



*funeral of*  
**HERBERT W. CHILSTROM**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020 | 1 P.M.  
CHRIST CHAPEL | GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE  
SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA



*funeral service*  
HERBERT W. CHILSTROM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020 | 1 P.M.  
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SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA

PRELUDE

<i>Prelude in E flat major, BWV 552</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old</i>	Jan Bender
<i>Fantasia in G minor, BWV 542</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach
<i>All Through the Night</i>	Dale Wood
<i>Come, Sweet Death</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach, arr. Virgil Fox

*Please refrain from any photography or video recording.*

*Gathering*

TOLLING OF THE BELL

THE GATHERING OF THE PROCESSION

<i>Improvisation on 'Constantine'</i>	Philip Brunelle
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*Please stand as you are comfortable to face the chancel cross at the front  
as it is carried to greet the procession at the baptismal font.*

## INTRODUCTION

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 Herbert,  
to give thanks for his life,  
to commend him to our merciful redeemer,  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism,  
the pall is placed over the ashes by Christopher and Mary.*

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 the 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.**

# PROCESSION AND PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Holy God, We Praise Your Name*

Text: source unknown; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900  
Music: GROSSER GOTT, *Katholisches Gesangbuch*, Vienna 1774

*Stanza 1: Unison; Stanza 2: Harmony; Stanza 3: Harmony; Stanza 4: Unison*

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we  
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -  
3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred  
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,  
bove are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;

all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your  
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with  
and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from heav'ns to  
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.  
sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"  
set of sun through the church the song goes on.  
bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

