

even at the grave  
we make our  
song to be:

alleluia

alleluia

alleluia

**THOMAS JOHN ZARTH**

SEPTEMBER 8, 1953 – MARCH 5, 2025

# A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

MARCH 22, 2025

**PRELUDE**

*Tom's Favorite Songs*

Messenger

**CHORAL PRELUDE**

*Alleluia*

Elaine Hagenberg  
The Gustavus Choir

*All shall be Amen and Alleluia!  
We shall rest and we shall see.  
We shall see and we shall know.  
We shall know and we shall love.  
Behold our end, which is no end.  
— St. Augustine*

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

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Tom was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.  
**Amen.**

*Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand,  
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears and the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

## GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*(silence is kept)*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Thomas. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## READINGS

**Isaiah 25:6-9:** On 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. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he 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. It 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.

### **Psalm 103:1-5, 8-17a:**

Of David.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed  
like the eagle's.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.

As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting.

**Colossians 3:12-17:** As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**GREETING**

Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA

**REMEMBRANCES**

John Zarth  
Beth Horsch  
Alan Englestad

*O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.*

*The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,  
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;  
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—  
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.*

*Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,  
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.*

## SERMON

## HYMN

*Be Still, My Soul*

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in ev'ry change God faithful will remain.*

*Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.  
Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future, as in ages past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.*

*Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.*

*Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYERS**            Each petition concludes "Lord, in your mercy,"  
                                 Congregation responds "hear our prayer."

## **+ 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.

## **COMMENDATION**

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

*(silence is kept)*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,  
we commend your servant Thomas.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you,  
a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock,  
a sinner of your own redeeming.  
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,  
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,  
and into the glorious company of the saints in light.  
**Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Let us now go forth in peace  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**



*We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,  
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.  
Hallelujah!*

*We share by water in his saving death.  
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life,  
as living members of our Savior Christ.  
Hallelujah!*

*The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's fission shakes the church of God.  
Baptized, we live with God the Three in One.  
Hallelujah!*

*A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe restored and whole will sing:  
Hallelujah!*

**POSTLUDE**

Pastor Scott Searl, *Preaching*  
Pastor Lee Hallstrom, *Presiding Minister*  
Pastor Beth Horsch, *Assisting Minister*  
Morva Klein, *Organist*  
Pastor Brice Eichlersmith, *Reader*  
Georgeanne Clifford, *Reader*  
Carol Swenson, *Reader*

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*“If you listen to the world, it will tell you:  
‘In the midst of life we are surrounded by death,’ as we have sung for ages.  
But the Gospel and our faith have changed this song, and now we sing:  
‘In the midst of death we are surrounded by life!’”*  
*Martin Luther*

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