

A Celebration of Life

Peter Alton Adolphus Nelson



April 20, 1945 – June 5, 2023

August 5, 2023
Calvary Lutheran Church
Richland Hills, TX

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John3:16

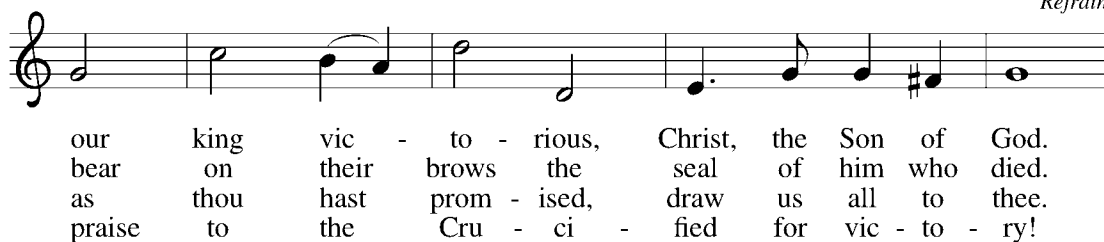
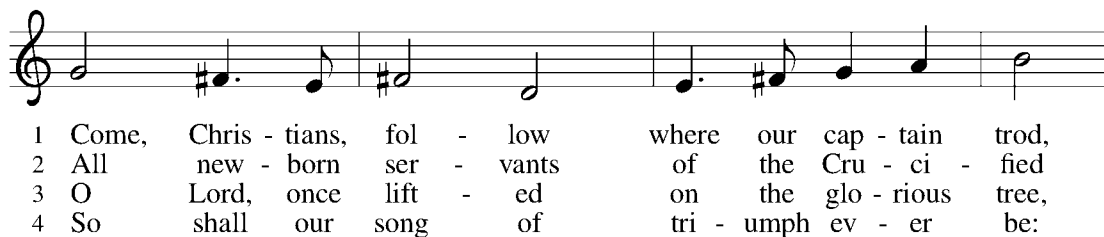
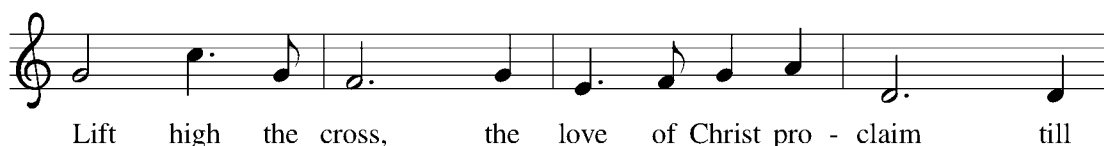
United States Armed Forces Military Honors for Peter Nelson

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C Thanks be to God.

P When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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.

Lift High the Cross



Refrain

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Peter. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console all who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

The 23rd Psalm – spoken in unison

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.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble clef, while the bass clef provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The first system of music covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low;

praise him a - bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Isaiah 25

Joshua Nelson - grandson

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

Romans 8

Presley Nelson – granddaughter

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 14

Zachary Nelson - grandson

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Homily

The Reverend Phillip Heinze

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

The Creed

P We confess the faith of the church throughout the ages, the faith Peter lived and the faith in which he died.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

The Prayers

- P Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of 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 share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain 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 in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Holy Communion

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you**
- P Lift up your hearts
- C We lift them to the Lord**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so,
with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us 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**

The Distribution

The Commendation

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Peter.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your
own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your
mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company
of the saints in light.

C **Into paradise may the angels lead you. At your coming may the martyrs
receive you and bring you into the holy city Jerusalem. May a choir of
angels welcome you, and, where Lazarus is poor no more, may you have
everlasting rest.**

How Great Thou Art as sung by Elvis Presley



The Reverend Phillip Heinze
The Reverend Kyle Rouze
Debbie Villavicencio - organist



On April 20, 1945, Peter Alton Adolphus Nelson was born in St. Paul, MN, to Walfred and Hilda. He was the youngest of 6 children. Peter attended Randolph Heights Elementary and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Peter spent most of his childhood in St. Paul, but also lived in Fort Lauderdale, Florida where his parents built, owned and managed the Val Halla Apartments and Hotel. He was confirmed at First Lutheran Church in Fort Lauderdale on May 24, 1959. While attending high school in Florida, he gained a lot of work experience maintaining the building and pool at Val Halla. He attended Central High School in St. Paul and graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School in Florida in 1963.

