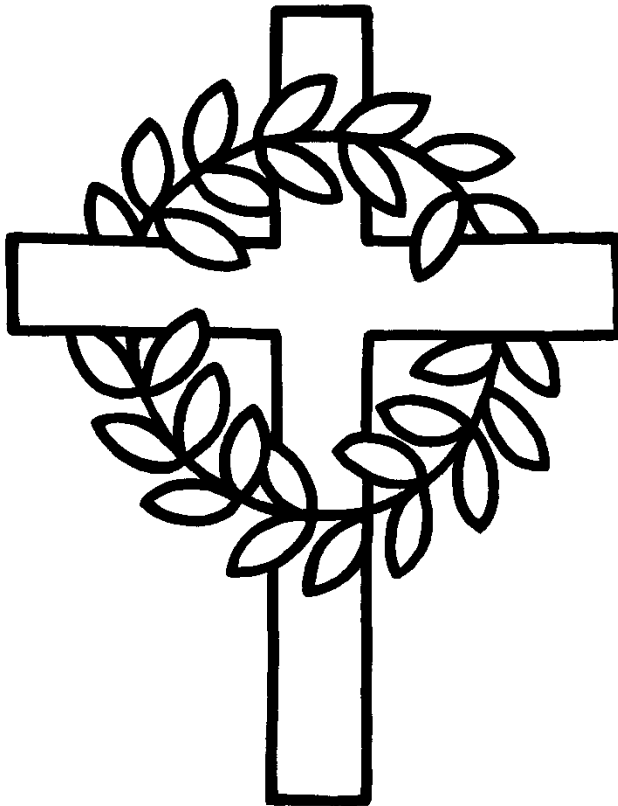


# **The Funeral Liturgy**

***Rev. Thomas Holcombe***

June 26, 1933 - October 8, 2023

11:00 AM – Saturday, November 11  
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
Omaha, Nebraska



Pastor H. Ashley Hall, Ph.D., Presider  
Mark Jones, Organist

## GATHERING

*stand*

## WELCOME

- P** Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother, Tom, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

- P** 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.

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.

- C** We glorify you.

- P** 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.

- C** We praise you.

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

- C** We worship you.

- P** To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

- C** Amen.

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty***ELW 858**

stanzas 1, 2, &amp; 4

- 1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!**

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680;  
tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## 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, Tom. 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.

*sit*

## EULOGY FROM THE FAMILY

## WORD

### READING

**Isaiah 64:1-8**

**O** that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — <sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

<sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. <sup>8</sup>Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God

### HYMN

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

**ELW 597**

stanzas 1 & 4

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 My hope is built on nothing less<br/>than Jesus' blood and righteousness;<br/>no merit of my own I claim,<br/>but wholly lean on Jesus' name.<br/>On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;<br/>all other ground is sinking sand.</b></p> | <p><b>4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,<br/>oh, may I then in him be found,<br/>clothed in his righteousness alone,<br/>redeemed to stand before the throne!<br/>On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;<br/>all other ground is sinking sand.</b></p> |
|---|---|

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

**READING****Mark 10: 13-16**

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. <sup>15</sup>Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup>And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God

**HYMN***Beautiful Savior***ELW 838**

stanzas 1 &amp; 4

**1** Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee,  
truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

**4** Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore be thine!

Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677;  
tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904

**READING****Matthew 23:37-39**

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup>See, your house is left to you, desolate. <sup>39</sup>For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God

**HYMN***Thy Holy Wings***ELW 613**

**1** Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

**2** Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

**3** Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite  
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**READING****John 15:12-17**

**T**his is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**A** The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God**HYMN***What a Friend We Have in Jesus***ELW 742**

**1** What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
oh, what needless pain we bear--  
all because we do not carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!

**2** Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

**3** Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

**READING****Galatians 6:14-18**

**M**ay I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup>For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! <sup>16</sup>As for those who will follow this rule — peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

<sup>17</sup>From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

<sup>18</sup>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

**A** The word of the Lord.**G** Thanks be to God

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

4 Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-6

**D**o not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>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? <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Ⓐ The word of the Lord.

🕊 Thanks be to God

SOLO

Children of the Heavenly Father

Larry Holcombe, soloist

HOMILY

Pastor Hall

SOLO

I Love to Tell the Story

Larry Holcombe, soloist

stand

THE APOSTLES' CREED

- 🕊 With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- 🕊 I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P** Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We praise you for all of the faithfully departed, who have now taken their rest in your mercy. We remember the loving friends and family members who have gone before us and whose absence is felt this day. We express the hope of our reunion with all who have died, through the merits of Jesus Christ your Son. God of mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give courage and faith to all who mourn and a sure and certain hope in your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. We remember also those who wish to be with us today but are not able to be due to distance and the pandemic. Nonetheless, with hopeful hearts, they join our prayers to you. God of mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection, he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:
- C** **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.**

# SENDING

## COMMENDATION

- P** Let us commend Tom to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

- P** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Tom. 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.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING

- P** May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*

**ELW 660**

1, 3, & 4

### Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain**
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain**
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain**

## POSTLUDE

Mark Jones, organist

✙ ✙ ✙

Memorials can be sent to Kountze Food Pantry.