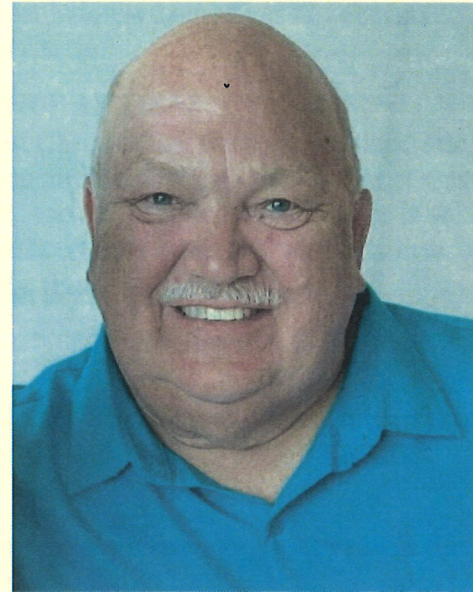


**Celebration of Life  
for  
Gregory George Cook**



**September 1, 1960 ~ August 25, 2024**

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**Messiah Lutheran Church  
Saturday, August 31, 2024  
11:00 A.M.**

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**Officiating** *Pastor Timothy McDermott*

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**Pianist** *Barb Sorensen*  
**Soloist** *Mary Anne Dundas*  
**Reader** *Toby Berberich*  
**Family Speakers** *Joshua Cook, Shayla Cook, Nic Cook*  
**Urn Bearers** *Joshua Cook, Nic Cook*

**Pall Bearers**  
*Dawn Nazarenius      Denise Osborn      Dora Cook*  
*Darla Remus          Danelle Wersal      Rick Cook*  
*Doug Cook             Annie Huisman      Jason Cook*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## PRAYER FOR CONSOLATION

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

**This is most certainly true.**

## 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.

**This is most certainly true.**

## OPENING HYMN

*On Eagle's Wings*

(ELW 787)

### Verse 1

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, who abide in this shadow for life, say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

### Chorus

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

### Verse 2

The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear; under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. **Chorus**

### Verse 3

You need not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day; though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. **Chorus**

### Verse 4

For to the angels God's given a command to guard you in all of your ways; upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. **Chorus**

### Final Chorus

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand; and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.



**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Gregory George Cook. 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 us who mourn. Give us your aid, so that we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

*Psalm 121*

*(Toby Berberich)*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

*John 14:1-6*

*(Toby Berberich)*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 11:25-27*

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**ANTHEM**

*Amazing Grace, Our Chains are Gone*

*(Mary Anne Dundas)*



## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life, and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Grant us grace to entrust Greg to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people.

**Hear us, Lord.**

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 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## FAMILY REMEMBRANCE

### LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### ANTHEM

*Softly and Tenderly*

*(Mary Anne Dundas)*

### SENDING

Let us commend Greg to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*{Silence for Reflection}*

### COMMENDATION

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Gregory George Cook. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a child 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.**

### 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.**

Let us go forth in peace.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*How Great Thou Art*

(ELW 856)

**Verse 1**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

**Chorus**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!

**Verse 2**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

**Chorus**

**Verse 3**

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin;

**Chorus**

**Verse 4**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

**Chorus**

**POSTLUDE**

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*The family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and kindness.*

*The Committal will take place at the Church of Japanese Martyrs Cemetery in Leavenworth, MN at 3:00 p.m.*

*A Fellowship Meal will occur immediately following the service.*



**Gregory George Cook**  
**September 1, 1960 — August 25, 2024**  
**North Mankato, MN**

*Gregory George Cook passed away August 25th, 2024 with his family by his side. He fought a courageous three-month battle with cancer and was taken into God's arms unexpectedly Sunday evening.*

*Greg was born on September 1st, 1960 in Sleepy Eye, MN to Melvin and Marie (Windschitl) Cook. He graduated from Sleepy Eye High School in 1979. There he was a standout baseball player who accumulated many accolades, including playing in the 1979 Lions All-Star games. His passion for baseball never faded- he went on to play amateur ball in Leavenworth for several years. And as his father had shared his love for baseball with him, he would go on to share that passion with his sons, coaching their teams and upholding that love for baseball within his family.*

*On December 10th, 1994 Greg was married to Stacie Holland at Zion Lutheran Church in Hanska, MN. They had three children together: Joshua, Shayla and Nicholas. His family was his greatest joy.*

*For 25 years, Greg worked at Downs Food Group. He spent his entire life in the food industry and enjoyed the friendships and connections he made throughout his career. He enjoyed sharing his love for food with the people around him and was an exceptional cook.*

*Greg was active in many organizations throughout his life. He was on the Madelia Chamber Board, as well as Church and Baseball Boards. He received the Oscar Sorbel hometown hero award for his years of volunteer contributions to the Madelia Community. Greg was humble and full of grace. He always had a hand to lend to those in need.*

*Most of all, we remember Greg for his infectious smile, his quick wit and genuine laugh. He was a traveler, hunter, coach, and a light to everyone who loved him. The warmth of his presence and positive outlook on the world gave those around him a lens to see things the way he did, with openness and grace.*

*He is survived by his wife, Stacie; their children, Joshua of North Mankato, Shayla (partner, Diante) of St. Paul, and Nicholas of North Mankato; his siblings, Dawn (Dave) Nazarenus, Denise (Jerry) Osborn, Dora Cook (partner, Butch), Darla Remus (partner, Joe), Nellie Wersal (partner, Steve), Rick Cook (partner, Paula), Doug (Melanie) Cook, Annie (Darren) Huisman, and Jason (Michelle) Cook.*

*Greg was preceded in death by his parents, Mel and Marie Cook; parents-in-law, Suzanne and Dennis Holland; and several aunts and uncles.*

*Visitation will be held from 5-7pm, Friday, August 30, 2024 at Northview – North Mankato Mortuary. Memorial service will be 11am, Saturday, August 31, 2024 at Messiah Lutheran Church in North Mankato with visitation one hour prior. Burial will follow at the Japanese Martyrs Cemetery in Leavenworth.*