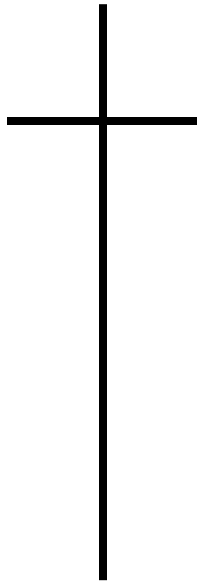


Memorial Service of Holy Communion

for

Kim Carl Brunssen

January 9, 1954 – March 10, 2023



April 1, 2023 ■ 11:00 a.m.

Saturday in the Sixth Week of Lent

Grace Lutheran Church ■ River Forest, Illinois

FOR AS MUCH as Kim departed this life in the Christian faith, we his brothers and sisters in Christ are gathered to worship, express our mutual grief, and seek comfort in the hope of the resurrection. We gather to worship the Lord of Life, who keeps us in fellowship with the saints of every time and place, particularly as God gathers us together in Holy Communion.

IN THE LORD'S SUPPER the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. We welcome all baptized Christians to the table where Christ himself is host.

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Sonata in D Major, Op. 1, No. 4

George Frideric Handel

Affettuoso
Larghetto

Chorale Variations on *Veni, Creator Spiritus*

Maurice Duruflé

We stand and face the entrance to the nave.

ENTRANCE RITE

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation.
He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others
in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C Thanks be to God.

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.

We face the processional cross as we sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN: When in Our Music God Is Glorified

Concertato by Michael D. Costello



1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
Choir 2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
Choir 4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night when ut - most
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise; let all re -



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as
men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness
e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us
joy who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:
moved us to a more pro - found
to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
sing, for whom he won the fight:
give us faith to sing al - ways:

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

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APOSTOLIC 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: Worthy Is Christ

Setting by Richard Hillert

Women sing parts marked Ⅰ. Men sing parts marked Ⅱ.

All sing parts marked ☑.

☑ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Ⅰ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.

☑ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Ⅱ Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and

strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.

☑ This is the feast of vic-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. Ⅰ Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre-a - tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and

might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A - men.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu - ia,

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ☐ For the Lamb who was

slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu - ia.

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu - ia.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Kim.
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 your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life,
that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call,
we are reunited with those who have gone before us;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

We sit.

REMEMBRANCES

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Concertato by Ralph Vaughan Williams



C 1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
C 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our
 Choir 3 Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
 Choir 4 For why? The Lord our God is good: his mer - cy
C 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; him serve with mirth, his
 aid he did us make. We are his folk, he
 joy his courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his
 is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times
 heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the



praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.
 an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1–12

[St. Paul writes:] ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Revelation 7:15

Robert Hobby

Alleluia. They are before the throne of God, worshiping day and night within the temple, and the one who sits upon the throne will shelter them. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-7

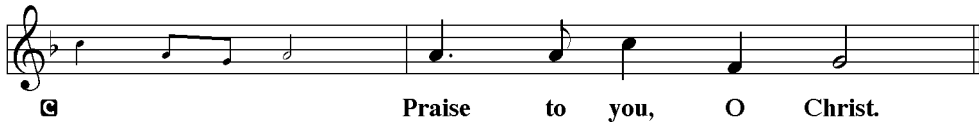
P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics "Glo - ry to you, O Lord." are written below the staff.

[Jesus said to his disciples:] ¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



A musical staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The lyrics "Praise to you, O Christ." are written below the staff.

We sit.

SERMON

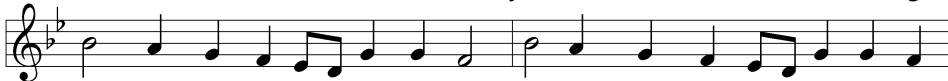
Pastor David R. Lyle



We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Stanza 3 Setting: J. S. Bach



- 1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
Choir 3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bo - som bear me home,



with ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth has no plea - sure I would share,
in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
that I may die un - fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham - ber keep



yea, heav'n it - self were void and bare if thou, Lord, wert not near me.
may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh - bor.
my bod - y safe in peace - ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
Let no false doc-trine me be-guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
And then from death a - wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
Lord, my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
tend, my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

APOSTLES' CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C 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 into hell.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion,
in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church
in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection
may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith,
that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.
Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care,
that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.
Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved,
that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope,
and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Help us, we pray, 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. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Grant us grace to entrust Kim to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
to bring life and immortality to light.
We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death
and by his resurrection has 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
shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE OF CHRIST

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

We sit.

