

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

for the life of

Robert Walter Rexrode

August 12, 1939 – June 12, 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church

Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday in the Fourth Week after Pentecost

June 22, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.



Pre-Service Music

"Brother James' Air"

(John Behnke)

"Partita on St. Anne"

(Paul Manz)

"Bist Du Bei Mir"

(J.S. Bach)

Welcome

Opening Rite

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P In holy Baptism, Bob was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?"

C **"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 walk in newness of 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."** (*Romans 6:3-5*)

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Gathering Hymn

"How Great Thou Art" (LSB 801)



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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Opening Sentences

P Through Holy Baptism, our gracious God forgives sin and creates new life. In Baptism, we are reborn to a new life where we know God as loving and forgiving Father. While we live, this new life is nourished by God's Word and the Sacraments. As we grow in God's grace, our faith becomes more mature. Understanding and wisdom are coupled together with compassion and

servanthood, and with the help of the Holy Spirit are able to follow Christ's example as we love God and serve each other.

The hope and joy which we have in Christ does not end at the grave. God's loving purposes for God's people are not destroyed by death. Rather, death becomes the gateway to eternal life with God in heaven.

Today, we are gathered here to remember and to celebrate the life given to our brother Bob, who now lives with Christ in heaven. We grieve, and yet we hope. We are sad, yet we are able to celebrate and give thanks for the hope of resurrection. Our faith in Christ reminds us that no matter how painful death may be, it is victory, not defeat. Because Christ lives, Bob lives. This is our faith, our hope, and our joy.

Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

O God of grace and mercy, we give you thanks for your loving-kindness shown to Bob, and to all your servants who, having finished their course of faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

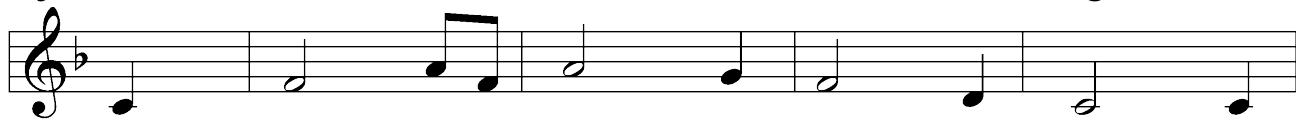
C **Amen.**

A Life Remembered

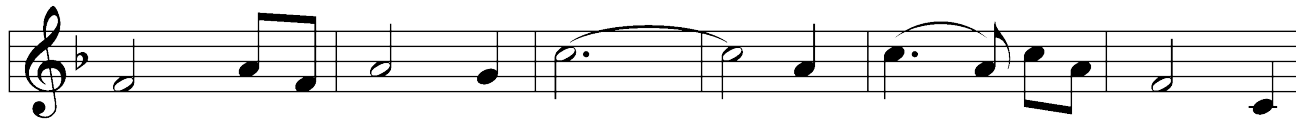
(Hymn, next page)

Hymn

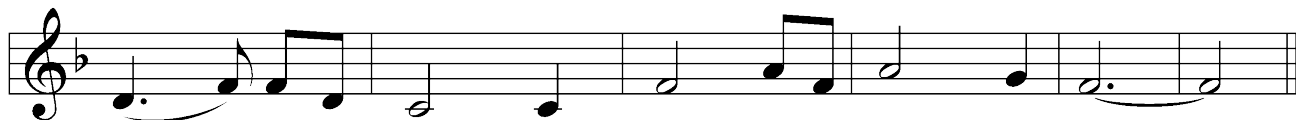
"Amazing Grace" (LSB 744)



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati
Text and tune: Public domain

First Reading

Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

"Onward, Christian Soldiers" (LSB 662)



1 On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,
2 Like a might - y ar - my Moves the Church of God;
3 Crowns and thrones may per - ish, King - doms rise and wane,
4 On - ward, then, ye faith - ful, Join our hap - py throng,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.
Broth - ers, we are tread - ing Where the saints have trod.
But the Church of Je - sus Con - stant will re - main.
Blend with ours your voic - es In the tri - umph song:



Christ, the roy - al mas - ter, Leads a - gainst the foe;
We are not di - vid - ed, All one bod - y we,
Gates of hell can nev - er 'Gainst that Church pre - vail;
Glo - ry, laud, and hon - or Un - to Christ, the king;



For - ward in - to bat - tle See His ban - ners go!
One in hope and doc - trine, One in char - i - ty.
We have Christ's own prom - ise, And that can - not fail.
This through count - less a - ges Men and an - gels sing.

