

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

for the life of

***George Henry Bowers Jr.***

May 18, 1941 – August 9, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church - Alexandria, Virginia

*Monday in the Tenth Week after Pentecost*

*August 18, 2025 at 1:30 pm*



**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, George 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!"



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!

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989 Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989  
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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 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, George, 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, George 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 George 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.**

## **Life Remembered**

### **First Reading**

Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody

## Psalm 23



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant  
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 And, oh, what transport of delight  
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
 Thy goodness faileth never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
 Within Thy house forever!

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77

Tune: Irish, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Epistle Reading

1 John 4: 13-19

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love,

but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand*

## Holy Gospel

John 14: 1-6

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

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**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; Though  
guard you in all of your ways; Up -

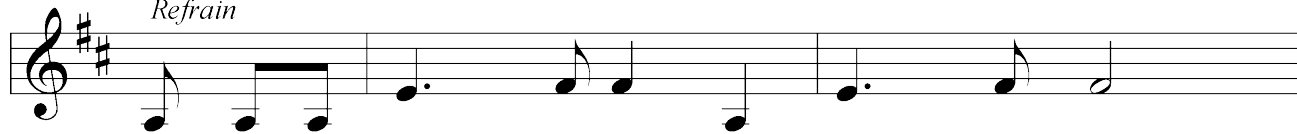


Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My  
Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His  
thou - sands fall a - bout you,  
on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



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

### Meditation

"Gabriel's Oboe" (Ennio Morricone/arr. Mark McGurty)

### 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.

**G** 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 George's family: his wife, Judy; son Bruce; daughters Debbie and Jennifer, and their spouses Mark and Karen; grandchildren Emme & Caroline; together with all his relatives 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, George. 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.**

## Nunc Dimittis

**C** **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. 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

"Just a Closer Walk with thee"

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;  
2. Through this world of toil and snares,  
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,

3

Je - sus, keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat-is-fied as  
If I fal-ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my burden  
Time for me will be no more; Guide me gently, safe-ly

6

long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.  
shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.  
o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.

*Refrain*

9

Just a closer walk with Thee, Grant it, Jesus, if You please?

13

Dai-ly walking close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system (measures 5-8) contains the next three lines. The third system (measures 9-12) contains the refrain. The fourth system (measures 13-16) contains the final line. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with some lines split across measures. The refrain is marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

## Postlude

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

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

Judy Bowers  
7408 Spring Village Drive #JC114  
Springfield, VA 22150

The family has directed memorial contributions be made to:

Koinonia Foundation  
6037 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310

or

Green Spring Benevolent "Scholars Fund"  
Attn: Kimberly Nelson  
7410 Spring Village Drive  
Springfield, VA 22150

*Please indicate that your memorial is in memory of George Bowers.*



## **Serving This Day:**

Officiant/Preacher	Rev. John S. Meehan
Organist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Oboist	Barbara Shearer
Greeters	Christy Hoins
Ushers	Brian Hoins Barbara Pate
AV Team	Mark Gilbertson Jurgen Gobien
Life Remembered	Bruce Bowers, Son Bob Graf, Greenspring Family Mike Nordvall, SJLC
Readers	Barbara Pate Tish Nordvall
Pall Bearers	
Honorary	Bruce Bowers Bill Larew Bob Verse Bob Graf
In Absentia	Ken Pattin Jack Langdon

## **Acknowledgments**

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*Gabriel's Oboe - Ennio Morricone/arr. Mark McGurty; Barbara Shearer, oboe*

*(Orchestral accompaniment adapted by Wilma Jensen; 1997 EMI VIRGIN MUSIC LTD)*

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George Henry Bowers III, currently of Springfield, VA, 84, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, August 9, 2025. He was born in Plainfield, NJ in 1941.

He was the beloved high school sweetheart and husband of 63 years to his wife, Judy Larew Bowers. During those years he and Judy renovated many homes - (not for flipping!) George was a devoted family man, enjoying his children Bruce, Debbie and Jennifer, coaching all their teams and even feeling bad when he called them out as their umpire. He was 'over the moon' to become a grandfather, so he could run "Camp Granny and Grandpa" in Vermont for his amazing grandchildren Emme and Caroline Warren.

He and Judy shared an enduring passion for hospitality and being on the water. They spent many hours sailing their boat 'Vagabond' to overnight rendezvous with Lake Champlain Yacht Club friends or paddling 'Covenant Canoe' early mornings on Lake Champlain. George was passionate about woodworking, golf, body surfing, playing cards- especially a hot round of O'Pshaw with family. He loved being outdoors. George was a master at the Greenspring Dining Services App for several groups including our Saturday evening Greenspring "family", the Monday night Jackson Court 'Girls', the Thursday night 'four friends', most important was our Dinner-for-two-nights.

George was a 'hymn hummer' of confident faith and enjoyed seeing the next generation of Christians being baptized and growing up at St. John Lutheran Church and being the co-host of his 'huddle' Bible study. We know he's teeing off with St. Peter every day now.

George was proud to be an Order of the Arrow Eagle Scout and an Electrical Engineer, who worked for IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY and Essex Junction, VT for thirty-plus years. Finally, George relished retirement and was blessed to enjoy many years after working.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Larew Bowers, his children Bruce Bowers, Debbie Bowers and her husband Mark Warren, and Jennifer Bowers and her wife Karen Plocharski, his grandchildren Emme and Caroline Warren, his sister Kathie Verse and her husband Robert, his brother Donald Bowers. He also was often the ring leader of mischief for his many nieces and nephews, Lara Bowers, Phil Bowers, Ally Ferriero, Meghan Major, Cynthia Verse, Peter Verse, David Bowers, Scott Larew, Matthew Larew, and Ryan Larew.

He was pre-deceased by his parents George H. Bowers, Jr. and Katherine, his in-laws Dot and Ted Larew, and a younger brother David Bowers.