

The Rev. William G. Erat (Pastor Bill)

August 11, 1942 - November 8, 2023

November 18, 2023 11:00 AM

The Rev. Henrik Sonntag, Pastor St. Paul's Lutheran Church 120 N. Easton Road Glenside, PA 215-884-3005

Gathering

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother Bill, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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.

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. **We glorify you.**

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

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.

We worship you.

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

Opening Hymn

No. No. 377 Alleluia! Jesus is Risen

Earth and All Stars

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Music © 1969 Contemporary Worship 1, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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. 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 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.**

The Word

The First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Read by Barbara Reitz

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

To be read responsively with the assembly reading the verses in bold.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. 8The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth forevermore.

The Second Reading

Romans 8: 31 – 35, 37 – 39 Read by Robert Erat

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? [...]

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Musical Offering

By Gracious Powers text Dietrich Bonhoeffer music Russell Schulz-Widnar

The Gospel Matthew 5: 1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

- ³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- ⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- 8"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- ⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ

Time Of Remembrance

Led by Tom Erat

"You're In My Heart" (Du Du Liegst Mir Im Herzen)
Ralph Selerno, accordion

German Folk tune

Sermon

Pastor Henrik Sonntag

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

Hymn of the Day

No. 504 A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Ein feste Burg

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

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The Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 the 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 Intercession:

To each petition the assembly responds:

God of mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Help us, 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. God of mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

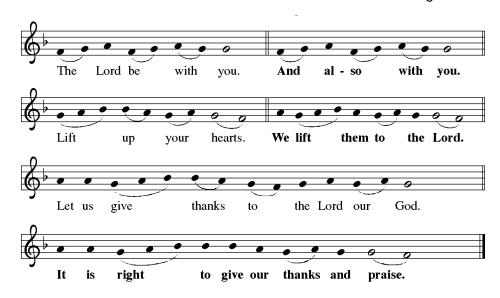
Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY No. 692 We Are an Offering

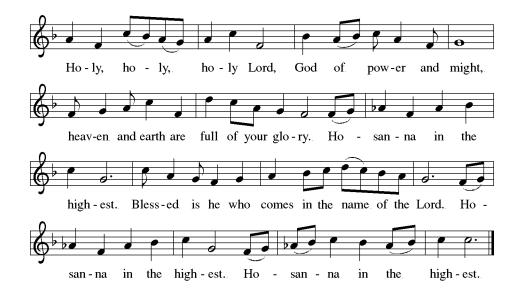
Offering



THE OFFERTORY PRAYER Concludes with ... Amen.



THE SANCTUS Page 130



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

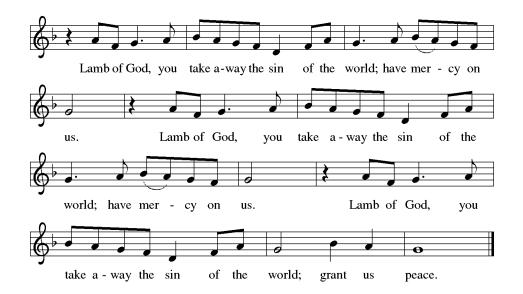
Albert Hay Malotte

Will Erat, soloist

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

"Lamb of God" Page 135



Pie Jesu

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Caroline Van Pelt, soloist

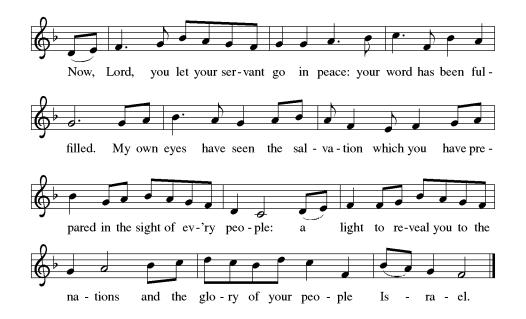
Please stand as you are able.

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

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

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE
Now Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

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THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER Concludes with **Amen.**

Sending	
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Commendation

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

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.

Amen

Blessing

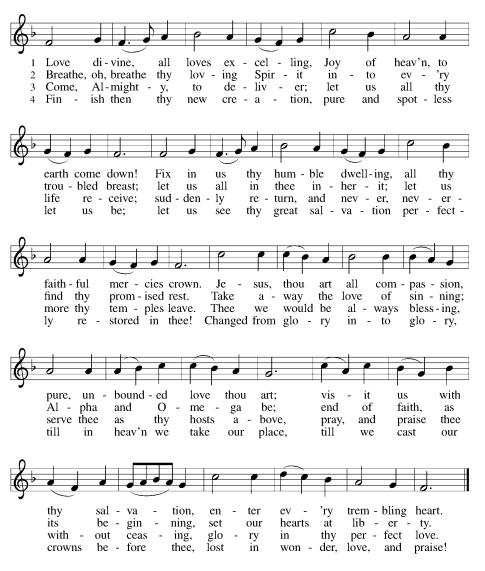
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

No. 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hyfrydol

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Dismissal				
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Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

The Service will continue with the Committal in the Memorial Garden.



Everyone is invited to a luncheon and fellowship in Fellowship Hall following the Committal service in the Memorial Garden.