

# Trinity Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING  
FOR THE LIFE OF NATHAN EUGENE JOHNSON

January 29, 1980—October 25, 2021

Rev. Robert E. Smith

11:00 am

November 22, 2021

## WORDS OF COMFORT AND THANKSGIVING

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed.

In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (*1 Corinthians 15:12,20-22,50-52,55-57*)

## HYMN

### "I'm But a Stranger Here"

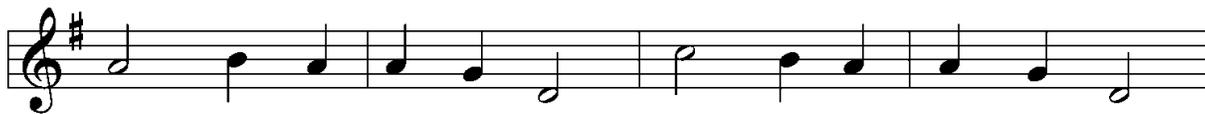
#748



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;  
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;  
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.  
Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;  
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;  
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;  
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.  
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.  
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

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## PSALM 23

## THE PRAYER

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Provide 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.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### “Whom Shall I Fear”

Troubadours/Congregation

You hear me when I call — You are my morning song  
Though darkness fills the night — It cannot hide the light  
Whom shall I fear  
You crush the enemy — Underneath my feet  
You are my sword and shield — Though troubles linger still  
Whom shall I fear

***Refrain:* I know who goes before me — I know who stands behind  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side  
The one who reigns forever — He is a friend of mine  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side**

My strength is in Your name — For You alone can save  
You will deliver me — Yours is the victory  
Whom shall I fear — Whom shall I fear

***Refrain:* I know who goes before me — I know who stands behind  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side  
The one who reigns forever — He is a friend of mine  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side**

BRIDGE: And nothing formed against me shall stand  
You hold the whole world in Your hands  
I'm holding on to Your promises  
You are faithful — You are faithful — You are faithful

***Refrain:* I know who goes before me — I know who stands behind  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side  
The one who reigns forever — He is a friend of mine  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side  
The God of angel armies — Is always by my side**

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

THE GOSPEL LESSON

John 14: 1-6

RESURRECTION MESSAGE

Rev. Robert E Smith

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

### “How Great Thou Art”

#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!”

*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!

## **PRAYER**

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, O Lord.**

Allow 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 gate of death and the grave we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

Provide to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, Your Holy Spirit that He may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

Give to Your faithful people pardon and peace that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve You with a quiet mind.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

Sustain in 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, O Lord.**

Instill courage and faith in the bereaved that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope, in the communion of Your Church, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith.

**Hear us, O Lord.**

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

## **LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)**

**Our Father, which art in heaven Hallowed be Thy Name  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done On earth as it I in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our debts As we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For Thine is the Kingdom  
and the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

## He Lives

ALFRED H. ACKLEY, 1887-1960

ALFRED H. ACKLEY, 1887-1960



1. I serve a ris-en Sav-ior, He's in the world to-day; I know that He is  
 2. In all the world a-round me I see His lov-ing care, And tho my heart grows  
 3. Re-joice, re-joice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing E-ter-nal hal-le-



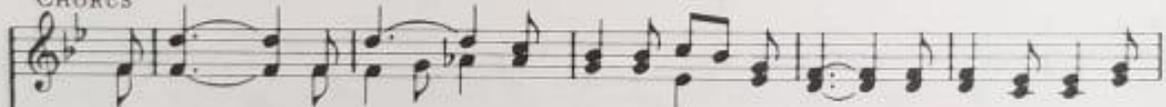
liv-ing, what-ev-er men may say; I see His hand of mer-cy, I  
 wea-ry I nev-er will de-spair; I know that He is lead-ing thru  
 lu-jahs to Je-sus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek Him, the



hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him He's al-ways near.  
 all the storm-y blast, The day of His ap-pear-ing will come at last.  
 help of all who find, None oth-er is so lov-ing, so good and kind.



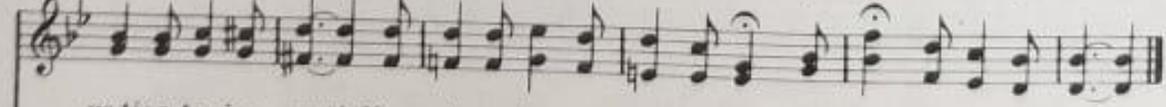
## CHORUS



He lives, He lives, Christ Je-sus lives to-day! He walks with me and  
 He lives, He lives,



talks with me a - long life's nar-row way. He lives, He lives, sal-  
 He lives, He lives,



va-tion to im-part! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.





Nathan Eugene Johnson was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado on January 29, 1980 to Debra and Larry Johnson. He is the youngest of three, the “baby” of the family. A long time trouble maker, Nate met his match in March 2009 when his friend set him up on “a blind date that went wrong”. After one year of long distance courting and one year together in California, Nathan and Karen got married in Cripple Creek, Colorado on June 18, 2011. They settled down in Desert Hot Springs, California.

Nate was a heavy equipment operator in Colorado for twelve years. He often said he was a bigger kid in a bigger sandbox. When Nate moved to California, he switched to automotives. He worked as a tire and lube tech until the birth of his first son in 2012 when he took a year off to be a stay-at-home dad. During that time, Nathan took classes at College of the Desert then was hired as an Automotive Technician for Ford in June of 2013. In 2014, their second son was born. Nate

worked for the Ford dealership in Yucca Valley until April 2020 when he was laid off due to the business slow-down. He spent the rest of that school year and the next one helping his boys with distance learning.

Nathan was a loving father, a phenomenal husband, an amazing son, an awesome brother who was very encouraging in his own way, a supportive son-in-law, and a fierce friend.

Nathan was baptized on September 20, 2012 at Christ Lutheran Church in Desert Hot Springs. He passed away on October 25, 2021 in Rancho Mirage, CA with his mother, brothers, and his wife by his side. He is survived by his wife, Karen, their children, Nathan and Matthew, his mother, Debra, his brothers, Frank (Amy) and Jeremy (Andrea), his nieces and nephews, and many friends.

*The LWML ladies of Trinity Lutheran invite you to gather for lunch in the Fellowship Center following the service.*