## 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

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

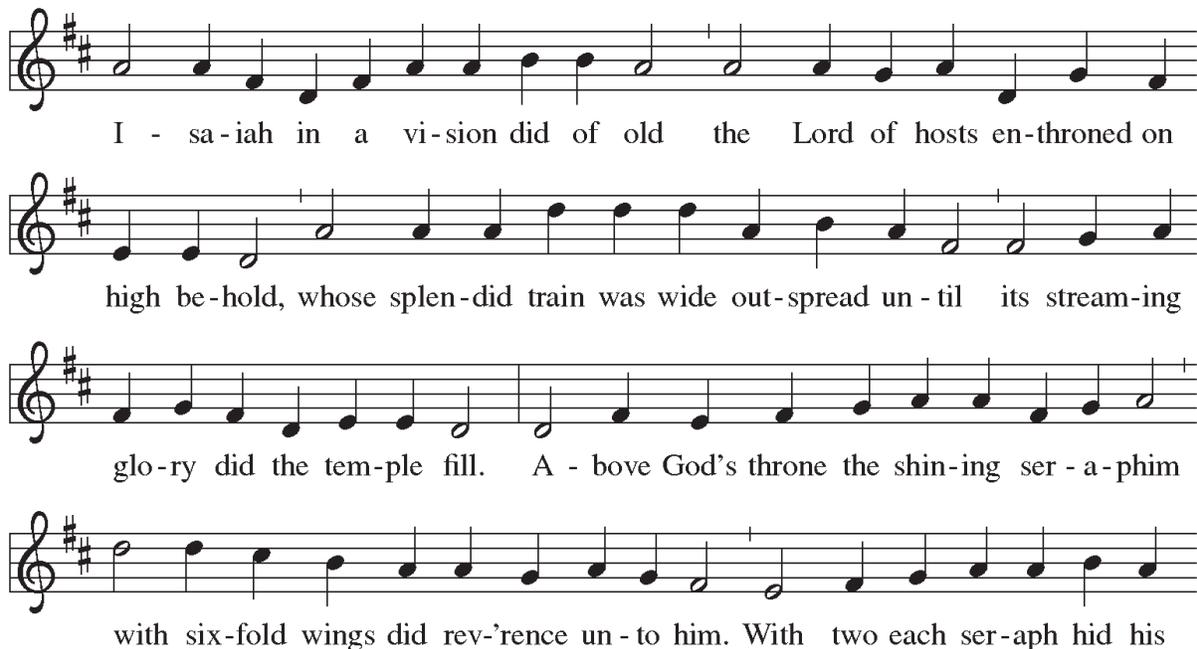
**Amen.**

## HYMN

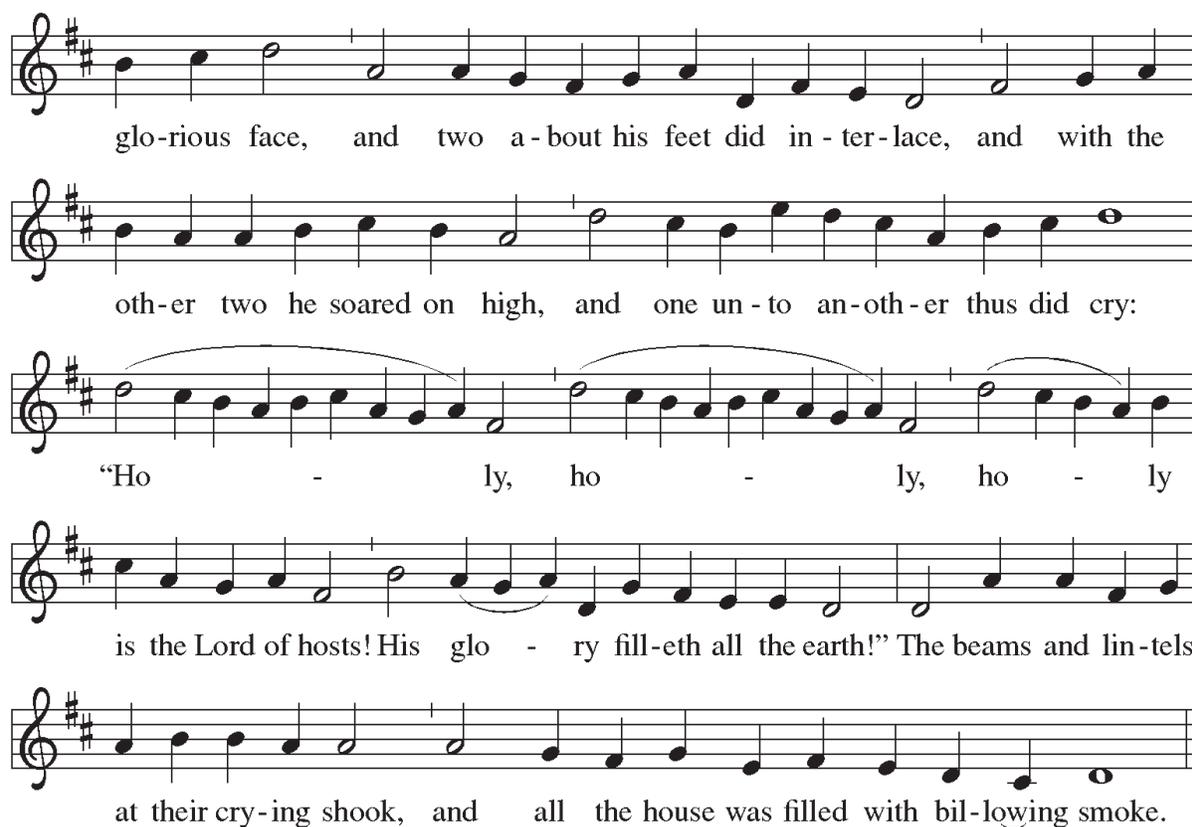
*Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old*

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976

Music: JESAIA, DEM PROPHETEN, Martin Luther



I - sa - iah in a vi - sion did of old the Lord of hosts en - throned on  
high be - hold, whose splen - did train was wide out - spread un - til its stream - ing  
glo - ry did the tem - ple fill. A - bove God's throne the shin - ing ser - a - phim  
with six - fold wings did rev - rence un - to him. With two each ser - aph hid his



glo-rious face, and two a-bout his feet did in-ter-lace, and with the  
 oth-er two he soared on high, and one un-to an-oth-er thus did cry:  
 “Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly  
 is the Lord of hosts! His glo - ry fill-eth all the earth!” The beams and lin-tels  
 at their cry-ing shook, and all the house was filled with bil-lowing smoke.

