

“Do Not Be Afraid. I Am The First And The Last, The Living One.”
By Rudolf Schärer

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 W. Tidwell, Houston, TX 77091 • 713-290-9087 • www.OSL.cc

Dr. Laurence White, Officiating • Jeff Armstrong, Organist

*The death of a Christian has been transformed from tragedy into victory by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the moment of physical death the soul of the believer is safe at home in heaven with their Lord. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that those who remain - for a time - here on earth, would gather to celebrate God's gift of life and savor the memories of blessings received through our beloved who now lives with Christ in heaven. We affirm the faith in which they lived and through which they have been given eternal life in the sanctuary where they received the forgiveness of sins in Word and sacrament. **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."** (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*



COVER ILLUSTRATION – “I Am The First And the Last” by Dr. Rudolf Schäfer presents the awesome vision of our Lord Jesus as He revealed himself to the apostle John in the opening scene of the Book of Revelation. There Christ was standing amid the seven golden lamps which signified the church. Schäfer captures the essence of the vision as Christ upon the cross, shedding His precious blood to win forgiveness for the sins of mankind, dominates the entire image. Our Lord's humble entrance into this world as the Babe of Bethlehem is shown in the left foreground. A joyful choir of angels proclaims the Christmas gospel above the stable and a gleaming star announces the Savior's birth. In the right foreground stands the empty tomb with its resplendent guardian angel so that all might know that Jesus has conquered death for us. The beautiful life promise of the rainbow extends from the cross to the open door of the tomb. The risen Lord walks in the nearby garden behind the tomb awaiting the arrival of the women. The angels ascending from the empty tomb are carrying home the life harvest of God's people. Over all is the extended hand of God the Father surrounded by the countless hosts of heaven, prophets and apostles, faithful men and women of God (including Martin Luther), those who have already received their share of God's gracious gift of eternal life. Schäfer painted this masterpiece for the altar of the village church in Oberjesigen, Germany.

*A Service of Thanksgiving
Celebrating God's Gift of Eternal Life For*



Alan Ray Fritsche

June 24, 1949 - October 8, 2023

+ + +

Prelude

Going Home

Text: William Arms Fisher; Music: Antonin Leopold Dvořák; Arranged by: Mike Magatagan 2012

Jubilate Choir

Going home, going home, I'm just going home. Quiet-like, slip away, I'll be going home.

It's not far, just close by; Jesus is the door; work all done, laid aside, fear and grief no more.

Friends are there, waiting now, He is waiting too. See His smile! See His hand! He will lead me through.

Morning star lights the way; restless dream all done; shadows gone, break of day, life has just begun.

Every tear wiped away, pain and sickness gone; wide awake there with Him! Peace goes on and on!

Going home, going home, I'll be going home. See the light! See the Sun! I'm just going home.

I'm just going home.

Opening Hymn

In the Garden

Text: C. Austin Miles; Tune: "Garden"



1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the
2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the



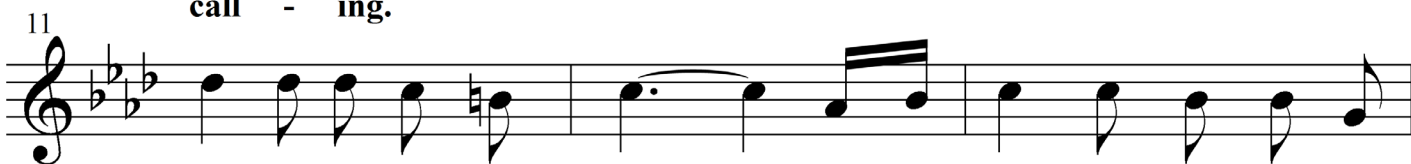
dew is still on the ros - es; And the
sweet the birds hush their sing - ing, And the
night a - round me be fall - ing, But He



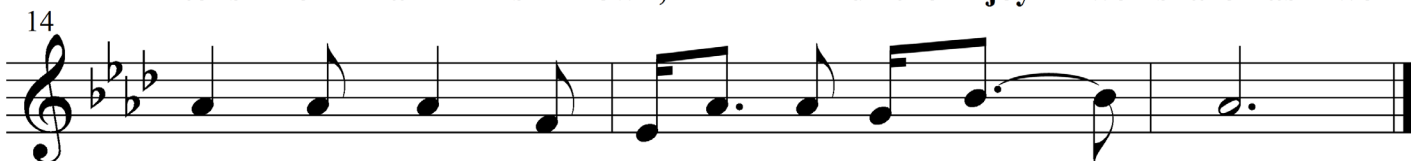
voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear, The Son of God dis -
mel - o - dy that He gave to me With - in my heart is
bids me go; through the voice of woe, His voice to me is



clos - es. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He
ring - ing.
call - ing.



tells me I am His own; And the joy we share as we



tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er known.

