

A Celebration of Life

Rex Norris



July 2, 1931- February 16, 2025

February 28, 2025
Calvary Lutheran Church
Richland Hills, TX

Military Honors Honor Guard



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.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

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.**

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you**

P Let us pray

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Rex. 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.

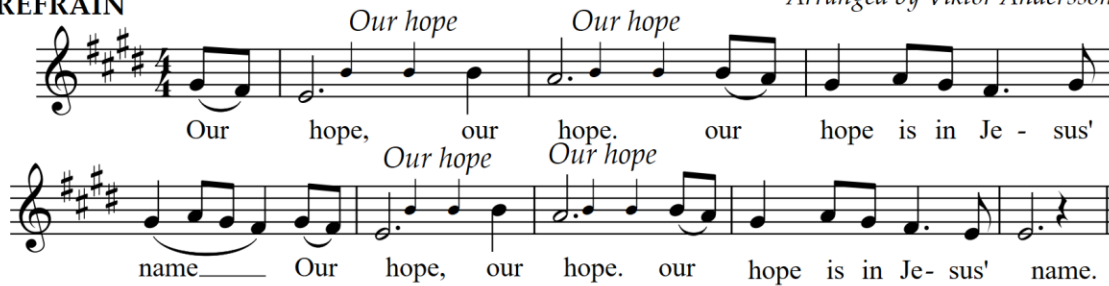
C **Amen.**

Psalm 118

Rev. Phil Heinze

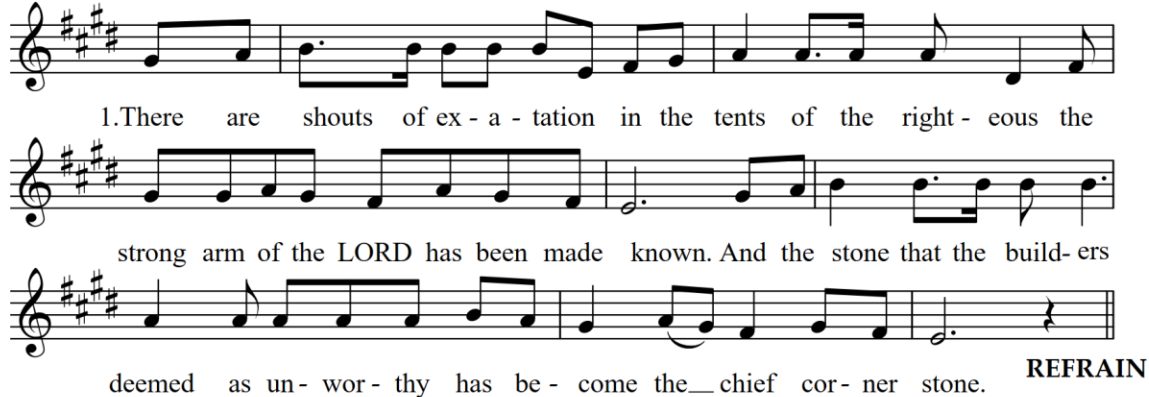
Arranged by Viktor Andersson

REFRAIN



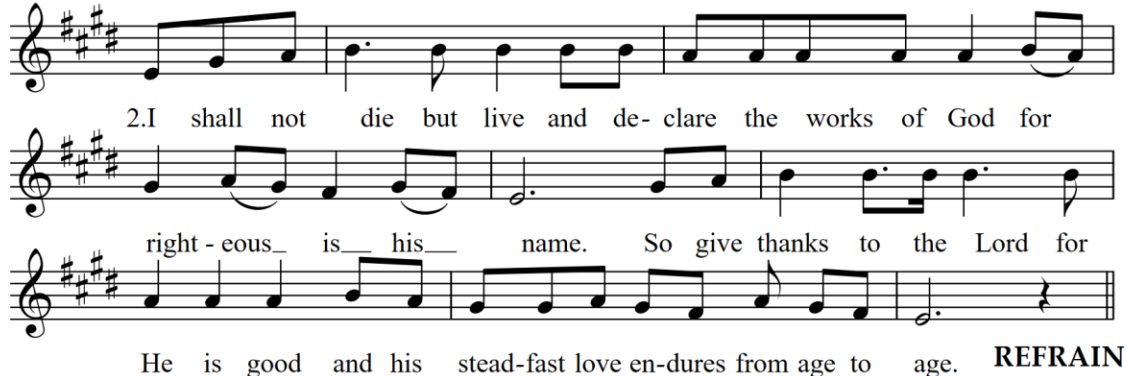
Our hope Our hope
Our hope, our hope. our hope is in Je - sus'
name — Our hope, our hope. our hope is in Je- sus' name.

