

Thanksgiving to God for the Life of
Mitchell Lee Hammerstad
6/9/1934 – 11/28/2024



Central Lutheran Church
January 18, 2025
1:00pm

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

The Carillon

The bells toll, one for each year of Mitch's life.

PRELUDE

When the Saints Go Marching In

Roger Welch & Sheri Pyron, Horns

CANDLE LIGHTING

Lauryn, granddaughter

WELCOME

Pastor Ben Nickodemus

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 in Christ, Mitch, 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.

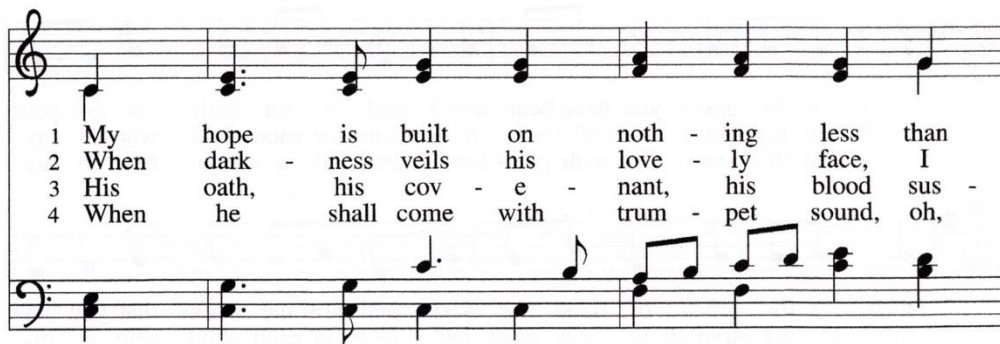
Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

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.

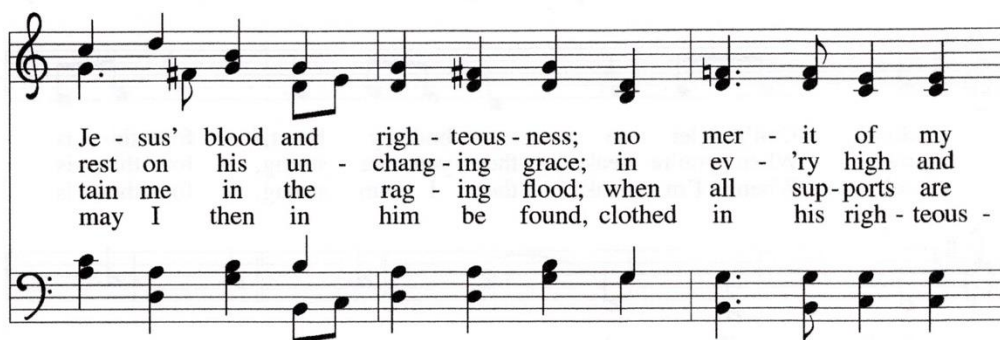
Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

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

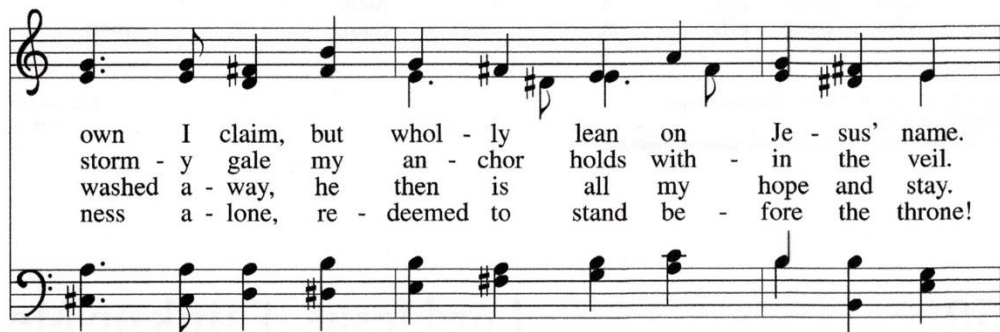
HYMN #597 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing 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,

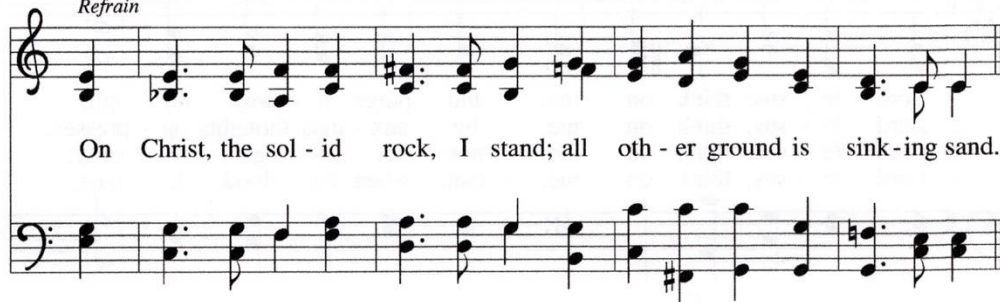


Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



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.

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. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother in Christ, Mitch. 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 all 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.**

FIRST READING 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Samantha, granddaughter
[The Apostle Paul writes] Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. The Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 (*spoken in unison*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul:
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

HOMILY

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

HYMN #779 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.**

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. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: **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

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Mitch. 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.**

SOLO

Beautiful Savior

Bernie Bopp

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Dr. A. ElRay Stewart-Cook

Immediately following this portion of the service, you are invited to follow the Hammerstad family to Central's Memorial Courtyard for a brief Service of Committal as Mitch's cremains are placed in Central's Columbarium. Or, if you prefer, you may go directly to the Parish Hall where the family will join you shortly for refreshments and a time of informal sharing.

Mitchell (Mitch) Lee Hammerstad was born in June 1934, in Edinburg, North Dakota, to Melvin and Lillian (Olafson) Hammerstad. He passed away in November 2024 at the age of 90 after a brief battle with cancer.

As a young child, Mitch and his mother relocated to Oregon, ending up in Seaside. He graduated from Seaside High School in 1952. He then attended the University of Oregon, earning a degree from the School of Business in 1957. A lifelong member of Sigma Chi fraternity, Mitch became their chapter advisor in the 1970's.

In 1965, Mitch met Sheri Helt in Beaverton, Oregon, and they married shortly thereafter in 1966. The couple moved to Eugene, Oregon in 1969, where they also welcomed their daughter, Kristi.

After working for several insurance agencies, Mitch founded Hammerstad Insurance Agency in 1976. Throughout his business career, he held leadership positions, serving as president of Cascade Toastmasters, the Eugene Town Club, Central Lutheran Church (twice), the Eugene Country Club, and the Eugene Lane County Insurance Association. Mitch retired at the age of 80, after 50 years in the insurance field.

In retirement, he was able to play some golf, play a lot of games of gin rummy, and took trips to Las Vegas for March Madness. A devoted Lutheran, Mitch attended weekly Bible study and was a passionate supporter of the Oregon Ducks. He was known for making a friendly wager and for being an honest loyal friend.

Mitch is survived by his beloved wife, Sheri; his daughter, Kristi; and his granddaughters, Samantha and Lauryn, along with numerous cousins.

Memorial gifts can be made to: Cascade Hospice Health Foundation, or Central Lutheran Church Memorial Courtyard and Columbarium.



