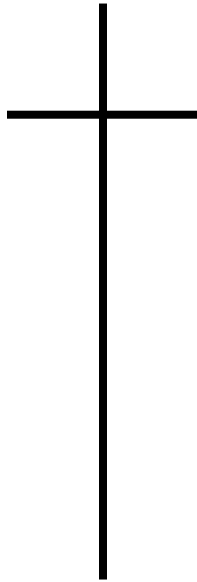


Memorial Service of Holy Communion

for

William Wallace Brown

May 22, 1930 – November 11, 2023



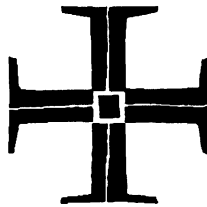
January 6, 2024 ■ 11:00 a.m.
The Epiphany of Our Lord

Grace Lutheran Church ■ River Forest, Illinois

✠ GATHERING ✠

FOR AS MUCH as Bill 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. For those who find it difficult to walk forward for the distribution, please contact an usher so that Holy Communion may be brought to you.



PRELUDE: Partita on EIN FESTE BURG IST UNSER GOTT

Michael D. Costello

We stand.

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.
- G** **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 cross in procession as we sing.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-

vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,

rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

Refrain
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.

Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

P Let us pray.

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

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.

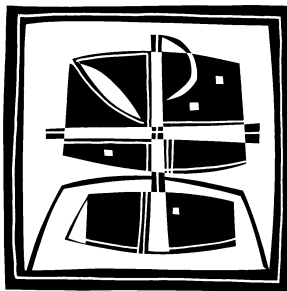
Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life,

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.



✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Philippians 4:4-9

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ANTIPHON: God will give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

- ℣ He who dwells in the shelter of | the Most High,*
abides under the shadow of | the Almighty.
- ☩ **He shall say to the LORD, "You are my refuge | and my stronghold,*
my God in whom I | put my trust."**
- ℣ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,*
and the Most High your | habitation,
- ☩ **there shall no evil hap- | pen to you,*
neither shall any plague come | near your dwelling.**
- ℣ For he shall give his angels charge | over you,*
to keep you in | all your ways.
- ☩ **They shall bear you | in their hands,*
lest you dash your foot a- | gainst a stone.**
- ℣ You shall tread upon the li- | on and the adder;*
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent un- | der your feet.
- ☩ **Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I de- | liver him;*
I will protect him, because he | knows my name.**
- ℣ He shall call upon me, and I will | answer him;*
I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring | him to honor.
- ☩ **With long life will I sat- | isfy him,*
and show him | my salvation.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

- ℣ The Word of the Lord.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL VERSE: Revelation 7:15–17

Carl F. Schalk

They are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
They shall hunger and thirst no more; the sun shall not strike them nor any scorching heat;
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 10:14–15, 27–29

