

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

a congregation of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
welcomes you to

THE FUNERAL LITURGY FOR
+ Dwight Richard Ness +
September 13, 1952 – May 19, 2025



Friday, May 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.

*In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for
St. Mark Lutheran Church or The Wounded Warrior Project.*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

GATHERING

*The assembly **STANDS** and turns to face the baptismal font and funeral procession.*

Welcome in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother Dwight, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

A pall is placed upon the urn as a reminder of the righteousness of Christ we receive in Holy Baptism.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Dwight was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity - Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit - be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.





1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Refrain
 Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Dwight. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

they shall mount up with wings like eagles.

They shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34: 1-4, 6-8, 15, 17-19, 22 *spoken responsively by whole verse*

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry;

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all;

The LORD will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:10-11; 4:7-8

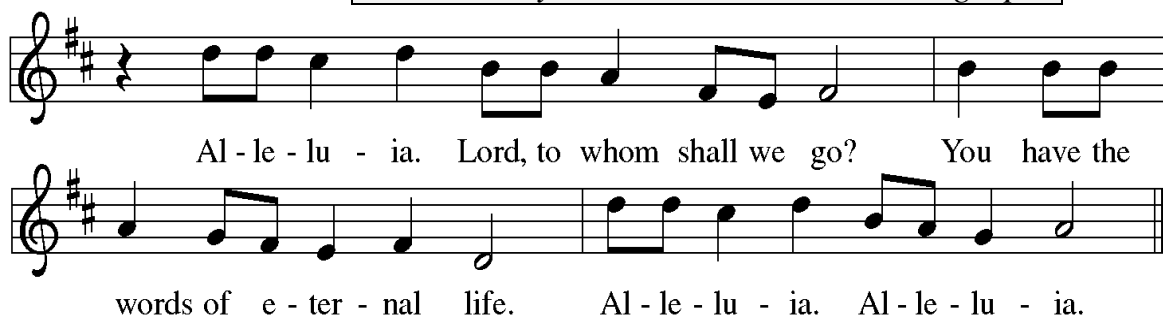
[Paul writes,] Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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

ALLELUIA VERSE: *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*



HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-6

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[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.

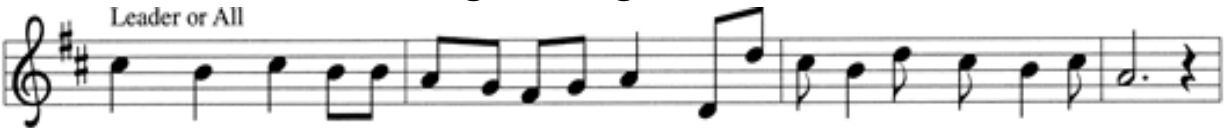
Following the reading: The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ. *Please be SEATED.*

SERMON **The Rev. Brian M. Robison**


Following the sermon, the assembly STANDS to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY **“On Eagle’s Wings”** **ELW 787**

Leader or All




1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

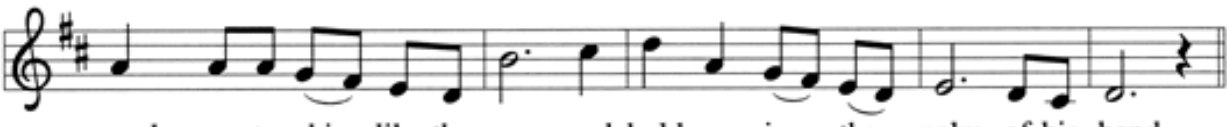


say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All

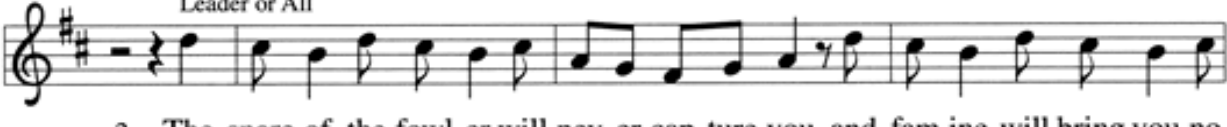


And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,




make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un - der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Refrain

