

FUNERAL SERVICE

*To live is Christ and
to die is gain.*

Philippians 1:21

FUNERAL SERVICE FOR LEROY SCHAEFER
SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Stand

INVOCATION

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

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

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

P In Holy Baptism LeRoy Schaefer 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.

Romans 6:3-5

INTROIT

Psalms 39:4-13

P "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.

C "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!

P Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!

C Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

P "And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.

C Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!

P I am mute; I do not open my mouth,
for it is you who have done it.

C Remove your stroke from me;

I am spent by the hostility of your hand.

P When you discipline a man with rebukes for sin, you consume like a moth what is dear to him;

surely all mankind is a mere breath!

C “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!

For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

P Look away from me, that I may smile again,
before I depart and am no more!”


ALL **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 “And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.


Sit

HYMN ~ For Me to Live Is Jesus

742



1 For me to live is Je - sus, To die is gain for me;
2 For Christ, my Lord, my broth - er, I leave this world so dim
3 My woes are near - ly o - ver, Though long and dark the road;
4 Lord, when my pow'rs are fail - ing, My breath comes heav - i - ly,



So when my Sav - ior pleas - es, I meet death will - ing - ly.
And glad - ly seek an - oth - er, Where I shall be with Him.
My sin His mer - its cov - er, And I have peace with God.
And words are un - a - vail - ing, O hear my sighs to Thee.



5 In my last hour, O grant me
A slumber soft and still,
No doubts to vex or haunt me,
Safe anchored in Thy Will;

6 And so to Thee still cleaving
When death shall come to me,
I fall asleep believing
And wake in heav'n with Thee!

Stand

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

- 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.

2 Timothy 4:22

- P** Let us pray.
O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to LeRoy Schaefer 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 ~ *Job 19:23-27*

²³ “Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! ²⁴ Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! ²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, ²⁷ whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!”

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

EPISTLE ~ *Philippians 1:12-14, 19-27*

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having

become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁹ For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE

P Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C to Him be glory and power forever.

Alleluia.

[Revelation 1:5-6]

HOLY GOSPEL ~ *St. Matthew 5:1-12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see

God. ⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.**

Sit

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.

SERMON ~ "To Die Is Gain"*Philippians 1:12-14, 19-27**Stand*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

- P** Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. 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 LeRoy Schaefer 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** Receive our thanks for Lee 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

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

NUNC DIMITTIS

P “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.”

John 11:25-26

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.

Luke 2:29-32

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 “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.”

John 11:25-26

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

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.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

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 ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Officiant