VOLUNTARY: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

We stand as the gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY VERSE: Revelation 19:7–8

Richard Hillert

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory:
for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready.
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory:
it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen bright and pure
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—
our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.**
Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

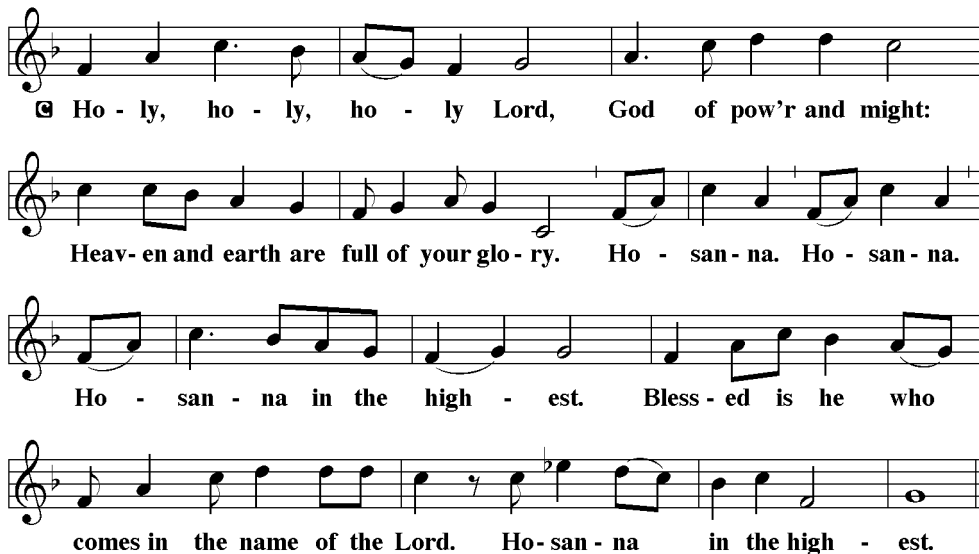


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who brought to light the living hope of a blessed resurrection, that, in our grief, we may rejoice in full assurance of our change into the likeness of his glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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.

- P** You are indeed holy, O merciful Father, the fountain of all holiness;
 you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.
 We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.
 We thank you for the new world to come
 and for the love that will rule all in all.
 We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,
 the people of your promise:
 the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
 the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,
 and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.
 In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,
 who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.
 In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

P For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:
his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly on this day we remember his rising from the tomb,
his ascension to the seat of power,
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.



C **Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the**



Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -



might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

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.**

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

AGNUS DEI



C 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

*Our Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized.
The crucified and risen Christ is present in the Lord's Supper,
giving us his true body and blood as food and drink.*

*We receive communion at the head of the center aisle, receiving the consecrated bread
and then drinking directly from the chalice or dipping the bread into the wine (intinction).*

*Those choosing individual cups will find non-alcoholic wine in the center of the tray.
Those with a gluten allergy may ask the pastor for a gluten-free host.*

MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNION

HYMN: Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677*; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

ANTHEM: O Lord God

Pavel Chesnokov

O Lord God, hear thou my prayer.
 Help thou me, and give ear to my prayer.
 Daily do I worship thy great name and thy power.

Thou alone canst help me;
 O send me thy peace and love,
 O protect me, my God.

Let me never stray, O my Savior.
 Leave me not, O God of my salvation.
 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live,
 And praise thy great name while I have my being.

Hear my prayer, hear thou my prayer;
 Help thou me, and give ear to my prayer.
 Glory to thee, Glory to thee.

HYMN: O Day Full of Grace

Concertato by Carl F. Schalk



C 1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
Choir 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
C 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
Choir 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, his Spir - it new
C 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for



earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more from him be
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -



be re - plete in his joy this sea - son. God, shine for us
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
 lost, all dark - ness for us dis - pel - ling. His flame will the
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and walk in the



now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
 mor - tals did em - brace, all dark - ness and shame re - mov - ing.
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all his heal - ing.
 light of God's own place, with an - gels his name a - dor - ing.

Text: Danish folk hymn, c. 1450; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001
 Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love
you 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 of life eternal,
where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying,
but the fullness of joy with all your saints;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

COMMENDATION

P Let us commend Kim to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
Silence is kept.

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

BENEDICTION


P Almighty God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

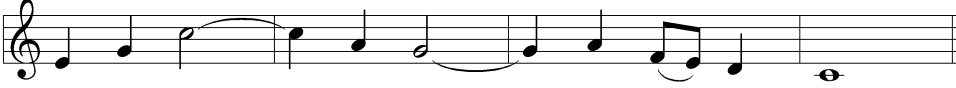
SENDING HYMN: Lift High the Cross

Concertato by Carl F. Schalk


Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

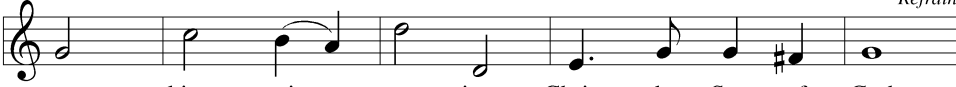


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



C 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
Choir 2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
C 3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
Choir 4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
C 5 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
the hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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We sit.

