

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

for the life of

Raivo Vest

August 7, 1939 – June 11, 2025

St. John's Lutheran Church

Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday in the Second Week after Pentecost

June 21, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.



Pre-Service Music

"Ave Maria" (Schubert)

Welcome

Opening Rite *(please stand and face the back of the church)*

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

C Amen.

The casket is covered with the funeral pall, reminding us of how in holy Baptism we are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

P In holy Baptism, Raivo 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!

Processional Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318

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 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 Raivo, 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, Raivo 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 Raivo, 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

Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

⁹What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹²I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

¹⁴I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-7

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." ⁶And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 10:7-18

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

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Hymn of the Day

"Morning has Broken"

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon
Music: Gaelic traditional
Text © David Higham Associates, Ltd.

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us God's 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

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 Raivo's family: his children and their spouses: Erika and Grayson, Karl and Rachel; his grandchildren: Grayson, Jackson, Isabelle, Coralynn, and Daphne; and to 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.

Commendation

P Into your hands, merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Raivo. Acknowledge, we pray, 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.

C Amen.

Benediction

P May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

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.

Recessional Hymn

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"



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

Postlude



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

Interment will take place at 2:00 pm today:

Garden of Faith Memorial Garden
5598 Trumps Mill Road,
Baltimore, MD 21206
(FAMILY ONLY PLEASE)

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to:

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

*Please indicate that your memorial is in memory of
Raivo Vest.*

Serving This Day:

Officiant/Preacher	Rev. John S. Meehan
Organist	David Leahey
Greeters	Joe Godwin
	Christy Hoins
	Karen Kemmet
Ushers	Barbara Pate
	Greg Miller
AV Team	Greg Auld
	Mark Gilbertson



Acknowledgments

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Raivo Vest, 85, of Springfield, VA passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2025. Loving husband to the late Norma Ann Vest; devoted father of Karl Vest and his wife Rachel, and Erika Topping and her husband C. Grayson; Grandfather of Grayson, Jackson, Isabelle, Coralynn, and Daphne.

Raivo was born in Estonia in 1939. Although Estonia declared neutrality at the outbreak of World War 2, when Raivo was just 10 months old, Estonia was invaded and overtaken. The country was repeatedly contested, invaded, and occupied throughout the war. Raivo's father was taken as a prisoner of war, while Raivo and his mother were ultimately forced to flee the country. They spent the remainder of the War as displaced persons in Europe. The Estonian population loss by the end of the war has been estimated at 25%.

Raivo and his mother immigrated to the United States, and became naturalized citizens. Raivo attended Johns Hopkins and Penn State University, where not only did he earn a PhD in Electrical Engineering, but he also he met the love of his life.

Raivo and Norma enjoyed living in central Pennsylvania, but ultimately moved to the DC metropolitan area to further their careers.

Raivo had an incredible ability not just to learn and understand, but to mentor others in many aspects of life. His work and contributions to the Department of Defense are known throughout the community and internationally.

Raivo has been an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Alexandria. He worked to preserve his Estonian heritage, and passed some of those memories on to his family, through Estonian School, events at the Baltimore Estonian House, the Estonian Men's Choir, folk dancing, and the Saint Marks Estonian Church in Baltimore.

Raivo was a loving father, grandfather, and husband, and has left behind many cherished memories in the hearts of his family and friends.