

# The Funeral Liturgy

*Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal*

August 14, 1952 – March 7, 2025

11:00 AM – March 13, 2025  
Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church  
2650 Farnam Street – Omaha, Nebraska



Rev. Lucy Wynard, Preacher  
Rev. Tim Koester, Presider  
Mark Jones, Organist

## PRELUDE

*Please rise in body or spirit and face the back of the nave as the sanctuary bells are rung.*

## 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, Olaf, 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

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

ELW 597

**1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

**3 His oath, his covenant, his blood  
sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away,  
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain***

### *Refrain*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain***

**2 When darkness veils his lovely face,  
I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, 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, Olaf. 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.**

*Please be seated*

## EULOGY

Beth Reilly, daughter

## READING

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

Rev. Adam Klinker

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## READING

**Romans 10:13-15**

Rev. Adam Klinker

For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."  
<sup>14</sup>But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup>And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

*(Please rise in body or spirit)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

☞ The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL

**John 3:16**

Mila Reilly, granddaughter

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

☞ the Gospel of our Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

## HOMILY

Pastor Wynard

**1 Behold the host arrayed in white**  
like thousand snow-clad mountains bright,  
that stands with palms and sings its psalms  
before the throne of light!  
These are the saints who kept God's word;  
they are the honored of the Lord.  
He is their prince who drowned their sins,  
so they were cleansed, restored.  
They now serve God both day and night;  
they sing their songs in endless light.  
Their anthems ring when they all sing  
with angels shining bright.

**2 On earth their work was not thought wise,**  
but see them now in heaven's eyes;  
before God's throne of precious stone  
they shout their vict'ry cries.  
On earth they wept through bitter years;  
now God has wiped away their tears,  
transformed their strife to heav'nly life,  
and freed them from their fears.  
For now they have the best at last;  
they keep their sweet eternal feast.  
At God's right hand our Lord commands;  
he is both host and guest.

**3 O blessed saints, now take your rest;**  
a thousand times shall you be blest  
for keeping faith firm unto death  
and scorning worldly trust.  
For now you live at home with God  
and harvest seeds once cast abroad  
in tears and sighs. See with new eyes  
the pattern in the seed.  
The myriad angels raise their song.  
O saints, sing with that happy throng;  
lift up one voice; let heav'n rejoice  
in our redeemer's song!

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, alt.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Let us confess the faith in which we were baptized:

**C** 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

**Response:** **P** God of mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** ... who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## THE PEACE IS SHARED

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### CHOIR ANTHEM

*One Faith, One Hope, One Lord*

Craig Courtney

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy,...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God 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!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**C** **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*(Please be seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

- 1** Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 2** Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3** Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 4** Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5** Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,
- 6** Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

*Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

ELW 517

- 1** Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.
- 2** Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,  
for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy church, that we  
may sing your praise eternally.
- 3** O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

*(Please rise in body or spirit)***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Almighty God,

**C** we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that our Lord's Supper will 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, including Olaf; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## COMMENDATION

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

*Silence is kept.*

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

## SENDING

☞ Let us go forth in peace—Be good. Be brave. Be Lutheran.

☞ **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## RECESSIONAL

*I Know That My Redeemer Lives!*

ELW 619

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | <b>I know that my Redeemer lives!<br/>What comfort this sweet sentence gives!<br/>He lives, he lives, who once was dead;<br/>he lives, my ever-living head!</b>  | 5 | <b>He lives to bless me with his love;<br/>he lives to plead for me above;<br/>he lives my hungry soul to feed;<br/>he lives to help in time of need.</b>                       |
| 2 | <b>He lives triumphant from the grave;<br/>he lives eternally to save;<br/>he lives exalted, throned above;<br/>he lives to rule his church in love.</b>         | 6 | <b>He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;<br/>he lives and loves me to the end;<br/>he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;<br/>he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!</b> |
| 3 | <b>He lives to grant me rich supply;<br/>he lives to guide me with his eye;<br/>he lives to comfort me when faint;<br/>he lives to hear my soul's complaint.</b> | 7 | <b>He lives and grants me daily breath;<br/>he lives, and I shall conquer death;<br/>he lives my mansion to prepare;<br/>he lives to bring me safely there.</b>                 |
| 4 | <b>He lives to silence all my fears;<br/>he lives to wipe away my tears;<br/>he lives to calm my troubled heart;<br/>he lives all blessings to impart.</b>       | 8 | <b>He lives, all glory to his name!<br/>He lives, my Savior, still the same;<br/>what joy this blest assurance gives;<br/>I know that my Redeemer lives!</b>                    |

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

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Please join the family in the Fellowship Hall for lunch following the service.

# ***Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal***

**August 14, 1952 – March 7, 2025**

The Rev. Dr. Olaf Roynesdal was born in Brooklyn, New York, to immigrant parents from Norway, Torvald and Anne Marie (Traeland) Roynesdal. Olaf attended Brooklyn Technical High School in Brooklyn, New York, where he was one of 6,000 male students at the time. He went on to graduate from Augustana College in 1974, where he met his future wife, Marcia. The couple was married in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1973, and have been married for over 51 years.

Olaf attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and later continued his education at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he earned his PhD in Theology.

For 40 years, Olaf served as a dedicated pastor in the ELCA Lutheran Church. His ministry included positions at Bethany Lutheran in Viborg, Baltic and East Nidaros Lutheran Churches in Baltic, and East Side Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, all in South Dakota. Olaf also served as Senior Pastor at Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church in Omaha until his retirement in November 2021.

Olaf was a theologian, a devoted pastor, a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He and Marcia were blessed with three children: Emily Roynesdal, Elizabeth (Brian) Reilly, and Michael (Amanda) Roynesdal. Olaf was also the proud grandfather of three grandchildren: Mila Ann and Haaken Michael Reilly, and Izabella Marie Roynesdal. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Outside of his pastoral duties, Olaf had many passions. He loved model railroading and was an avid reader. Go Yankees! Above all, Olaf cherished time spent with his grandchildren, who were a great joy to him. He was known for being an amazing presence in the lives of those who knew him, and he truly believed in the message of God's word that he preached.

***“Rest in peace, good and faithful servant.”***

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