



*“Do Not Be Afraid. I Am The First And The Last, The Living One.”
By Rudolf Schäfer*

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dr. Laurence White, Officiating • Jeff Armstrong, Organist

COVER ILLUSTRATION – “I Am The First And the Last” by Dr. Rudolf Schäfer presents the awesome vision of our Lord Jesus as He revealed himself to the apostle John in the opening scene of the Book of Revelation. There Christ was standing amid the seven golden lamps which signified the church. Schäfer captures the essence of the vision as Christ upon the cross, shedding His precious blood to win forgiveness for the sins of mankind, dominates the entire image. Our Lord’s humble entrance into this world as the Babe of Bethlehem is shown in the left foreground. A joyful choir of angels proclaims the Christmas gospel above the stable and a gleaming star announces the Savior’s birth. In the right foreground stands the empty tomb with its resplendent guardian angel so that all might know that Jesus has conquered death for us. The beautiful life promise of the rainbow extends from the cross to the open door of the tomb. The risen Lord walks in the nearby garden behind the tomb awaiting the arrival of the women. The angels ascending from the empty tomb are carrying home the life harvest of God’s people. Over all is the extended hand of God the Father surrounded by the countless hosts of heaven, prophets and apostles, faithful men and women of God (including Martin Luther), those who have already received their share of God’s gracious gift of eternal life. Schäfer painted this masterpiece for the altar of the village church in Oberjesigen, Germany.

*A Service of Thanksgiving
Celebrating God's Gift of Eternal Life For*



Stephen Michael Henke, Jr.

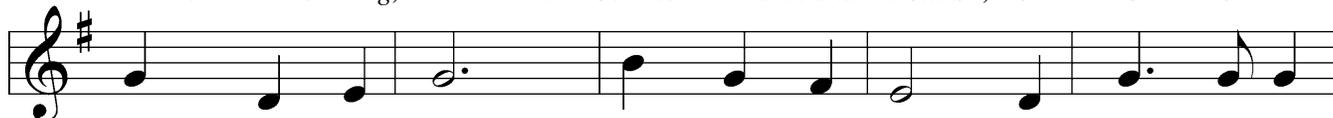
September 27, 1944 - September 22, 2022

*The death of a Christian has been transformed from tragedy into victory by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the moment of physical death the soul of the believer is safe at home in heaven with their Lord. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that those who remain - for a time - here on earth, would gather to celebrate God's gift of life and savor the memories of blessings received through our beloved who now lives with Christ in heaven. We affirm the faith in which they lived and through which they have been given eternal life in the sanctuary where they received the forgiveness of sins in Word and sacrament. **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."** (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

Opening Hymn

EARTH AND ALL STARS

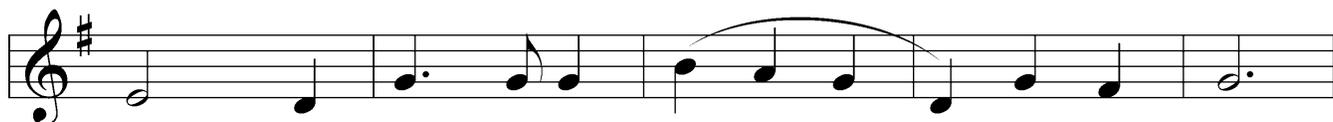
Text: Herbert F. Brokering; Tune: David N. Johnson – “Earth and All Stars”; LSB #817 © 2006 CPH



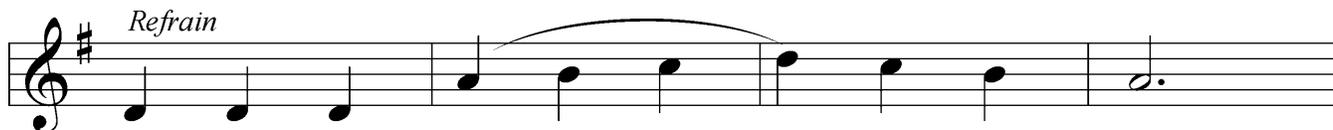
1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the
2 Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm! Sing to the
3 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals! Sing to the
4 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers! Sing to the
5 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes! Sing to the



Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing
Lord a new song! Flow - ers and trees! Loud rus - tling
Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming
Lord a new song! Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing
Lord a new song! Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing



ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!
dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song!
cel - los! Sing to the Lord a new song!
work - ers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
peo - ple! Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
He has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too will praise Him with a new song!

6 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son! Loud praying members! Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

7 Children of God, Dying and rising, Sing to the Lord a new song!
Heaven and earth, Hosts everlasting, Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Invocation