Verse 1




1. There are shouts of ex - a - tation in the tents of the right - eous the
strong arm of the LORD has been made known. And the stone that the build - ers
deemed as un - wor - thy has be - come the chief cor - ner stone. REFRAIN

Verse 2



2. I shall not die but live and de - clare the works of God for
right - eous is his name. So give thanks to the Lord for
He is good and his stead - fast love en - dures from age to age. REFRAIN

Verse 3



3. So op - en for me now the gates of right - eous - ness that
I may en - ter in. and de - clare this is the day the
Lord has made let us re - joice and be glad in it. REFRAIN

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Remembrances of Rex

Peter Yates

Katherine Yates Chapman

This is the Feast of Victory for our God



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Readings

2 Timothy 4:7-8 Hunter Norris

⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 Rachel Yates Sedivy

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

⁵⁵ 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. John 14:1-7, 18-19, 27**Brett Noris**

‘Do 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. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

¹⁸ ‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The Homily

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat-'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg-ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king-dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: FIN FESTE RIIRG Martin Luther

The Creed

P We confess the faith of the church throughout the ages, the faith Rex 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.

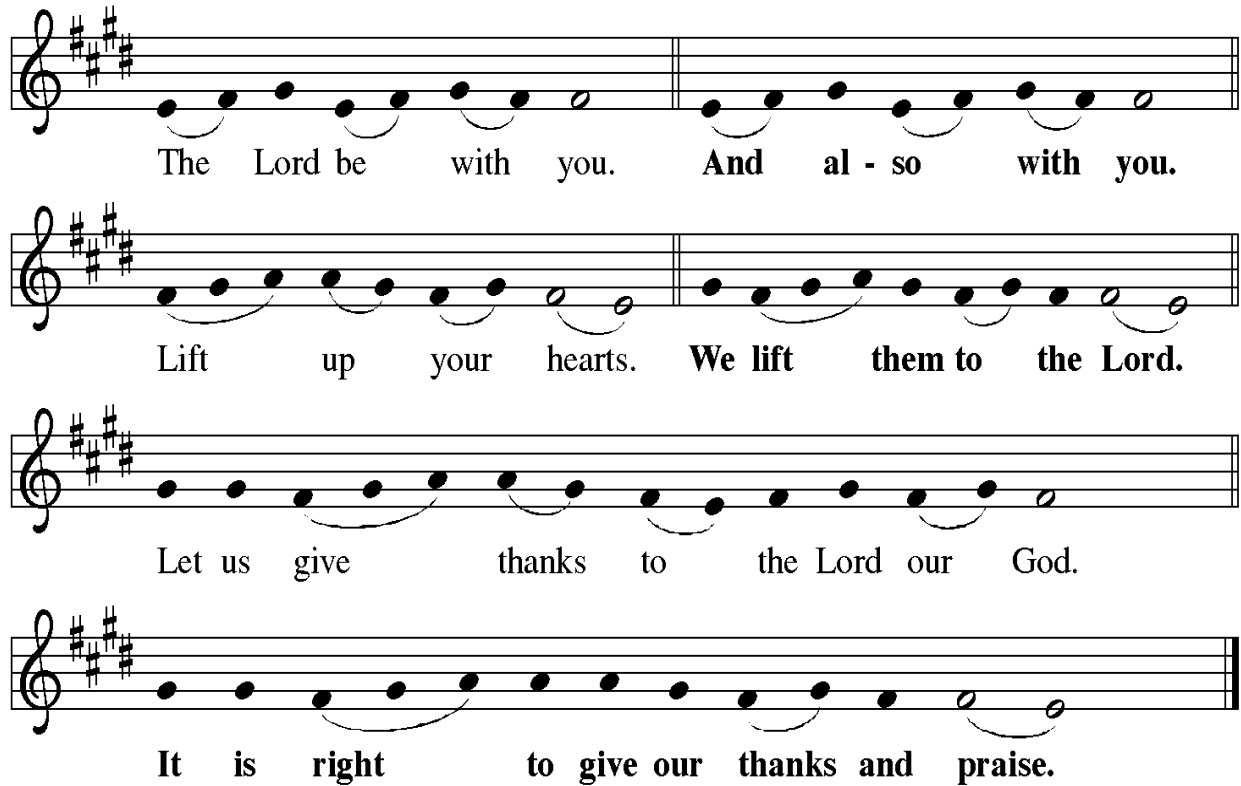
P Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