Invocation

Opening Prayers



Scripture Readings

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

“Be still, and know that I am God.

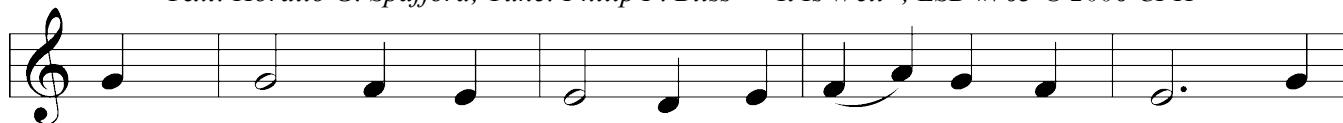
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Hymn

When Peace, like a River

Text: Horatio G. Spafford; Tune: Philip P. Bliss – “It Is Well”; LSB #763 © 2006 CPH



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

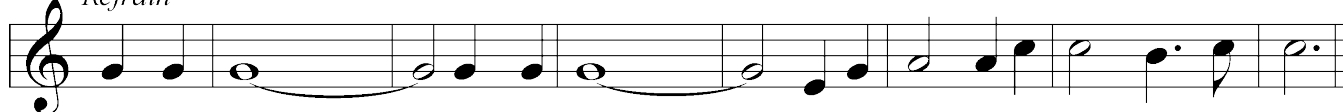


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

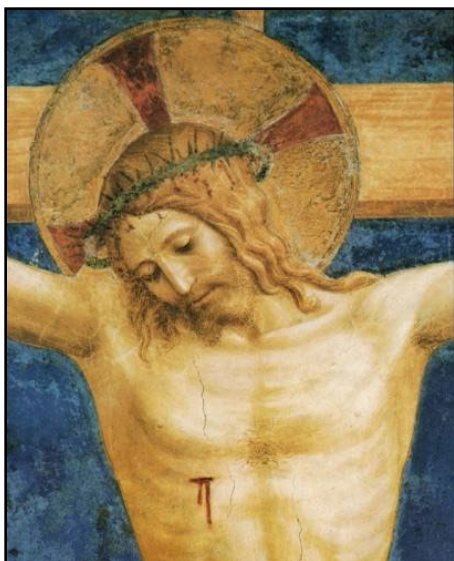


It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text and tune: Public domain

Philippians 3:8–14

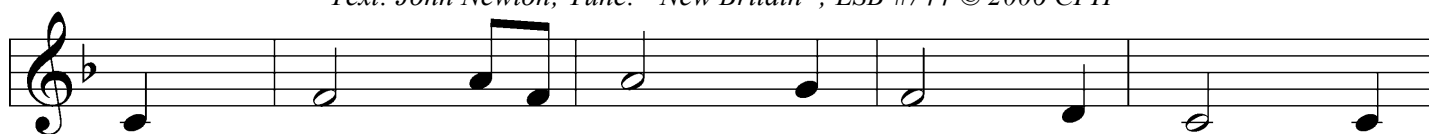
[8] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ [9] and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— [10] that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, [11] that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. [12] Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. [13] Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, [14] I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



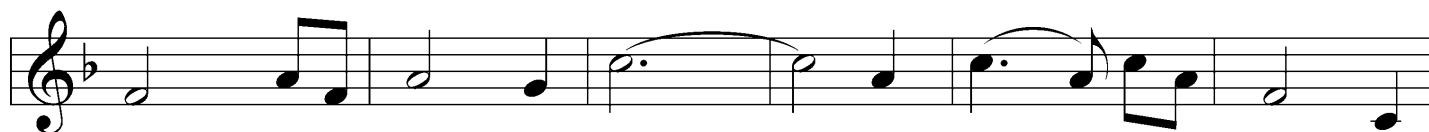
Hymn

Amazing Grace

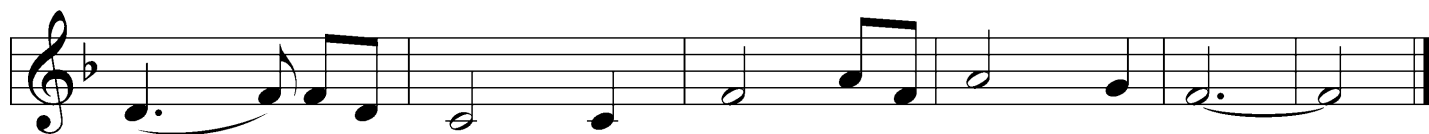
Text: John Newton; Tune: "New Britain"; LSB #744 © 2006 CPH



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.