VOLUNTARY: Psalm XIX (The Heavens Declare the Glory of God)

Benedetto Marcello
Ed. and arr. S. Drummond Wolff

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552b

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Interment will take place at a later date.
All are invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.*

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. Troy E. Medlin, presiding minister

The Rev. David R. Lyle, preaching minister

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Lori Martin, deacon

Irmgard Swanson, assisting minister

Orlyn Brunssen and Emma Nielsen Kavanaugh, lector

Karl Brunssen, Gaylan Brunssen, and Dean Gesme remembrances

Karl Brunssen, pall bearer

Susie Calhoun and Paulette Reddel, gift bearers

Roberta Gillespie and Linda Street, altar guild

Jo-Ellyn Dorsey, Tom Swanson, Lance Wilkening, and Stephanie Wilkening, ushers

Liz Hanson and Al Swanson, livestream audio/video

Grace Parish Choir

Friends and Colleagues of Kim and Karen Brunssen

Loren Conley, violinist

Shea Kelsay, Jordan Olive, and Charles Roberts, trumpeters

Tim Coffman, Dave Ferguson, and Steven Duncan, trombonists

Richard Janicki, timpanist

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KIM CARL BRUNSSSEN



Kim Carl Brunssen, of Westmont, Illinois, passed away on March 10, 2023, at the age of 69, following a battle with brain cancer.

Kim was born in Vinton, Iowa, on January 9, 1954, the fifth child of Dallas and Phyllis Brunssen. He was baptized on February 7, 1954, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Garrison, Iowa and was confirmed April 28, 1968, at St. John Lutheran Church in Keystone, Iowa. He grew up on a farm outside Garrison, Iowa and, at the age of 12, moved with his family “to town” in nearby Keystone.

While attending high school at Benton Consolidated High School, Kim played French horn and baritone horn in the band and was active in the choral program. He played Cornelius Hackl in *Hello Dolly*, Charlie Brown in *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown*, and Harold Hill in *Music Man*. Following graduation, he traveled with America’s Youth in Concert that began with rehearsals in Princeton and concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York City and the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. followed by a tour throughout Europe. In fall of 1972 he started his college studies at Luther College where he majored in Music Education. He was a member of the Nordic Choir under the direction of Weston Noble, and graduated *magna cum laude* in 1976. He did graduate work at Kent State University as a scholarship recipient to the Blossom Festival School of Music, Roosevelt University, VanderCook College of Music, and the University of Wisconsin. In 1981 he completed a Master of Science in Music Education at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

In fall of 1976 Kim became the choral director at Tri-Center Schools in Neola, Iowa. The following year he moved to Illinois to become the first choral director at the newly built Consolidated High School District #230 Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park. In addition to choral rehearsals, music education, and concerts, students experienced music through thirty-six musical theater productions, show choir, choir tours, madrigal dinners, festivals at Andrew, Illinois Allstate Festival, Dorian Music Festival, and IHSA Solo and Ensemble competitions. He was awarded the Superintendent’s Option in 1985 and was Victor J. Andrew Teacher of the Year in 1987. In his thirty-two years at Andrew High School Mr. B., as his students called him, ignited musical abilities and interests for hundreds and hundreds of students including some who pursued degrees and careers in music. He retired in 2009 and was honored with a surprise concert: *Inspired: A Farewell Concert for Kim Brunssen*, attended by over 400 guests and participants.

Kim and Karen were married at St. John Lutheran Church in Keystone, Iowa on December 18, 1976. Their son, Karl was born October 12, 1982. Throughout their married life they were always busy making and teaching vocal music. Karl was at many of his dad's musical rehearsals throughout his childhood and at the age of eight played a child role in the Andrew High School production of South Pacific. Karl was in all his dad's choir activities at Andrew High School from 1999–2001. Kim directed numerous church choirs and was a counselor for Illinois Summer Youth Music. He liked being near Chicago and enjoyed going to plays and concerts, keeping up with the news, following all the sports teams, frequenting his favorite restaurants, and enjoying his cars. For many years the Brunssens made frequent trips to their vacation homes in the Galena Territories. Kim and Karen enjoyed travel, often for music-related purposes, to England, Switzerland, Norway, France, and Germany with the Bach Cantata Choir of Grace Lutheran Church, as well as trips with friends and family to Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, and the Netherlands.

Kim is survived by his wife of 47 years, Karen, their son, Karl, and two brothers, Orlyn Brunssen (Kathy), and Gaylan Brunssen (Karen). He is preceded in death by his parents Dallas and Phyllis Brunssen and brothers Dennis and Craig (Joyce).

Kim will be laid to rest at Vermont Lutheran Church Cemetery in Black Earth, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials be designated or directed to Grace Lutheran Bach Cantata Series and the Kim Brunssen Andrew High School Choral Awards.



*Rest eternal grant him, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