Opening Prayers



Scripture Readings

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

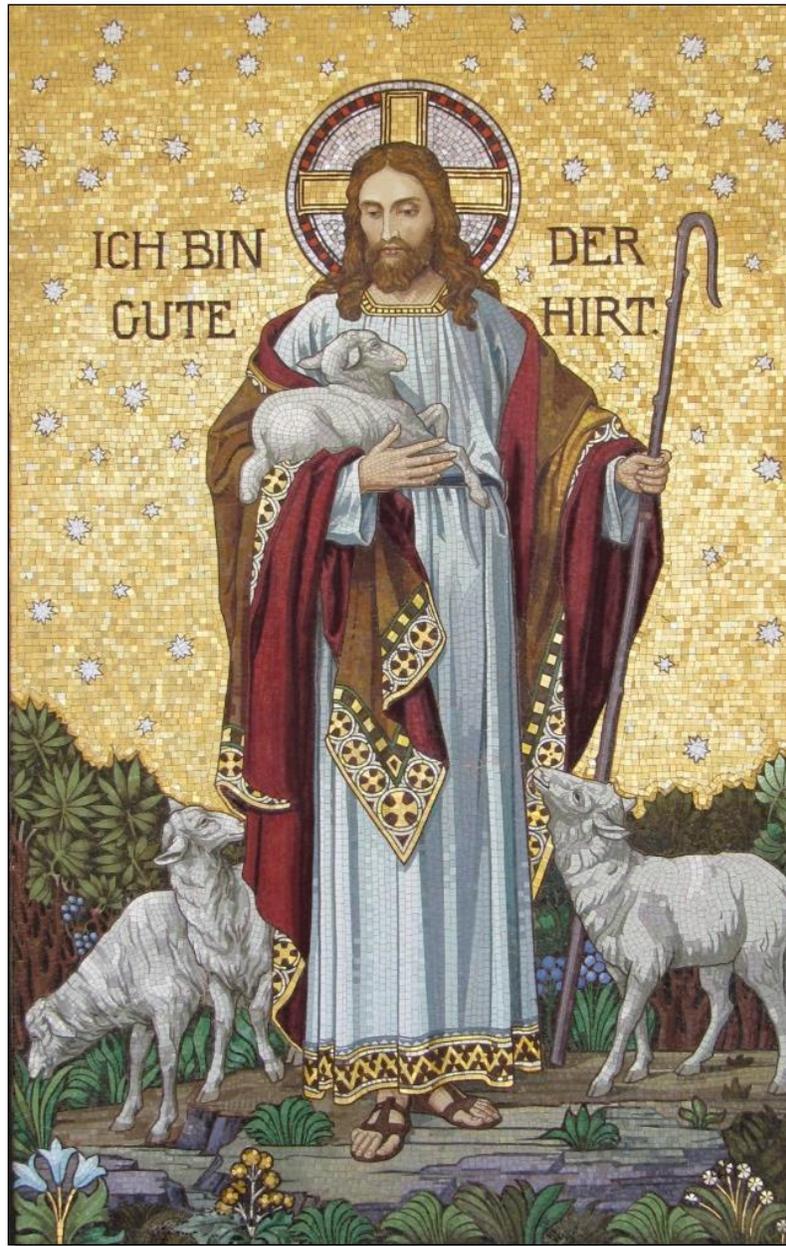
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

[13] But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. [15] For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. [17] Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. [18] Therefore encourage one another with these words.





ST. JOHN 10:11-18

[11] I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. [12] He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. [13] He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. [14] I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, [15] just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. [16] And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. [17] For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. [18] No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Sermon Hymn

WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER

Text: Horatio G. Spafford; Tune: Philip P. Bliss – “It Is Well”; LSB #763 © 2006 CPH



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

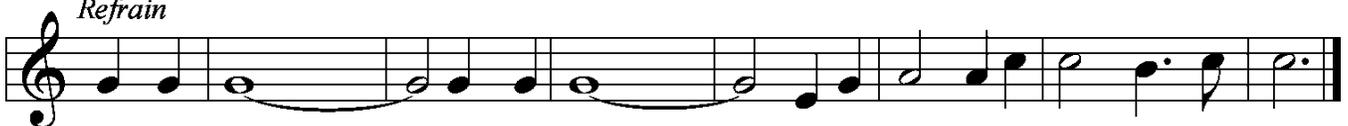


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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Sermon

There is no more poignant or powerful opportunity for the proclamation of the Biblical message of Law and Gospel than the moments in which Christians celebrate the home-going of a loved one to eternal life in the mansions of heaven. The funeral sermon is designed to declare that wondrous Gospel and to set before all present this day the truth that every believer is a sinner saved by grace alone. Salvation cannot be earned. It can only be given as a free gift by the God whose love for us moved Him to give His only Son to die in our place upon the cross so that we might live with Him forever.

Obituary

Prayers



The Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

Closing Hymn

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND

Text & Tune: Thomas A. Dorsey – "Precious Lord"; LSB #739 © 2006 CPH



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
When my life is al - most gone,
And the day is al - most gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

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Soli Deo Gloria



OBITUARY OF STEPHEN MICHAEL HENKE, JR.

Born on September 27, 1944, in Granite City, Illinois

Passed away September 22, 2022, in Houston, Texas

Mike Henke was born and spent his childhood in Granite City, IL until his family moved to Edwardsville, Illinois. He graduated from Edwardsville High School in 1962.

After graduating high school, Mike moved to Austin, Texas to attend Concordia College and met the love of his life, Carol. Upon receiving his Associates Degree in Elementary Education, he transferred to Concordia River Forest in Chicago and completed his Bachelor of Arts, Elementary Education and Teaching in 1966.

Mike and Carol were married on August 20, 1966, and moved to Marengo, Illinois, where he started at Zion Lutheran School. He worked as a teacher, athletic director, and finally principal over a 20-year period. Mike also earned his Master of Education from Rockford College in 1984. Mike accepted a call to become principal of St. Paul Lutheran School in Harlingen, Texas in 1987. After three years in Harlingen, Mike was called to Houston, Texas in 1990 to become principal of Our Savior Lutheran School. After 41 years as a Lutheran educator and minister, Mike retired in 2007.

Mike is preceded in death by his parents Steve and Esther, his brothers Ronnie and Bob, and his sister Barb. Mike is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol, his sons, Todd (Michelle), Eric (Jamie), Chad (Heidi), Josh (Ashley), and 13 grandchildren, Logan, Cameron, Kaley, Joel, Miller, Karli, Maddie, Payton, Allyson, Hudson, Oliver, Gunnar, and Miles.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Our Savior Lutheran School by placing 'Mike Henke Memorial' in the check memo, or directly to the American Diabetes Association in honor of Mike Henke.