Refrain



On - ward, Chris - tian sol - diers, March - ing as to war,



With the cross of Je - sus Go - ing on be - fore.

Text and tune: Public domain

Homily

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the People *(please kneel or be seated)*

P Trusting in the promise of eternal life given to us in Christ's death and resurrection, we come before our Lord in prayer:

P O God the Father in heaven,

C **have mercy on us.**

P O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C **have mercy on us.**

P O God the Holy Spirit,

C **have mercy on us and grant us your peace.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. We give you thanks and praise for the hope of the resurrection and the life to come which we have in you. Give us your comfort in our need. Lord, in your mercy;

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Loving Father, give your gracious presence and your saving peace to Bob's family: to his daughter, Teresa and her husband, Tor; to his son, Michael; to his grandchildren: Ryan and his wife, Madison, and Nicole; his brother, Ron; together with all his family and friends. Surround them with your love and comfort them with your strength to meet the days ahead knowing that you are with them always, even to the end of the world. Lord, in your mercy;

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, 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 he 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. Lord, in your mercy;

C **Hear our prayer.**

P O God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor, and the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who now rest in you. Give us, we pray, our portion with those who have trusted in you and have lived out your gracious will in their lives. To your name, with the Church on earth, and the Church in heaven, we give all honor and glory, now and forever. Lord, in your mercy;

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, hear our prayers and receive them for the sake of the crucified and risen One, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Please stand

Commendation

P Into your hands, merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Bob. In the sure and certain hope of our resurrection in Christ, we trust that you acknowledge a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming, and 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.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. The blessing of Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

C Amen.

P Let us go forth in peace.

C In the Name of Christ.


P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

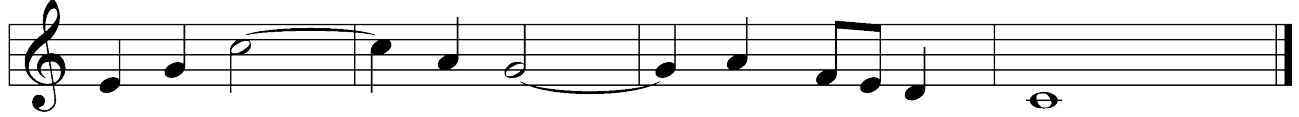
Sending Hymn

“Lift High the Cross” (LSB 837)


Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till




all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

Refrain



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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Postlude “For all the Saints” (Michael Burkhardt)

Following the service today, you are cordially invited to a luncheon in St. John's Fellowship Hall.

Inurnment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Cards and expression of sympathy may be sent to the family at:

Teresa and Tor Bennett
8 Jaymar Court
Stafford, Virginia 22554

The family has directed memorial contributions be made to:

St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310

Please indicate that your memorial is in memory of Robert Rexrode.



Serving This Day:

Officiant/Preacher	Rev. John S. Meehan
Organist	Lois Lehrer
Greeters	Christy Hoins Janet Smith
Ushers	Greg Miller Barbara Pate
AV Team	Mark Gilbertson Jurgen Gobien

Robert W. Rexrode



Col. Robert W. Rexrode died peacefully on June 12, 2024 at his home in Annandale, VA, with family at his bedside. He was predeceased by his parents James and Ona Rexrode of Centreville, Michigan.

He was born August 12, 1939 in Detroit, MI. He graduated from Western Michigan University in 1962 with a BBA Degree, and in 1972, he graduated from Baylor University with a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration. He entered the US Army in 1962 and served for 25 years in the Army Medical Services Corps in Germany, Vietnam, and in numerous stateside assignments. His last assignment was Assistant Chief of Staff and Director of Administration at Walter Reed Medical Center. In 1988, he went into real estate and worked for 23 years, retiring as Principal Broker and Owner of Rexrode Realtors. He served in numerous Fairfax County boards, serving children at risk. Bo was an avid tennis and pickleball player.

Col. Rexrode was predeceased in death by his wife of 58 years, Judith Rexrode, in 2021 and in death by his brother Lt. Col. USA (Ret) Thomas Rexrode, in 2013. He is survived by his daughter Teresa Bennett and her husband Tor Bennett of Stafford, VA; his son Michael Rexrode living in a group home in Springfield, VA; his oldest brother Ron Rexrode of Houston, TX; his grandson Ryan Bennett and wife Madison Bennett of Richmond, VA; and his granddaughter Nicole Bennett of San Diego, CA. The love Bo had for his family is eternal.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 5952 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, VA 22310 on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. A reception will be held at the church following the service. He will be inurned beside his wife at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Acknowledgments:

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St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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