Organist

Elders on Duty

Rev. Steven S. Billings

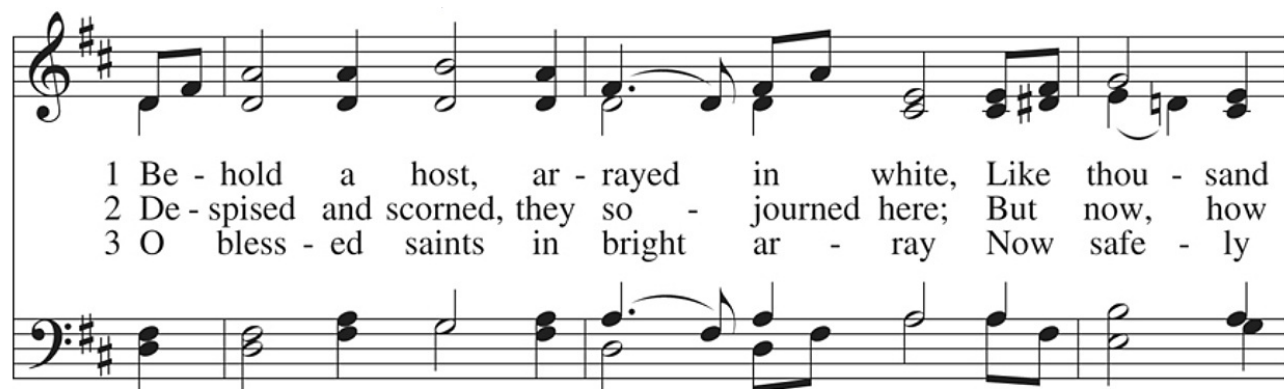
Mrs. Nancy Lephart

Mr. Robert Allen

Mr. Bruce Gast

HYMN ~ Behold a Host, Arrayed in White

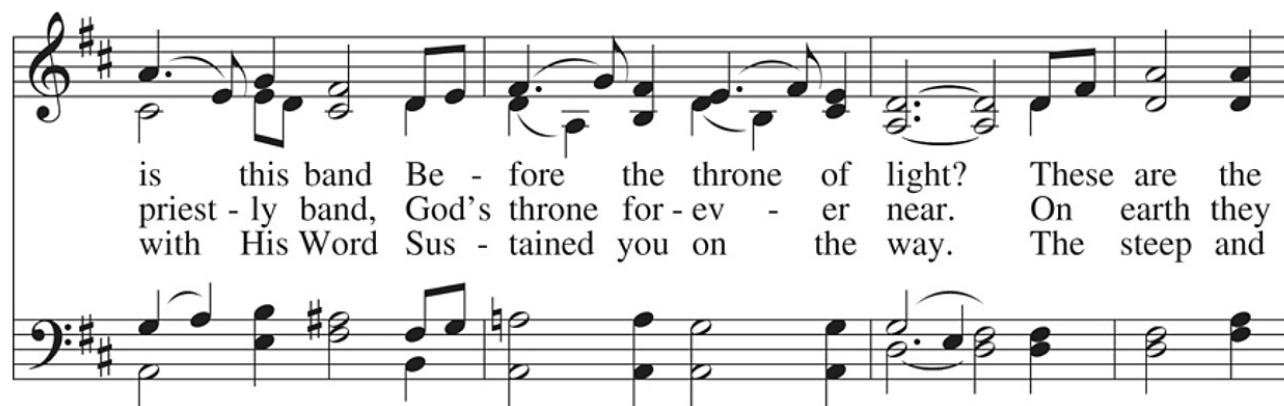
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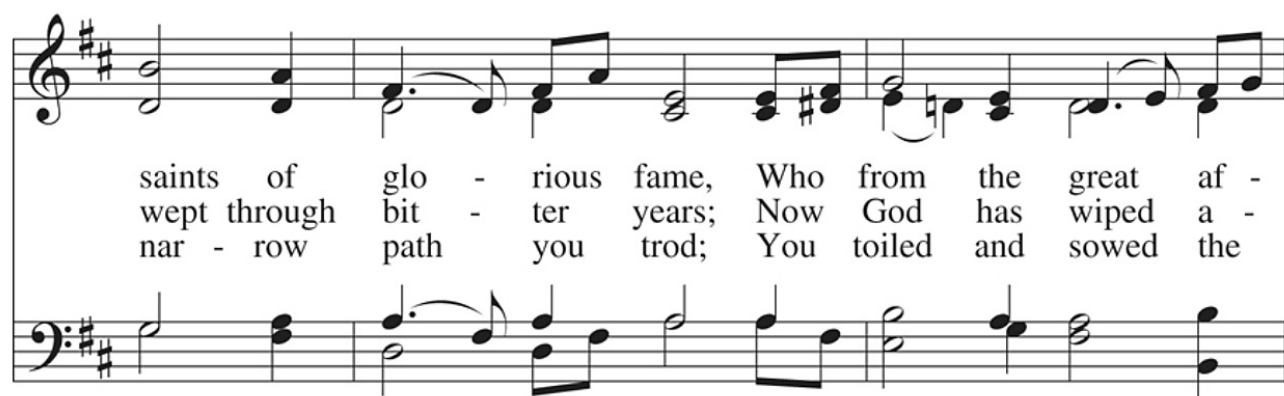
1 Be - hold a host, ar - rayed in white, Like thou - sand
 2 De - spised and scorned, they so - journed here; But now, how
 3 O bless - ed saints in bright ar - ray Now safe - ly



