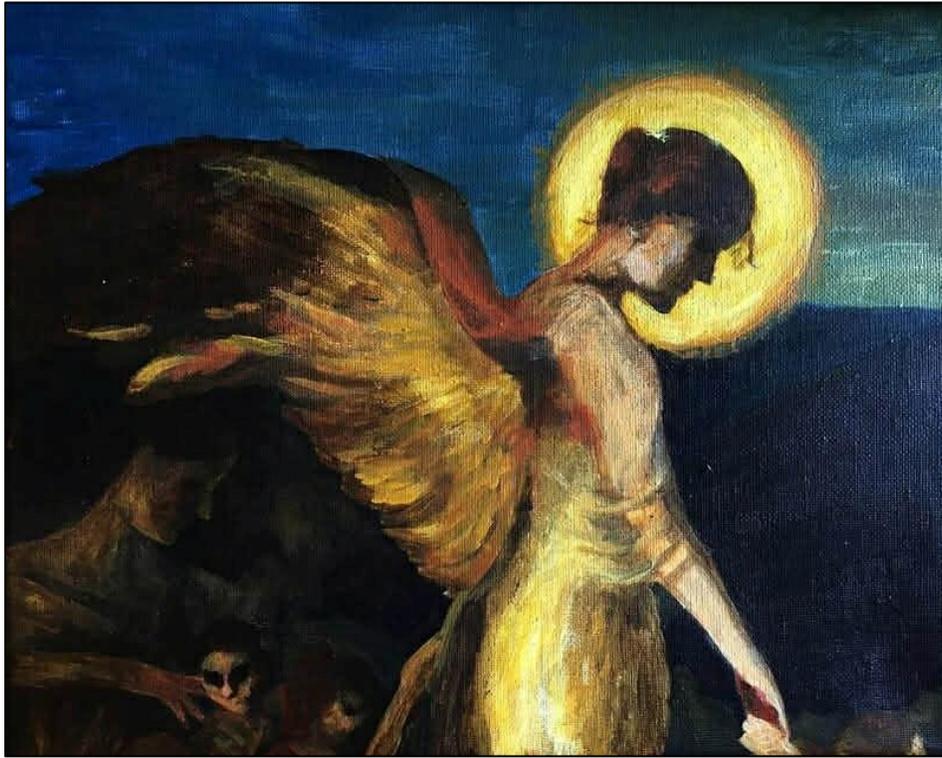
The family invites you to a reception that follows at the family's home.



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.

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A recreation of "The Walk of the Children of Bethlehem"

From Matthew 2:16-18

Artist: Katri Joutsen

Matthew's Beloved Friend

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your expressions of love, kind words and support at this difficult time.

May God Bless and keep you in his loving arms.

- The Irby Family

Much appreciation to Adams-Green Funeral Services & Epiphany Episcopal Church for their service to our Family.



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In the Diocese of Virginia
The Rt. Rev'd E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop Diocesan
The Rt. Rev'd Gayle E. Harris, Assistant Bishop
The Rt. Rev'd Mark A. Bourlakas, Assistant Bishop