*Please be seated.*

## WELCOME

The Rev. Siri Erickson,  
 Chaplain of the College, Gustavus Adolphus College

## Word

### READING Hebrews 4: 14-16

14 Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

*Sing in alternation with the cantors.*



1 The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

2 **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

3 You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

### READING Romans 6: 3-4; 8: 1, 15-18, 31-39; 14: 7-9

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.

31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 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? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 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. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup> If 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. <sup>9</sup> For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

**Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1843–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

*Stanza 1: Unison; Stanza 2: Harmony; Stanza 3: Harmony*

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

*continued on next page*

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

**GOSPEL** John 14: 18-21, 25-27

The holy gospel according to John, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

18 I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

25 I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

The Rev. Mark Hanson,  
Presiding Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## ANTHEM

*Free to Serve*

Text: Herbert Chilstrom  
Music: Elaine Aune

*Untie my feet that they may go  
to places where your love can flow.  
Untie my hands that they may do  
the deed that leads the wand'rer through.  
Untie my tongue that it may sing  
the praises of my Savior King.  
Untie my heart, its bands break loose.  
Let all my life be for thy use.*

*Untie me, Lord.  
My feet, my hands, my tongue, my heart, Oh Lord.  
Untie me Lord,  
Free to serve.  
Amen.*

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

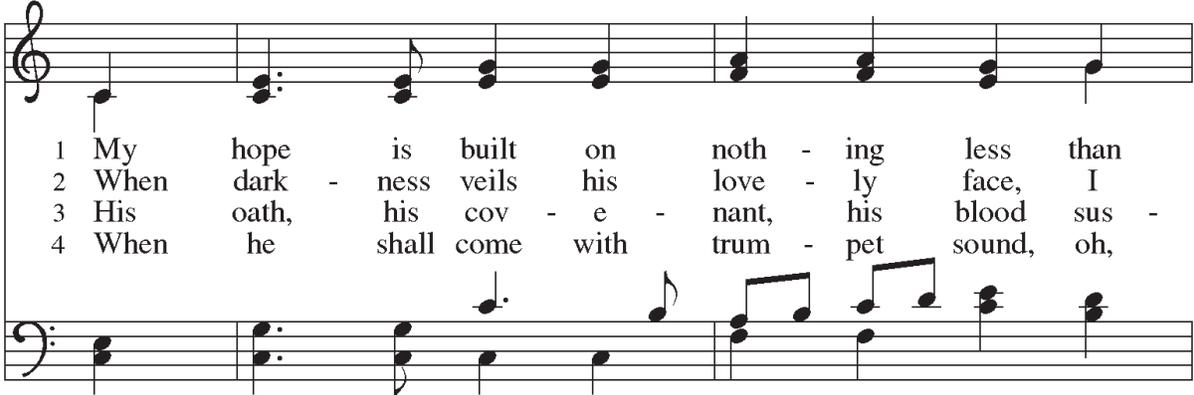
## HYMN OF THE DAY

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

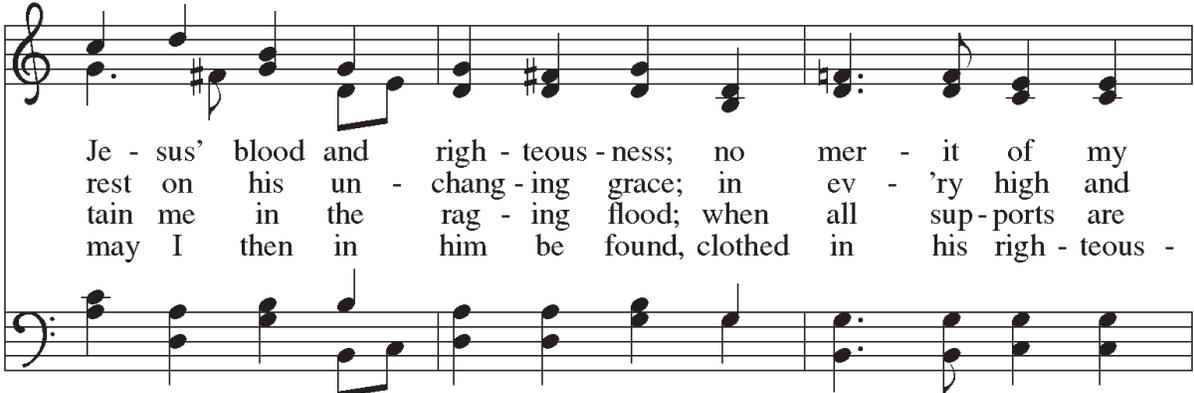
Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

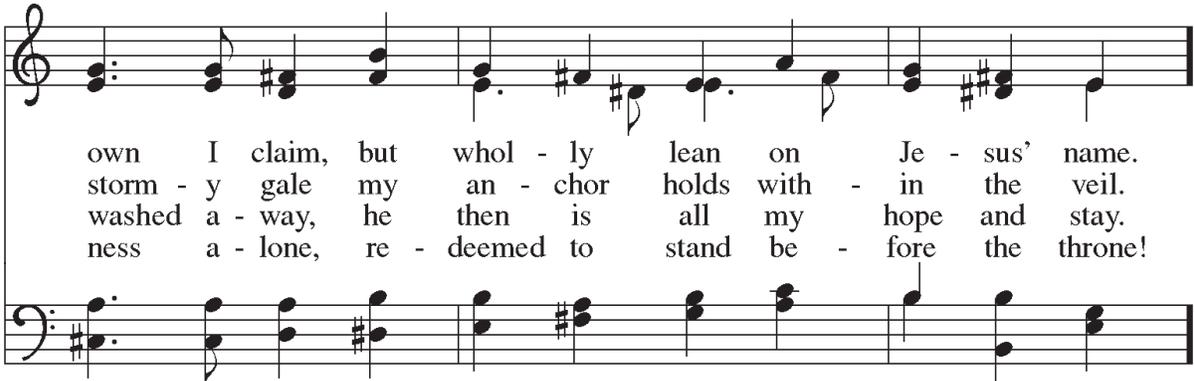
*Stanza 1: Unison; Stanza 2: Harmony; Stanza 3: Harmony; Stanza 4: Unison*



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,

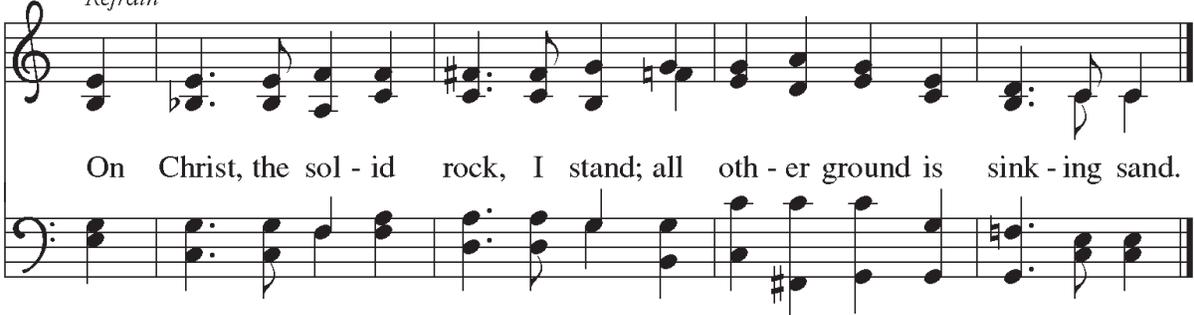


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

## 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 OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, you have knit your people together 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. 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 newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. God of mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still on our pilgrimage, and who walk yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. God of mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## GREETINGS