Micah 6:6–8

[6] “With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? [7] Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? [8] He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Ministry of Music

Give Me Jesus

*Words: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: John R. Sweney;
Arrangement: Tom Fettke; © 2002 by Majestic Eagle
Publishing Co.
Jubilate Choir*

*In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.
O when I am alone, O when I am alone,
O when I am alone, give me Jesus.
From depths of sin I cry, from depths of sin I cry,
from depths of sin I cry, give me Jesus.
O, when I come to die, O when I come to die,
O when I come to die give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.*



Jeremiah 29:11

[11] For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. [13] You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Sermon Hymn

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm; Tune: William M. Runyan – “Faithfulness”; LSB #809 © 2006 CPH



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

Text: Public domain; Tune: Public domain

Sermon

There is no more poignant or powerful opportunity for the proclamation of the Biblical message of Law and Gospel than the moments in which Christians celebrate the home-going of a loved one to eternal life in the mansions of heaven. The funeral sermon is designed to declare that wondrous Gospel and to set before all present this day the truth that every believer is a sinner saved by grace alone. Salvation cannot be earned. It can only be given as a free gift by the God whose love for us moved Him to give His only Son to die in our place upon the cross so that we might live with Him forever.



Obituary

Alan Fritsche

It is with sad hearts we announce that Alan Ray Fritsche was called home to the Lord on October 8, 2023, in an Athens, Greece hospital with his loving wife by his side. This was due to a tragic accident on the last night of a cruise. He and Sandy were blessed to be sharing this cruise to the Holyland with cousins Dale & Anita Fritsche, a trip they had both hoped to experience for many years. The trip was incredibly spiritual and moving, being in the land where Jesus walked, and to experience the Bible come to life, our precious God's perfect planning.

Alan was born June 24, 1949, to Alvin A. Fritsche & Helen Mae Mitschka, both of whom preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, of 50+ years, brothers Alvin Fritsche, Robert & wife Carol Fritsche, sister Charlotte Fritsche, nephew & godson, Michael & wife Sue & niece & godchild Michelle Fritsche & husband Jordan Anderson, nephew Josh Hines, goddaughter, Jamie Manning & husband Tim & their children Megan & Kolten, niece Robin Lester & daughter Ashley & family, nephew Rob Fritsche, wife Diane & niece Mackinzie, nephew Rev. Joel Fritsche, wife Clarion, nephews Viktor, Sergei & Andrei, nephew Ken Fritsche, wife Lee & sons Zachary Fritsche & wife Jenn James, Jacob & wife Kayla Fritsche, niece Erin Whitfield, husband Mark & their children, Ian & Alexandra.

Alan & Sandy met in Myrtle Beach, SC, the summer of '72, on a blind date, on his 23rd birthday, June 24th, and to Sandy's shock & surprise he proposed on her birthday 30 days later, on July 24th. Much debate went on for the next 4 weeks until Alan proposed a gin rummy game that the winner would make the call. Well, Sandy being the competitive person she was (and confident she would win), she agreed. Alan's winning hand was framed, and the engagement began on August 24, 1972, and off to Texas they went. They were married on April 28, 1973, at Trinity Lutheran Church Downtown Houston, by Pastor Donald Black, less than one year after they met. And they said it would never last – this headstrong “Yankee” girl and this easy going, laid back, homegrown Texas boy.

Alan was proud of his military career, specializing in EOD (Explosive Ordinance Disposal). After leaving the U.S. Air Force, Alan started working with Cameron Iron Works, moving up quickly into middle management. After the oil industry had the big bust in '83, Alan ultimately went to work at the City of Houston, Parks & Recreation, from which he retired after 30 years as Sr. Superintendent in 2014.

Alan & Sandy traveled the USA a lot, sharing vacations with family & friends throughout their careers. However, when they retired, they looked forward to seeing more of the world. In the 9 years they shared retirement, they managed to take 23 cruises including a few river cruises, several land tours, and a couple of train trips cross country with Amtrak. Travel opened a whole new world out there learning different cultures and making some new and lifelong friends.

Alan cherished his Wendish German roots, and loved serving his church over the years at Our Savior, in evangelism, the choir, handbells, trustees, and just anywhere he could help any time. He and Sandy were a team so when you got one to volunteer, you likely got the other at the same time. Alan was the most laid back, easy going, go-with-the-flow guy ever. He loved helping others, serving His Lord and being a part of OSL in whatever capacity he was needed, so we know he will be dearly missed by many.

Alan's Memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, November 17th, at Our Savior Lutheran, 5000 W. Tidwell Rd, Houston, TX 77091, followed by a reception. There will be an Honor Guard Service at The National VA Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Dr, Houston, TX, at 2:15pm – including the Southeast Texas Patriot Guards. All are welcome to share in any or all. If you are unable to attend Alan's memorial service, please keep the family in your prayers knowing we feel your love and support. In lieu of flowers, please give a memorial in Alan's honor to Our Savior Lutheran Church.

Prayers



The 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.

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise


Text: Herbert F. Brokering; Tune: Carl F. Schalk – “Thine”; LSB #680 © 2006 CPH



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more




lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine-yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen-dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

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