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION - *The response to “God of mercy,” is “Hear our prayer.”*

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God’s peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be **seated** for a few moments as the table is prepared.*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

OFFERTORY

“Let the Vineyards”

ELW 184

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bles-sing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of

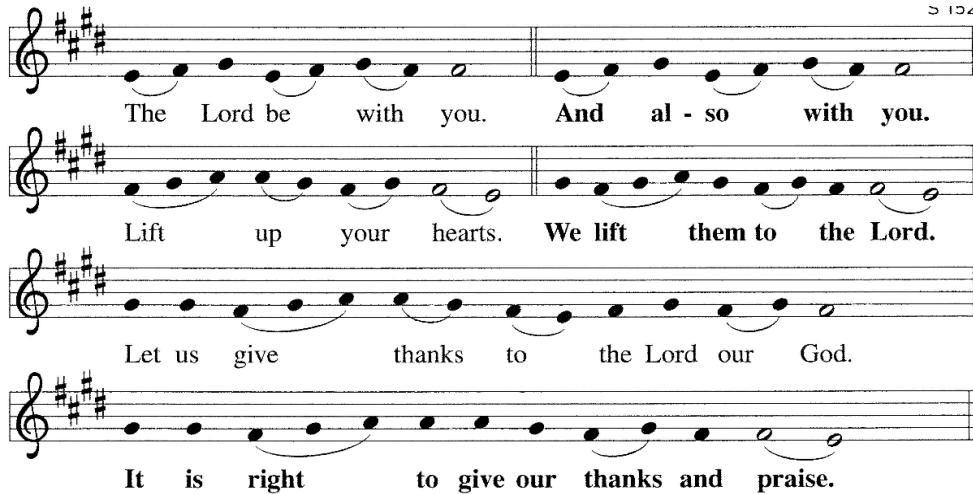
all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble

with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

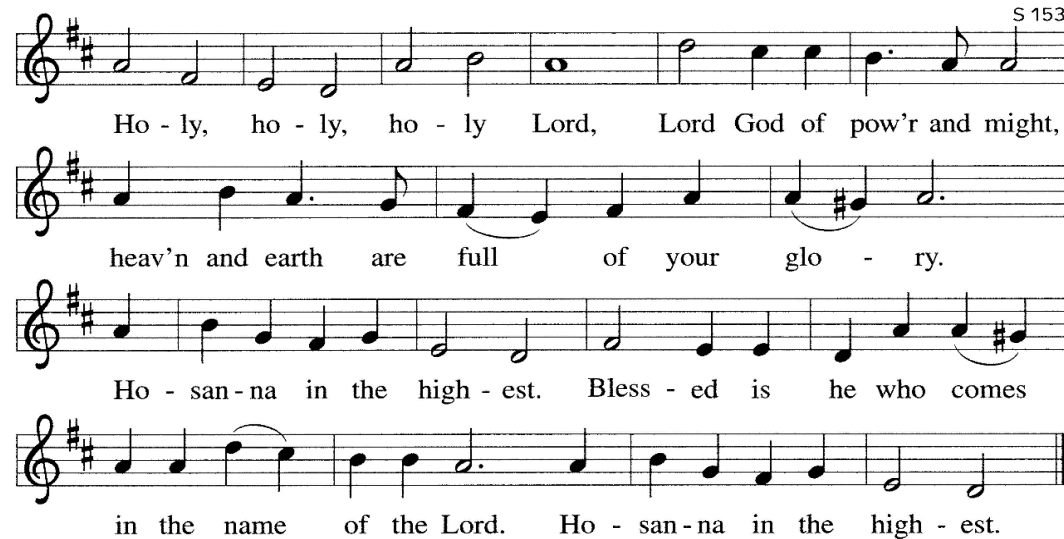


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

S 152

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

S 153

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*

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;