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton,  
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
The Rev. Jon Anderson,  
Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## ANTHEM

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

arr. Sam Robson

## *Meal*

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## PRAYER

Holy God, gracious Lord, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*Please be seated.*

*All are welcome.*

*Ushers will direct you to a station for distribution. Communion is by intinction.  
All bread is gluten free. Wine is the dark colored liquid and grape juice is the light colored liquid.*

# COMMUNION MUSIC

## *Verbum Supernum Prodiens*

Text: St. Thomas Aquinas

Music: Damijan Mocnik

## *Thy Holy Wings*

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

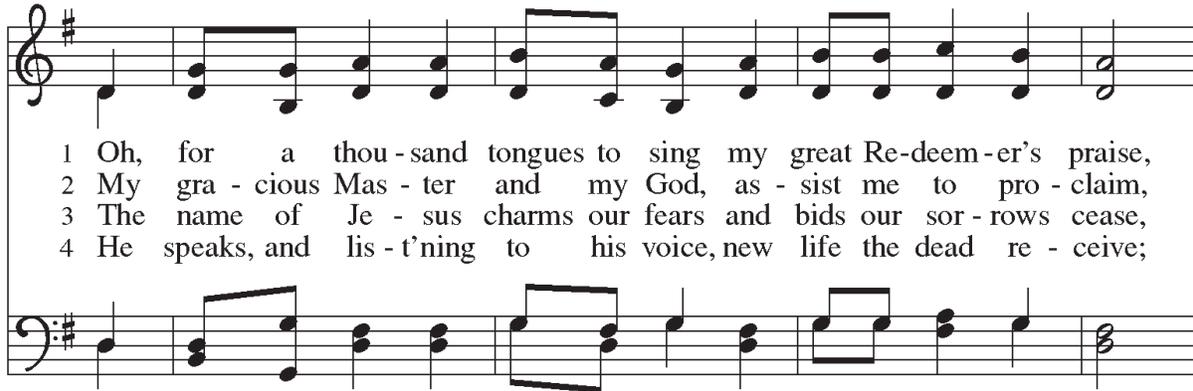


and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Glaser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem - er's praise,  
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,  
3 The name of Je - sus charms our fears and bids our sor - rows cease,  
4 He speaks, and lis - t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re - ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.  
sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

*Please remain seated for the prayer.*

## PRAYER

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## REMEMBRANCE

Christopher Holt

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## COMMENDATION HYMN

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

*With solemn dignity.*

*Stanza 1: Unison; Stanzas 2: Harmony; Stanzas 3: Harmony; Stanza 4: Unison*

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

*Sending*

## COMMENDATION

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

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Herbert. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of our own fold, a lamb of your 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.**

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

*For All the Saints*

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

*Stanzas 1 & 2: All; Stanza 3: Choir in Harmony; Stanzas 4 & 5: All in Harmony; Stanzas 6 & 7: All*

*Please turn and face the cross as it leads the recession to the font.*



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,  
*Stanzas 3–5 on next page.*  
6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the  
7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy  
Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . . .  
saints triumphant rise in bright array; the  
gates of pearl streams in the countless host, . . .



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
King of glory passes on his way.  
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*continued on next page*

3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,  
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,  
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet  
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and  
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.  
 hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong.  
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## BLESSING AT THE FONT

Gracious God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please allow clergy time to recess as the postlude plays.*

## POSTLUDE

*Fugue in E flat Major, BWV 552*

Johann Sebastian Bach

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## PARTICIPANTS

### **Presider**

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, *Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

### **Preacher**

The Rev. Mark Hanson, *Presiding Bishop Emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

### **Liturgist**

The Rev. Siri Erickson, *Chaplain of the College, Gustavus Adolphus College*

### **Readers**

The Rev. Jon Anderson, *Bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Rebecca Bergman, *President of Gustavus Adolphus College*