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

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

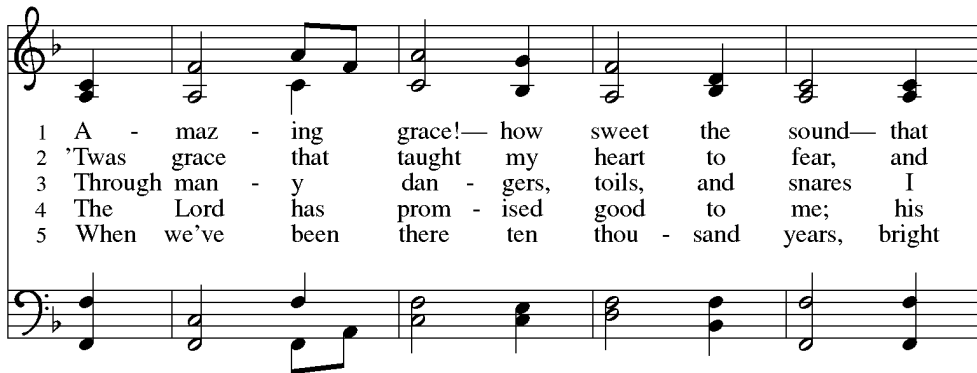
SERMON

Pastor David R. Lyle

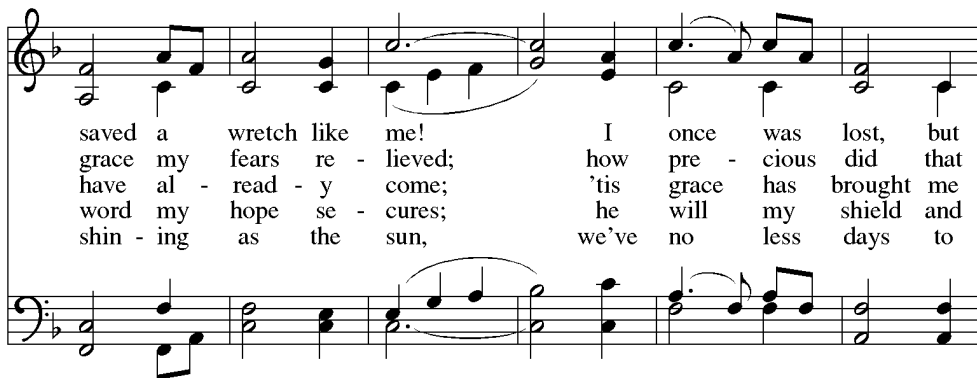


We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



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.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

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 Bill 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 and remain standing as the table is prepared.

Choir 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.

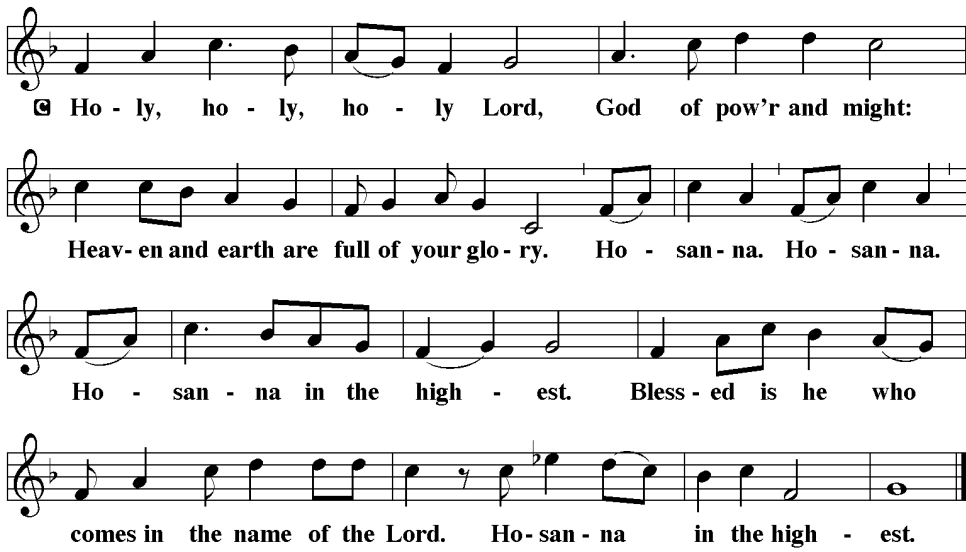


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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 God, 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 our forebears, 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.

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 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 Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.

P The gifts of God for the people of God.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P Come, for all is now ready.

We sit.

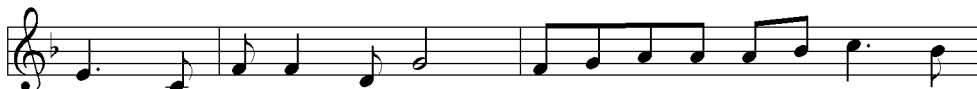
AGNUS DEI



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: O Day Full of Grace

(green) LBW #161



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.

ANTHEM: Blessed Are the Dead Who Die in the Lord

Carl F. Schalk

And I heard a voice from heaven saying,
 "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth."
 "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit,
 "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"
 Revelation 14:13

HYMN: Thine the Amen*(blue)* **WOV #801***Stanza three is sung by the choir.*

1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
 3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
 4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
 thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
 thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
 thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
 thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
 gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
 then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
 thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
 then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
 thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: THINE, Carl Schalk, b. 1929

Text and music © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- 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 Bill to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
Silence is kept.
- P** Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Bill.
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.



SENDING HYMN: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
 4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.

In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
 Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Following the hymn we process to the Memorial Garden for the Committal.

✠ COMMITTAL ✠

PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the death and burial of Jesus, your anointed, you have destroyed death and sanctified the graves of all your saints. Keep Bill in the company of all your saints and, at the last, raise him up to share with all your faithful people the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:51–57

[St. Paul writes:] Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

READING: Philippians 3:20–21

Our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Other passages may be read. Following the final passage we respond:

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BURIAL

P In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother, Bill, and we commit his remains to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him. The Lord’s face shine on him and be gracious to him. The Lord look upon him with favor and give him ✠ peace.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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.**

PRAYER

- P** Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death.
Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way,
that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake in your likeness;
to you, the author and giver of life, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

REQUIEM

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

BENEDICTION

- P** 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.**
- P** Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Let us go in peace.

