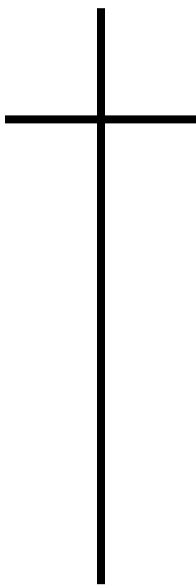


Funeral Service of Holy Communion

for

James Arnold Scherer

September 1, 1926 – December 20, 2023



December 30, 2023 ■ 11:00 a.m.

The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

Grace Lutheran Church ■ River Forest, Illinois

FOR AS MUCH as Jim 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

Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, BWV 1050

Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. FCM

Allegro
Affettuoso
Allegro

Praeludium in E-flat Major, BWV 552a

J. S. Bach

Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, BWV 1048

J. S. Bach
arr. Fiona Vilnite

Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

We stand.

ENTRANCE RITE

- ☞ 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.
- ☞ **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.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,
 2 Oh, may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won-drous things has done, in whom his world re - joic - es;
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth-ers' arms, has blest us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

HYMN OF PRAISE: Worthy Is Christ

Setting by Richard Hillert

Women sing parts marked ❶. Men sing parts marked ❷.

All sing parts marked ❸.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. ❶ 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

☪ The Lord be with you.

☪ **And also with you.**

☪ Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Jim.

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.

☪ **Amen.**

✠ 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 33:1–9

L Rejoice in the | LORD, you righteous;*
it is good for the just | to sing praises.

C Praise the LORD | with the harp;*
play to him upon the psalter- | y and lyre.

L Sing for him | a new song;*
sound a fanfare with all your skill up- | on the trumpet.

C For the word of the | LORD is right,*
and all his | works are sure.

L He loves righteous- | ness and justice;*
the lovingkindness of the LORD fills | the whole earth.

C By the word of the LORD were the | heavens made,*
by the breath of his mouth all the heav- | only hosts.

L He gathers up the waters of the ocean as | in a water-skin*
and stores up the depths | of the sea.

C Let all the earth | fear the LORD;*
let all who dwell in the world stand in | awe of him.

L For he spoke, and it | came to pass;*
he commanded, and | it stood fast.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:7–9

[St. Paul writes:] ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

℣ The Word of the Lord.

✠ **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: Matthew 28:16–20

℣ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-eighth chapter.

✠ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

℣ The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor David R. Lyle

We stand.

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



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
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 Jim 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 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.

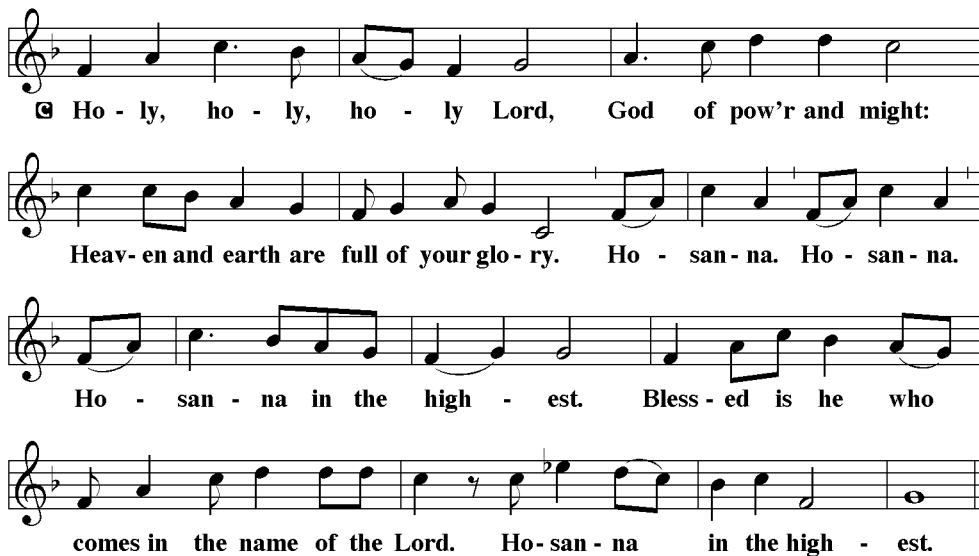


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

ANTHEM: Meklētāja ceļš

Latvian Carol
arr. Andrejs Jansons

Day is done and I am weary, walking on these lonely roads;
Suddenly a blazing flower in the wintry sky unfolds.

Lo, behold the Rose of Christmas blooming brightly at heaven's door,
Oh, to drink its wondrous beauty and to yearn for more and more!