### **Procession**

Mark Peterson '88, crossbearer, longtime friend of son Andrew and the family

Lucio Gonzalez '20, candlebearer

Ingrid Kubisa '21, candlebearer

Jodi Belseth, urn bearer, niece and goddaughter

### **Honorary Pallbearers**

Maran Bacon, niece

Julie Franzen-Wilson

Richard Juul, nephew

Lanae McClellan

Philip Strand

Douglas Swiggum, nephew

James Udden

### **Musicians**

The Gustavus Choir, Brandon Dean, *conductor*

Lauren Buss '23, flute

Timothy Strand, organ. *Director of Music Ministry, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minn.*

Mark Sedio, piano. *Deacon Cantor, Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.*

David Fienen, organ. *Emeritus Professor of Music, Gustavus Adolphus College.*

Chad Winterfeldt, organ. *Cantor of Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus College.*

The Christ Chapel Brass, Jonathan Brandt, *director*

Matt Guilette '20, trumpet

Kyle Langer '22, trombone

Jakob Larson '21, bass trombone

Devin Makey '20, trumpet

Jill Shoen '22, horn

## NOTES

- The first lesson is from Hebrews, a book of the Bible on which Herbert wrote a commentary. The lesson was also read at the funeral service for Herbert's son Andrew, November 14, 1984.
- The rose on the altar today is in loving memory of Andrew, dear son, brother, nephew, cousin, friend.
- The lesson from Romans was read at the funeral service for Herbert's grandfather, John Chilstrom, and uncle Edward when they were killed in a tragic farm accident in 1892 while digging a well. It has been used often by the family since then, including at the funerals of son Andrew and brother David.
- The honorary pallbearers, those present and those unable to attend today, are Herbert and Corinne's godchildren.

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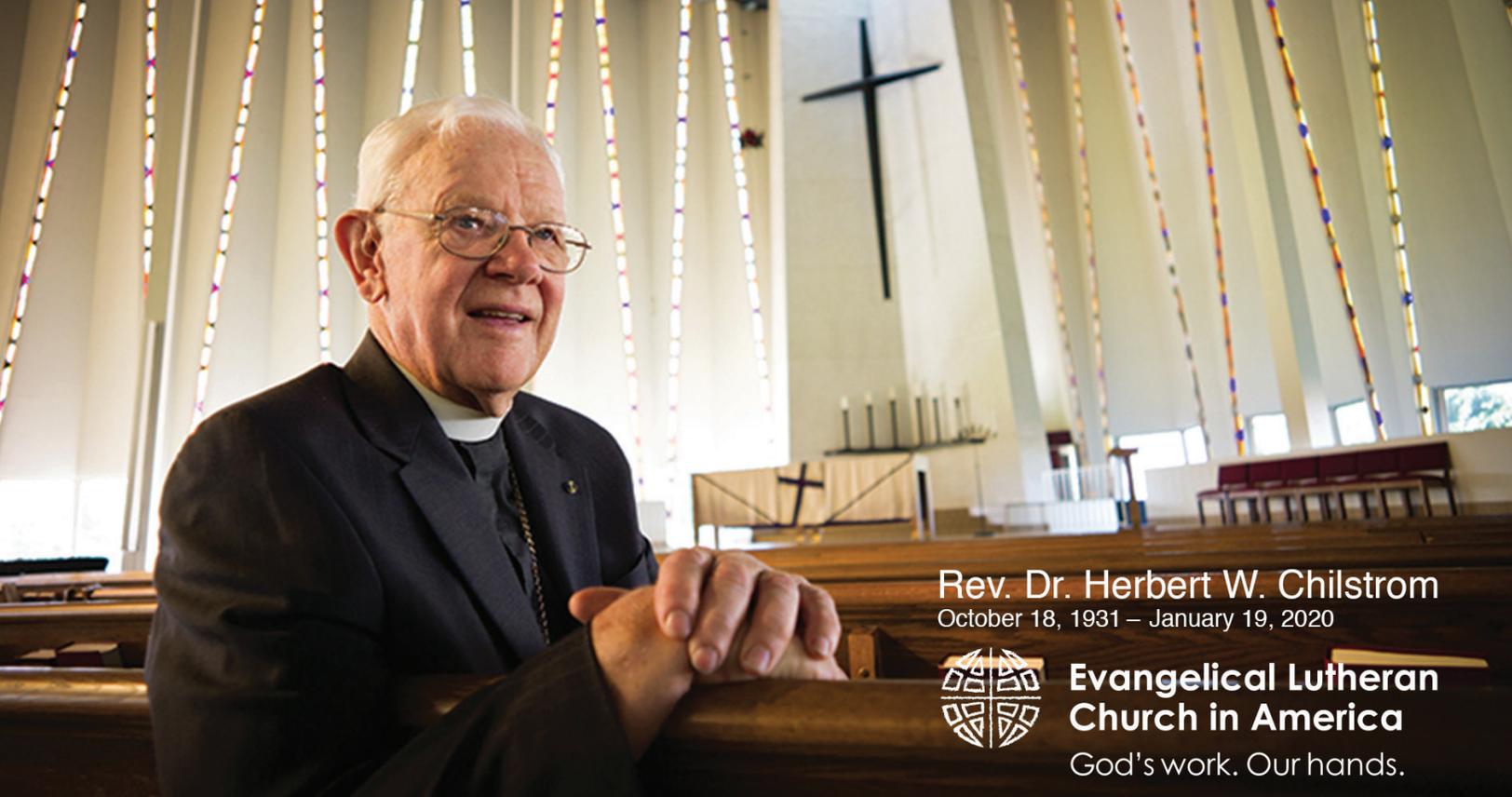
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## MEMORIALS

