

The Service of Christian Burial

+Richard C. Behnke+

April 22, 1932-December 10, 2023

801 How Great Thou Art



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!

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989

Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899-1989

Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003214

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The casket may be covered with a funeral pall.

Remembrance of Baptism

P In Holy Baptism Richard 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, in order that, just 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.**

Introit: *Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 6*

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C **The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

C **He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.**

P Even 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.

C **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

C **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.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C **Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to *[name]* and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in 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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 25:6–9*

⁶On 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.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He 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.
⁹It 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.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

1. “I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you where but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.”
2. “When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.”
3. “In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.”
4. “I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.”

Epistle: *1 Corinthians 15:51–57*

⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse

A Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C **to Him be glory and power forever.**

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: *John 11:17–27*

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

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

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. 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. 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 This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

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,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Reading of the Obituary

Richard C. (Dick) Behnke was born on April 22, 1932, in Shawano, WI, the 4th son of Robert and Marie (Hess) Behnke. He graduated from Shawano High in 1950 following four sports-filled high school years. His basketball skills even took Shawano High to an unexpected Championship his senior year! Following graduation, he enlisted in the US Navy in 1951, and served for four years as a Corpsman 3rd Class - assistant to the doctors. He was honorably discharged in February 1955 and returned to Shawano where he began dating his sister Betty's best friend, Sharon Berg, at Betty's wedding.

Dick and Sharon married on November 5, 1955, at Faith Methodist Church in Shawano. Following their wedding, they moved to Milwaukee, WI, where it soon became apparent that Dick was being led to further his education by attending college. He spent one year at UW – Milwaukee, but Winona State College was chosen to conclude his bachelor's degree with the intent of becoming a teacher. He graduated in 1959. His first teaching job was at the high school in Weyauwega, WI, where he also coached various sports. After a year, they moved to Reedsville, WI, where he also taught high school and coached. They stayed in Reedsville for almost five years and during that time, he received his Master's in Education from Northern Michigan University in Marquette through taking classes over two summers. He was compelled to take his education even further by pursuing his Doctorate Degree from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN.

Following his graduation from IU in 1966, the family moved to Stevens Point WI where he taught at UW - Stevens Point. In 1969, he returned to his Alma Mater of Winona State to begin his professorship

in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Dept. He became a well-respected prof who expected nothing but the best from his students. He also taught the DUI classes in Winona for many years. Dick also served on the Winona school board for a number of years. He taught at Winona State until his retirement in 1993.

Following retirement, he and Sharon traveled, volunteered for Meals on Wheels, and for their church, Redeemer Lutheran, where they have been members for over 50 years! Dick loved to golf and was a regular at Westfield Golf Course and enjoyed many rounds of golf throughout his life!! Unlike some good friends, a Hole in One eluded his scorecard! He was also a huge Green Bay Packers fan and enjoyed all of his game watching time and was especially thrilled to have been able to attend several games at Lambeau Field.

Dick loved his grandchildren and spending time with them. Many memories with them include Elderhostels, attending theatrical, dance, and sporting events, traveling, confirmations, graduations, weddings, and about anything that worked out for him and Sharon to attend! He was especially blessed to get to see great-grandchildren join the family!

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Sharon; and their children: Vaunie (Chris) Weaver, Plymouth, WI; Jody (Mike Layton) Thiele, Winona; Tim (Wendy) Behnke, Winona; and Brad (Jill) Behnke, Mahtomedi, MN. He and Sharon have 12 grandchildren: Kinley (Tim) Bush and Kelsey (Zak) Paulus; Katelynn Lange and Danielle (Jaran) Defries; Zachary Behnke (Heidi Lee, fiancée), Bethany Behnke (Aaron Berkowitz), Marissa Behnke, Monica Behnke, Matthew Behnke, and Sophia Behnke; and Max Behnke and Cameron Behnke; plus 3 great-grandchildren: Lucius (Lange) Reed; Oliver Bush; and Milah Defries. He is also survived by his daughter, Cathy (Mark) Peters, Suamico, WI; grandchildren: Jennifer Anderson (Andre) Pells, Stephen (Tracy) Peters, and Dale (Jenny) Peters; and 10 great-grandchildren: McCullan Anderson, Ireland Anderson, and Rowan Pells; Ian Peters, Josephine Peters, and Madelyn Peters; and Emryn Peters, Eowyn Peters, Roland Peters, and Ari Peters. His youngest of two sisters, Betty Lemke, Ocala, FL; and sister-in-law, Carmen Timm, Shawano, WI, also survive him along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, one sister, a great grand-daughter, Riven Peters, and many friends and relatives who he is now celebrating with in Heaven.

He will be laid to rest at a future date at Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona, MN, to await the Lord's call on that great Last Day.

Sit

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: “Joyful Hope”Isaiah 25:6-9

Kneel/Stand

Prayer of the Church

- P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.
- P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into 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 peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Give to the family of Dick and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive our thanks for Dick and for all the blessings You bestowed on him in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with him we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will 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.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

744 Amazing Grace



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

Nunc Dimittis

A “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

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.**

A “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

Concluding Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P May God the Father, who created this body; may God the T Son, who by His blood redeemed this body; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction and Dismissal

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace,
C **in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

Letters to Dad

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
When my life is al - most gone,
And the day is al - most gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

Text and tune: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993

Text and tune: © 1938 (renewed) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003214

Acknowledgments

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.