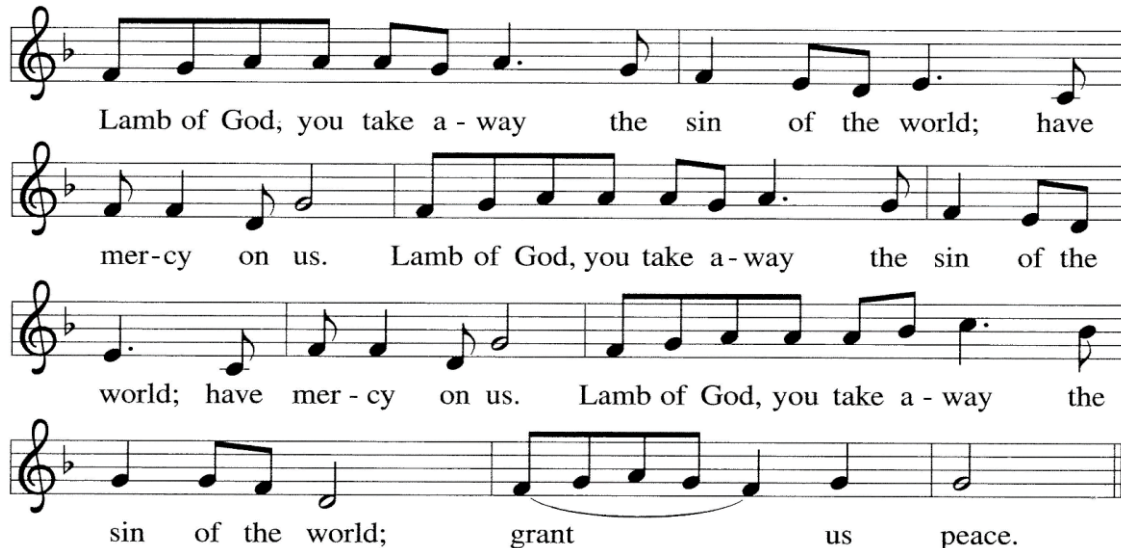
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Please SIT*

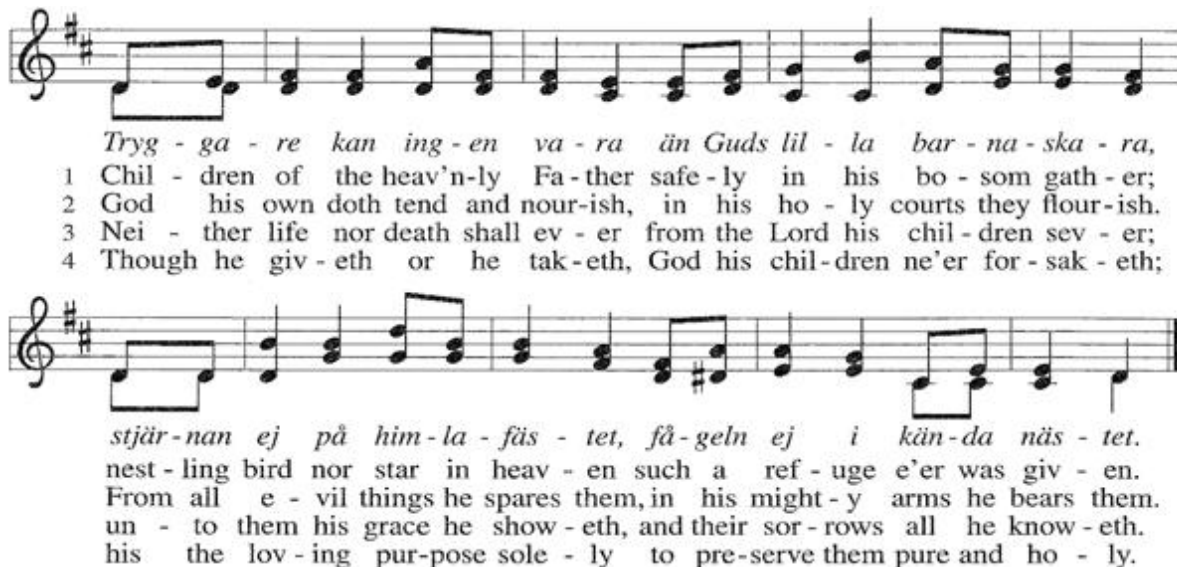
Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.