snow - clad moun - tains bright! With palms they stand; Who
 glo - rious they ap - pear! Those mar - tyr's stand, A
 home in end - less day, Ex - tol the Lord, Who



is this band Be - fore the throne of light? These are the
 priest - ly band, God's throne for - ev - er near. On earth they
 with His Word Sus - tained you on the way. The steep and



saints of glo - rious fame, Who from the great af -
 wept through bit - ter years; Now God has wiped a -
 nar - row path you trod; You toiled and sowed the

flic - tion came And in the flood Of Je - sus' blood
 way their tears, Trans - formed their strife To heav'n - ly life,
 Word a - broad; Re - joice and bring Your fruits and sing

Are cleansed from guilt and shame. They now serve God both
 And freed them from their fears. They now en - joy the
 Be - fore the throne of God. The myr - iad an - gels

day and night; They sing their songs in end - less light. Their
 Sab - bath rest, The heav'n - ly ban - quet of the blest; The
 raise their song; O saints, sing with that hap - py throng! Lift

an - thems ring As they all sing With an - gels shin - ing bright.
 Lamb, their Lord, At fes - tive board Him - self is host and guest.
 up one voice; Let heav'n re - joice In our Re - deem - er's song!



LeRoy H. Schaefer, 92, passed away on June 23, 2023. He was born in Wausau, WI on February 26, 1931, to Alois and Katie Schaefer. He attended Carroll College where he played football and hockey, and received a bachelor's degree in education. During this time he enlisted in the Army Reserves. Later in life, he attended UW Stout and received a master's degree in graduate studies. He was employed at Sentry Insurance as a loss control engineer for many years, and was a municipal court judge for the town of Menasha for over 25 years. LeRoy married Eleanor Smith on July 23, 1955. They were together until the time of her passing in 2001. On November, 29, 2003, LeRoy married Mercedes Rosenbohm.

LeRoy was very athletic, and active in coaching all kinds of sports. From basketball to soccer, whatever his kids were doing he was involved in. He was also active with the Boy Scouts Troop 56. He was an avid Packers fan and held season tickets. LeRoy was a devout member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Menasha for most of his life.

He is preceded in death by his first wife, Eleanor; son, Mark; parents, Alois and Katie; siblings, Kenneth (Kay), Jack (Millie), and Bernice (Helmuth); parents-in-law, Arno and Estelle Smith; and brothers-in-law, Don Hartwig and Duane (Mary) Smith.

LeRoy is survived by his wife, Mercedes; children, Michael (Marjorie), Matthew (special friend Stacey), Chris (Stephen), Lisa (Tim) Lemons, and James (Heidi); grandchildren, Bradley (Jody), Ryan (Ann), James, Emily (Tim), Aaron, Rebecca, Joseph, Garrett, Kyle, Alan, Michaela, Nathan, Sarah, Timothy, Alesha (Eric), Emmaus, Uriah, Micaiah, Zipporah, Cephas, Hadassah, and Thaddaeus; great-grandchildren, Kyle, Austin, Hunter, Hailey, Katelyn, Margaret, Natashea, Larissa, Leah, Cooper, Carys, Iris, Jakob, and Archer; great-great-grandchild, Shelby; siblings-in-law, Barbara Hartwig, Phyllis (Frank) Radigan, Alice (Ken) Siewert, Robert Smith, Diane (Arlo) Smith; additional in-laws, Lonnie (Kathy) Wagner, Faythe Weber, Wendy (Charlie) Gehl, Don Wagner, David Wagner, and Michael Wagner; as well as many other beloved family members.

Acknowledgments

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