

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

The Order
of a
Christian Funeral



Born to John Sr. & Rose Meyer – July 2, 1959

Baptized into Christ Jesus – February 24, 1963

✝ John L. Meyer, Jr. ✝

Entered into His Glory – Saturday, May 13, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Westminster, MA

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

Though we mourn, we mourn with hope in Christ.

As we remember and give thanks to God for John, the central focus of the Christian funeral remains our Lord Jesus Christ.

God said to Adam: "You are dust and you will turn back into dust." Because sin came into the world by that one man, and by sin came death, and so death spread to all human beings because all of us have sinned. If we die unforgiven, we have no future but eternal darkness and the fury of unending fire. But there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because He was charged with all our sins and executed in our place, and He rose again to declare us innocent through faith in Him. If we claim that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and His blood cleanses us from all our unrighteousness. And just as everyone who is in Adam dies, so everyone who is in Jesus Christ will be made alive. To all who turn from their sins and trust in Him, He brings life and immortality through His Gospel, now for our souls, here and in heaven, and soon for our bodies as well, because our Redeemer is alive, and He will stand on earth on the last Day, and though worms destroy these bodies, yet in our flesh we will see God, for we will be raised.

Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering those who have gone before us in Christian faith. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please turn off or silence all cell phones or other devices. Thank you.

The Funeral Service for John L. Meyer, Jr. (1959–2023)..... May 18, 2023

OPENING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 725

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.</p> <p>2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.</p> | <p>3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.</p> <p>4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.</p> |
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THE INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

In Holy Baptism John Louis Meyer, Jr., was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sins. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

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.

THE ENTRANCE PSALM

Psalms 73:23–28; antiphon v. 24

*You guide me with Your counsel,
and afterward You will receive me to glory.*

*I am continually with You;
You hold my right hand.*

*You guide me with Your counsel,
and afterward You will receive me to glory.*

*Whom have I in heaven but You?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You.*

*My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.*

*For behold, those who are far from You shall perish;
You put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to You.*

But for me it is good to be near God;

I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

You guide me with Your counsel,

and afterward You will receive me to glory.

THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to John 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. Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Isaiah 43:1–3a, 25

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

the Psalmody: Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

from the Letters: Romans 8:31–39

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hallelujah, hallelujah! Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

to Him be glory and power forever. Hallelujah!

from the Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25–30; 18:1–4

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

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, 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE: TLH 200 – TEXT: TLH 461, STS. 1–2, 5–8

**1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.**

**2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.**

**3 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.**

**4 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.**

5 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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The Sermon

HYMN OF RESPONSE – TUNE: TLH 660 – TEXT: LSB 748

- 1 I'm but a stranger here, heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear, heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand
Round me on ev'ry hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.
- 2 What though the tempest rage, heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast
Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.
- 3 Therefore I murmur not, heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.

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The Prayer of the Church

after each petition:

Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

John 11:25–26 NIV; Luke 2:29–32

“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.”

Now, Lord, You dismiss Your servant in peace, as You have promised, for my eyes have seen the Salvation You prepared before the face of all people, a Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

“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.”

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

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. Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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 ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN—TUNE & TEXT: LSB 752

**1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

- 2 **Be still, my soul; your God will undertake**
 To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 **Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart**
 And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
 Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 **Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on**
 When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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*The committal will follow immediately after the service at Forest Hill Cemetery in Fitchburg.
Following the committal, you are invited to join in fellowship and light refreshments.*

Officiant

Rev Peter F. Gregory

Organist

Anne Bennet

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