Following the service 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
Christine Nelson	Assisting Minister
Susie Calhoun	Deacon
Lisa Carlson and Dale Brown	Lectors
Liam Brown	Crucifer
Grace Carlson	Pallbearer
Paulette Reddel and Scott Street	Gift Bearers
Roberta Gillespie and Linda Street	Altar Guild
Martin Becker and Paul Koester	Ushers
Eunice Eifert and Liz Hanson	Livestream Audio/Video
The Rev. Michael D. Costello	Cantor
Members of the Grace Senior Choir	Choir

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WILLIAM WALLACE BROWN

William (Bill) Wallace Brown entered heaven peacefully on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at his home in Urbandale, Iowa. He was 93 years old.

Bill was born on May 22, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois to Clarence and Laura Brown. He grew up with his brother and three sisters on the south side of Chicago in the suburbs known as Ivanhoe and Riverdale. He was the youngest of the five, having been born 15 minutes after his twin sister Louise. An enterprising young Bill, accompanied by his dog, sold newspapers on the South Shore train station near the family home. Once, in a moment of spontaneity, Bill and a friend ran away from home, headed for California. Without a compass, they hitchhiked to the east, ending up in Fort Wayne, IN, where Bill's father was summoned to pick him up and teach him a life lesson.

Bill attended Thornton Township High School, graduating in 1948. He went on to Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, where he received a B.A. in Accounting in 1952. He was on the college tennis team and carried on playing tennis long after college. During college Bill held many temporary and part time jobs including: Lawn Mowing, "Soda Jerk" and Caddy at the golf course.

Upon graduation Bill was required to register with the United States Selective Service, as the Korean War was in progress. He was issued a "4-F" classification due to many bouts with osteomyelitis during his youth. Instead of military service Bill went to work as a Cost Accountant at US Steel. Then, in 1955 he accepted a job as an office manager at Illinois Bell. And in 1963, he took a job at The Quaker Oats Company, where he spent the next 26 years managing the marketing budget, monitoring spending on things such as coupons, TV, radio, magazine and newspaper advertising, among other things. He worked closely with brand managers to accomplish their objectives on time and within budget, and was well respected by his peers and managers throughout his long employment with Quaker. He retired from Quaker in 1989, working a few temporary jobs over the next few years before settling down for a long and well-deserved rest.

Bill met the love of his life, Marion Louise Ladwig in the Swedish Choral Club, where they discovered that they both had wonderful singing voices as well as many other things in common. They were married on June 1, 1957. Bill and Marion raised four children in Oak Park, Illinois. They were members of Grace Lutheran Church where Bill participated in the Men's Club, served as an usher, attended Adult Christian Education classes, and helped count the offering. They loved to go to supper shuffles, where they often welcomed new members into the Grace community of believers. Bill kept the kids in line in the second pew every Sunday while Marion was singing in the choir. He loved Grace Church and School, continuing to support both financially throughout his adult life. Most importantly, he was a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior.

Bill will be remembered as a gentle, kind, and extremely generous man. He was moved by those in need, and loved to help financially according to his means. He could easily disarm you with his humor, and had a sharp wit that did not cut. He always made you feel welcome and loved. He loved playing poker, or any card game. Many of his friends were made at work and church, and they often bonded over a friendly game of cards. He was a long-suffering Bears fan and was over the moon when they won the Super Bowl in 1986. Above all, he was a wonderful father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, son, brother, husband and friend, who was deeply loved.

Bill is survived by his four children: Bill Brown of Rolling Meadows, Illinois, David Brown of Adel, Iowa, Dale Brown (Lisa) of Arlington Heights, Illinois and Lisa Carlson nee Brown (late Eric) of Urbandale, Iowa; seven grandchildren: Emily Kullen nee Carlson, Ben Carlson, Amy Carlson (Maurizio Crescentini), Grace Carlson, Erin Brown, Liam Brown and Shannon Brown; three great-grandchildren: Wallace Kullen, Willow Kullen and Stefano Carlson-Crescentini; plus many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Clarence and Laura Brown; his siblings: Dorothy, Betty, Bob and Louise; and by his wife Marion.

Rest in perfect peace and abundant joy Bill.

In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church and School, 7300 Division Street, River Forest, IL, 60305. www.graceriverforest.org.

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