- ✦ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✦ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✦ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✦ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;
stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, fä - geln ej i kån - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

"The Lord's My Shepherd"

ELW 778



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

TABLE BLESSING *After the distribution is complete, the assembly STANDS for the blessing.*

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

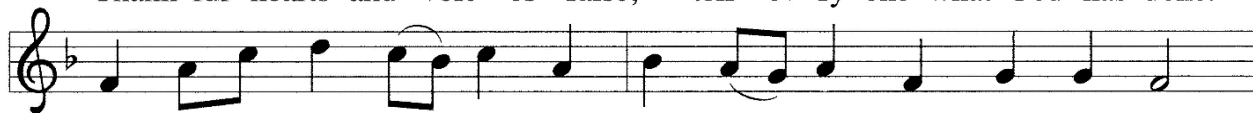
Canticle after Communion:

"Thankful Hearts and Voices"

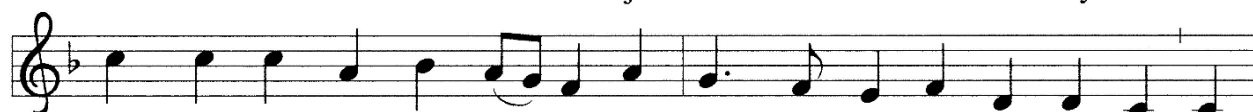
ELW 204



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Dwight to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

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

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
A light to reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the + Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*The service continues with the interment at
Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, 2900 Sheridan Road, St. Louis, Missouri*

Following the graveside service, guests are welcome to attend a luncheon in Dwight's honor in the Parish Hall of St. Mark Lutheran Church, 410 N. High Street, Belleville, IL



Dwight Richard Ness, 72, of Belleville, IL, born July 14, 1952, in Mayville, ND, died Monday, May 19, 2025, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, IL.

Mr. Ness was a United States Air Force veteran and retired as a Major after 20 years of service. He continued his service in the Air Force Reserves, the Air Guard, and working in civil service at Scott AFB. Eventually he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

During high school, Dwight was a state runner-up in wrestling in the North Dakota state wrestling tournament. He received a scholarship from North Dakota State University in both football and wrestling and ultimately decided to pursue wrestling. Later, Dwight enjoyed using his talents to coach the Belleville Little Devils and Belleville East High School. He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church and then became a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church, Belleville, IL. Dwight was an avid quilter and painter. He enjoyed sewing at Cardinal Ritter Senior Center for several years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Verona, nee Ostlie, Ness.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda, nee Wassberg, Ness, whom he married on September 7, 1973; three sons, Andrew (Carolyn) Ness, Richard (Melissa) Ness, and Matthew Ness (Careen Jewel); five grandchildren, David, Erik, Ethan, Leighton, and Oscar; a sister, Melanie (Michael) Walsh; and many other dear family members.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church or the Wounded Warrior Project. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.rennerfh.com.

Burial with military honors will be at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

A celebration of life will be held in Fargo, North Dakota, at a later date.

Ministers of the Liturgy

Presiding Minister & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison, *Pastor* + **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan
Assisting Minister & Crucifer: Greg Martens + **Chalice Bearer:** Greg Guenther + **Usher:** Danielle Tribout

Acknowledgements: Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgy reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Used with permission of OneLicense #SBL07861. Songs and hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-729176 "Here I Am, Lord" Text & Tune © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.; "The Lord's My Shepherd/Brother James' Air" ©1934 Oxford University Press; "Children of the Heavenly Father" © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America; "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" Text © 1925, Augsburg Fortress; Tune © 2006, Augsburg Fortress; "On Eagle's Wings" Text & Tune © 1979 OCP Publications. All other printed hymns used are in the Public Domain. Some hymns may be altered to fit the space available.