Rose of Christmas, purest flower, sweetest childhood melody,
Beautiful enchanted hour when my mother sang of thee.

I do know the Rose of Christmas also blooms for you tonight;
And for you the heaven glistens peacefully, in perfect light.

Kārlis Skalbe; English version by Vilnis Baumanis

HYMN: The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended

1 The day you gave us, Lord, has end - ed;
 2 We thank you that your church, un - sleep - ing
 3 As to each con - ti - nent and is - land
 4 The sun, here hav - ing set, is wak - ing
 5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall nev - er,

the dark - ness falls at your be - hest.
 while earth rolls on - ward in - to light,
 the dawn leads on an - oth - er day,
 your chil - dren un - der west - ern skies,
 like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;

To you our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed;
 through all the world its watch is keep - ing,
 the voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,
 and hour by hour, as day is break - ing,
 but stand and grow and rule for - ev - er,

your praise shall hal - low now our rest.
 and nev - er rests by day or night.
 nor dies the strain of praise a - way.
 fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.
 till all your crea - tures own your sway.

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 Jim to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Jim.
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: O Day Full of Grace



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

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

Johann Sebastian Bach

All are invited to a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

The Rev. David R. Lyle, presiding minister
The Rev. Michael D. Costello, cantor

Al Swanson, deacon

Irmgard Swanson, assisting minister

The Rev. Dr. Peter Vethanayagamany and Jim (James D.) Scherer, lectors
Susie Calhoun and Linda Bernard, gift bearers

The Rev. Dr. Esther Menn and the Rev. David Heim, Communion ministers

Roberta Gillespie and Liz Hanson, altar guild

Tom Swanson and Mike Gillespie, ushers

Liz Hanson, livestream audio/video

Members of the Grace Parish Choir

Marybeth Kurnat, soprano

Hanna Bingham and Francois Henkins, violinists

Ben Weber, violist

Vicki Mayne, cellist

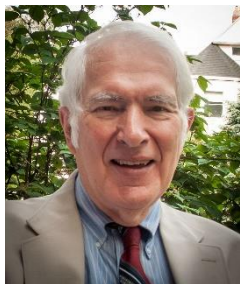
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JAMES ARNOLD SCHERER



James A. Scherer, a devoted Lutheran missionary, church historian, and Christian missions specialist, peacefully passed away on December 20, 2023 in North Riverside, Illinois, at the age of 97.

Born on September 1, 1926, he distinguished himself early, earning a four-year scholarship to Yale University after graduating from Concordia High School in 1943. At Yale, he majored in history and, in 1946, graduated while actively contributing as president of Dwight Hall, the campus Christian association. Post-graduation, he became a “Yale Bachelor,” teaching English in war-torn China.

It was in China that he met Frances E. Schlosser, a Yale-in-China nurse. They celebrated their union on Easter Day in 1948. Returning to the U.S., Scherer pursued a Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in 1949, studying under the tutelage of Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich. Ordained in 1952, he, along with Frances and their two children, embarked on a mission to Tokyo, Japan, during its transition from occupation status to a U.S. treaty ally.

After two years of intensive Japanese language study, Scherer served as a missionary in the North Kyushu District of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, stationed in Fukuoka. In 1956, he returned to Chicago to become the Dean of the newly established Lutheran School of Missions on the Maywood campus of the Lutheran School of Chicago, a role he held for eleven years. During this time, he pursued doctoral studies at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, earning his Th.D. in 1968.

As a Professor of World Mission and Church History at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, located near the University of Chicago, Scherer expanded his expertise to include ecumenism and world religions. He was a frequent participant in ecumenical missionary conferences and authored numerous books, including the influential *Missionary, Go Home!* (1964), addressing critiques of foreign mission activity.

Retiring in 1992, Scherer remained active, contributing articles and reviews. Four years after Frances' passing, he found love again and married Liene Sorenson in 2012. As avid music lovers, they both enjoyed traveling together, attending concerts, singing, and playing in a senior citizens' orchestra.

He is survived by Liene Sorenson, his second wife; James D. Scherer, his son; Dr. Susan M. Scherer, his daughter; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his first wife of 60 years, Frances E. Scherer (1912–2008); and by two older brothers: Ray L. Scherer (1919–2000) of Washington DC; and Ross P. Scherer (1922–1999) of Arlington Heights, IL. He will be remembered for his enduring contributions to Christian missions.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, 5416 S. Cornell Ave (4th FL), Chicago, IL 60615.



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