The family prefers that memorial gifts be given to the Herbert Chilstrom Chair in New Testament Studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, or to one of the Chilstrom Student Scholarship Funds at Luther Seminary; Augsburg University, Minneapolis; Gustavus Adolphus College; or Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.



**Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Chilstrom**  
October 18, 1931 – January 19, 2020



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Herbert W. Chilstrom, 88, the first presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), died Jan. 19 at his home in Green Valley, Ariz. He was born in Litchfield, Minn., on Oct. 18, 1931.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Corinne (Hansen), also a Lutheran pastor; a daughter, Mary Cress of Mesa, Ariz.; and a son, Christopher Holt of Baltimore; and four sisters, Winnifred Christenson of Robbinsdale, Minn.; Virginia Francis of Pickens, S.C.; Martha (Charles) Anderson of Ashby, Minn.; and Janet (Frederick) Sickert of West Linn, Ore. He was preceded in death by son Andrew, sisters Adeline Christenson (Earle) and Lorraine Juul (Dick), and brother David.

Chilstrom completed academic degrees at Augsburg University, Augustana Seminary, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Princeton Seminary, and New York University, where he earned a doctor of education degree.

He served Lutheran congregations in Pelican Rapids, Elizabeth, and Saint Peter, Minn.

He was professor and dean at Luther College, Teaneck, N.J., from 1962-1970. In 1976 he was elected bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). At the 1987 merger that created the 5.2-million-member ELCA, he was elected the first presiding bishop.

Chilstrom was awarded 15 honorary doctorates by 15 colleges, universities, and seminaries. He was named a Commander of the Royal Order of the North Star by King Carl Gustav IV of Sweden, received the Pope John XXIII Award from Viterbo College, the Servus Dei Award from the ELCA, as well as numerous other honors and awards.

Chilstrom served on numerous boards of directors, including vice president of the Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, Switzerland; Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.; Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota; Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, Minn.; the National Council of Churches, and others.

He also authored numerous books and articles.

After retirement he continued to be active in church and community, preaching and lecturing in many parts of the country. He became a Minnesota Master Gardener, volunteering and serving as interim director at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College.