Peter and Cyndy met on a blind date in 1967. On March 15, 1968, they married in Fort McClellan, Alabama and made their first home in Anniston, Alabama. In June, Peter and Cyndy experienced the devastating loss of their first child, Melissa Anne. On December 3 of that same year, Peter left for Bien Hoa, Vietnam, to serve with the army in the Vietnam War. Peter was a sergeant and Scout Dog Handler for the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) where he was awarded a Bronze Star and an Air Medal. For some well-deserved R&R, Peter and Cyndy reunited for a short time in Honolulu, Hawaii. On December 3, 1969, Cyndy welcomed Peter home from Vietnam. They bought their first home in St. Paul in the Mounds Park neighborhood. It was a wonderful home to raise a family. Darryl was born in 1970. Darryl became a big brother when Laralynn was born in 1972. Two more children made the family complete with Peter J. in 1977 and Andrew in 1978.

Peter's lifelong career with the Burlington Northern Railroad began in May 1966. In October 1967, he resigned due to the draft for the Vietnam War. He attended bootcamp in Fort Campbell, KY. After he returned from Vietnam in 1969, he resumed work with the railroad. His job moved his family from Minnesota to Kansas, then to Washington State, to finally settle in Texas. He retired in 2005 after 36 years of employment with Burlington Northern.

Peter may have chosen to be a farmer had he not been employed by the railroad. He loved helping his father-in-law, Kenneth Pletan, on the Pletan farm near Wendell, MN. Peter and his family spent many summers and holidays visiting the Pletan farm in Elbow Lake Township and the Pletan's other home, in the small nearby town of Wendell.

Peter and Cyndy first became grandparents in 1996 and they enjoyed every minute being Grandma and Papa. They attended grandparents' day at school, dance recitals, school events, sports games and countless birthday parties. Peter used a lot of nicknames with his four children, but every grandchild, child, niece or nephew that he loved was affectionally called a knucklehead.

Peter was a skilled mechanic and spent hours with his sons fixing and repairing cars. He had every tool imaginable and always had a very, very organized work bench and tool cabinet. Peter was an excellent draftsman and planned out every detail for every project, every hobby. He taught his children the "right way" to do things whether painting a wall, vacuuming the carpet, or pulling a weed. Peter had many woodworking projects over the years. He remodeled their St. Paul home, designed and built a 3 level deck for their Kansas home, and completed many projects for their Texas home. Peter installed wood flooring, built custom cabinets and a woodblock island in the kitchen, customized landscaping, drainage and irrigation, and designed and built a custom covered patio. He was a dedicated and supportive husband, making many accommodations and updates inside the home to improve the accessibility for him and his wife.

In his retirement years, Peter enjoyed putting together 1000 piece puzzles, was passionate about his politics, was an avid reader, spent countless hours building model trains, and especially enjoyed family gatherings with his children and grandchildren. Peter loved his cats; the family had many beloved cats over the years. He could be heard most mornings having entire conversations with them; most recently, with his beloved Pia. He enjoyed cooking for his family. He made the best burgers and ribs on the grill and always had a cold beer or shot of whiskey to offer.

Peter and Cyndy celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary earlier this year in March. Many celebrations were to follow before his passing; Peter's 78th birthday, graduations, dinners with his railroad friends and a family gathering at the end of May that they held in their home with their children and grandchildren.

On Monday, June 5, 2023, at the young age of 78, Peter passed away with Cyndy, their children and grandchildren by his side, holding his hands when Jesus called him Home. Peter will be remembered for his sense of humor and his big laugh. He was a wonderful provider for his family, a dedicated husband, a dependable dad, and a loving papa.

Peter is survived by his devoted wife, Cyndy; their cherished children Darryl (Ashley) Nelson of Plano, TX, Laralynn (Edward) Conaway of Fort Worth, TX, Peter J (Melissa) Nelson of Haslet, TX and Andrew Nelson of Fort Worth, TX; their precious grandchildren Lucas, Anna, Zachary, Joshua, Alyssa, Benjamin, Presley, Abigail, Lily and Gabriel; his beloved siblings June, Margaret, Noreen, George and Sonja; and many treasured nieces and nephews. Peter was preceded in death by their daughter, Melissa Anne, and his parents, Walfred Nelson and Hilda (Steen) Nelson Rucci. We love you dad, we love you Papa. God bless the memory of Peter Nelson.

The Nelson family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude for all the love, care and support from family and friends, near and far. Thank you for the calls, voicemails, emails, text messages, letters, cards, meals, sweets, flowers, loving words, kind deeds, thoughts and prayers.