

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

for the life of

Robert A. Honold

April 20, 1935 – March 27, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church - Alexandria, Virginia

Wednesday in the First Week of Easter

April 8, 2026 – 10:30 am



Pre-Service Music

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

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (LSB 461)



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; He lives, and
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my
I shall con - quer death; He lives my man - sion
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.
to pre - pare; He lives to bring me safe - ly there.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.
Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793
Text and tune: Public domain

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 the loving, forgiving Father that He is. By the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, we become inheritors of eternal life through the cleansing blood of Jesus, shed for us and for our salvation.

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

Today, we are gathered here to remember and to celebrate the life given to God's beloved son, 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 the

resurrection. Our faith in Christ reminds us that no matter how painful death may be, it is ultimately 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

First Reading

Isaiah 12:2-5

²“Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the Lord,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
- ²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.
- ³He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Epistle Reading

Revelation 21:1-5

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Holy Gospel

John 11:21-27

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[a] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn

"On Eagles' Wings" (LSB 727)



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
 2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
 4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
 fam - ine will bring you no fear;
 ar - row that flies by day;
 guard you in all of your ways; Though
 Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My
 Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
 thou - sands fall a - bout you,
 on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!"
 faith - ful - ness your shield.
 Near you it shall not come.
 dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain

And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,
 Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the
 sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

Text and tune: Michael Joncas, 1951

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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 children and their spouses: Paul and Nancy, Pam and Steve, Joan and John, Julie and David, Sharon and Joe; his grandchildren and their spouses: Erin, Matthew, Andrew, Lindsay and Tim, John, Jill, Will and Caitlyn, Tom, and Samantha; and his great-grandchild, Mae Louise. 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

Special Music: "Be Still, My Soul"

John M. Paciga

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 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (LSB 465)



1 Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds In
 2 E - ter - nal is the gift He brings, There -
 3 O fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; Set
 Δ 4 A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring And



praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings: "Christ has tri - umphed!
 heart and will on things a - bove That we con - quer
 with the heav'n - ly bless - ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed!



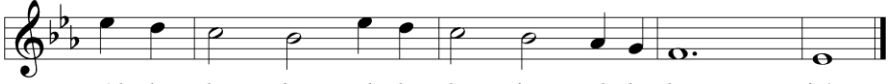
He is liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 He is liv - ing!" Now still He comes to give us
 through Your tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa - ther and our



clear! Re - peat their song of glo - ry
 life And by His pres - ence stills all
 day That by our lives we tru - ly
 Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho - ly



here: "Christ has tri - umphed! Christ has tri - umphed!"
 strife. Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is liv - ing!"
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Paul Z. Strodach, 1876–1947, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köln
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 Tune: Public domain

Postlude



You are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the funeral service.

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

Pam Grimes
 129 Everett Lane
 Fredericksburg, VA 22406

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 Bob Honold
(designate for music needs).*

Or

The Mt. Vernon Ladies Association
3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

Or

The charity of your choice



Serving This Day:

Officiant/Preacher	Rev. John S. Meehan
Pianist	John M. Paciga
Greeter	Christy Hoins
Ushers	Brian Hoins Barbara Pate
Tribute	Steve Grimes Paul Honold
Readers	Jill Paciga John Paciga Paul Honold
Pallbearers	Andrew Grimes Steve Grimes Mark Guilfoil Paul Honold John Paciga



Acknowledgments

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Robert Honold



*(With minimal revisions, the following is
Bob Honold's personally written story.)*

Robert, or Bob, as everyone knew him, was born on April 20, 1935 in the tiny town of Beaufort, Missouri. He was the youngest child of Charles and Clara (nee Schroeder) and had two brothers (Leonard "Spitz" and Wilfred) and two sisters (Ruth Peters and Helen Randolph). His Dad owned the Honold Hardware store in Beaufort which opened for business in 1917. Bob attended a one-room schoolhouse for eight years and then went to Union High School, graduating in 1953. He worked at the hardware store for three years before enlisting in the U.S. Army to "see the world."

After basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, he attended a cartographic drafting class at Fort Belvoir, VA, graduating first in his class. His first assignment in Washington, D. C. happened to be in a building primarily occupied by CIA employees. When his three-year Army obligation ended, Bob was hired by the CIA, where he spent the next 31 years, retiring in 1990.

The most exciting period in his career was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, when the country came very close to war with the Soviet Union. Thanks mostly to the imagery arriving every day from the U-2s and other aircraft flying over Cuba, the Agency monitored

the shipment of Soviet missiles from Cuba back to the Soviet Union. The entire nation breathed a huge sigh of relief.

After retirement, Bob spent the next 15 years in a second career as a contractor for the Boeing Company before embarking on his third and final career as a volunteer at Mount Vernon, just three miles from home. The work came without a paycheck yet proved to be one of the most rewarding and enjoyable chapters of his life. Over the years, he devoted more than 2,000 hours to the historic estate.

Since Bob's father passed away while he was still in high school, he was unable to go to college at the usual time of life. Always interested in art, he enrolled in a correspondence course in commercial art while working at the hardware store. While in the Army, he attended night classes at the Corcoran School of Art in D.C. Then, at the age of 48, after years of attending correspondence courses, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in public administration from Upper Iowa University. Persistence does pay dividends.

On the family side of the story, Bob married his first wife Lois Gieselman in 1959. Son Paul joined the family in 1961, daughters Pamela in 1962 and Joan in 1967. Paul went to Virginia Tech, married his classmate, Nancy Snyder, moved to Florida, and they have two children, Erin and Matthew. Pamela also graduated from Virginia Tech, married her high school classmate, Steven Grimes, and they have two children, Andrew and Lindsay. Joan graduated from James Madison University, married John Paciga, a classmate from New Jersey and they also have two children, John and Jill. What a blessing when kids and grandkids turn out so well!

After more than 30 years of marriage, Bob and Lois parted ways — but love found him again, and in 1998 he married Carol Potts. An Alexandria native, Carol and Bob were both, at different times over

the years, members of Immanuel Lutheran in Alexandria, Bethany Lutheran in Groveton, and St. John's Lutheran on Franconia Road.

After a career in Crystal City at a small patent and copyright business, Carol also became a Mount Vernon volunteer. She had two daughters from her first marriage. Julie went to Valparaiso University and Indiana University, married David Grindle and they have two boys, Will and Tom. Sharon graduated from UVA and the University of Chicago, married Joe Apricena and they have our final grandchild, Samantha (number 9), in this extended family.

Bob's main hobby was vegetable gardening, especially tomatoes, with neighbors and church members enjoying the surplus that he shared. And finally, there is music - singing in the choir of every church he was ever a member of. Bob counted music as vitally important to his faith and life. He especially loved the Holden Evening Prayer service and was often the cantor.

On Friday, March 27, at 90 years old, Bob joined the church triumphant and now sings with the heavenly host. What a glorious finish to a long, blessed life.

Notes and updates from family: While our Dad and "Grandpa Bob" lived through the struggles of dementia the last 5 years of his life, he smiled every day and was affectionately called "Uncle Bob" at Tilden Memory Care. He remained the gracious gentleman we all knew and loved. We would like to thank Wade, Eva, Twum and the entire Tilden family for their loving care and attention as well as his St. John's Lutheran Church family and the dedicated lay ministers for their spiritual care and administering of the Lord's Supper.

In 2023, both Carol and Lois preceded Bob in their passing. Lindsay Grimes married Tim Fogarty in March of 2024, and Will and Caitlyn Grindle were married in May of 2025. Dad became "Great Grandpa Bob" with the birth of Mae Louise, born to Lindsay

and Tim on December 3, 2025. He loved seeing her photos and listening to her giggles. Many of us celebrated Dad's 90th birthday almost a year ago and during a recent visit, Dad and Paul reminisced about their deer hunting adventures. This past Thanksgiving, grandson John Paciga gave him a wonderful gift — a private concert of his favorite Christmas carols, which Bob listened to with pure joy, even singing along. We will always cherish these moments.

We will miss him dearly but as he so eloquently stated, "what a glorious finish to a long, blessed life."