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.

The Great Thanksgiving



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 sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant Light

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:

Sanctus & Benedictus [*Latin, Holy & Blessed*]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C'. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody with a slur over the words 'Heav'n and earth'. The third and fourth staves complete the phrase 'Ho - san - na in the high - est' and repeat it at the end of the section.

Eucharistic Prayer

Eucharistic Acclamation

We pro-claim your death, Lord; we cel - e-brate your ris - ing; we
break this bread and share this cup un - til you come a - gain.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major. It features a more rhythmic and melodic style than the Sanctus. The first staff contains the lyrics 'We pro-claim your death, Lord; we cel - e-brate your ris - ing; we' and the second staff contains 'break this bread and share this cup un - til you come a - gain.' The music uses various note values and rests to create a flowing melody.

P Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, and teach us to pray.

The Lord's Prayer

ALBERT HAY MALOTTE

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav-en hal-low-ed be Thy name.
Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heav-en.
Give us this day our dai-ly bread, and for give us our debts as
we for-give our debt-ors. And lead us not in-to temp-
ta-tion but de-liv-er us from e-vil, for Thine is the King-dom and the
Pow-er and the Glo-ry, for - ev - er A - men

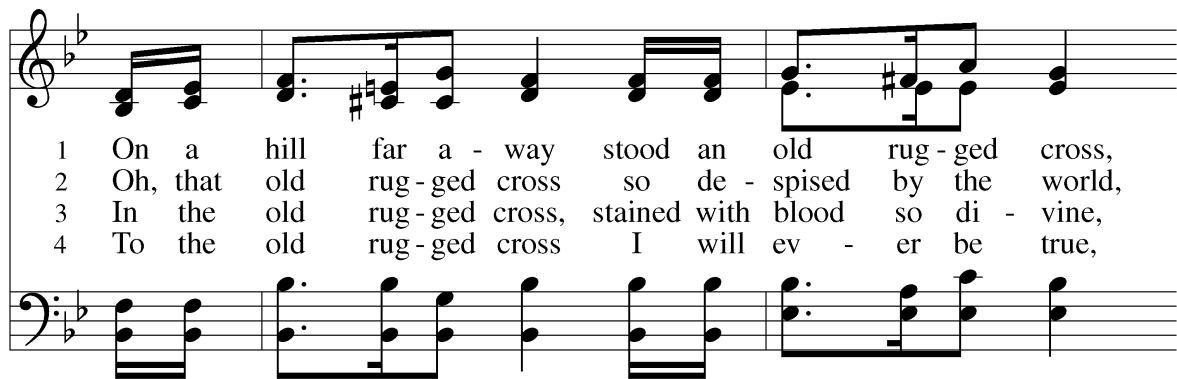
Agnus Dei [*Latin, Lamb Of God*]

☞ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

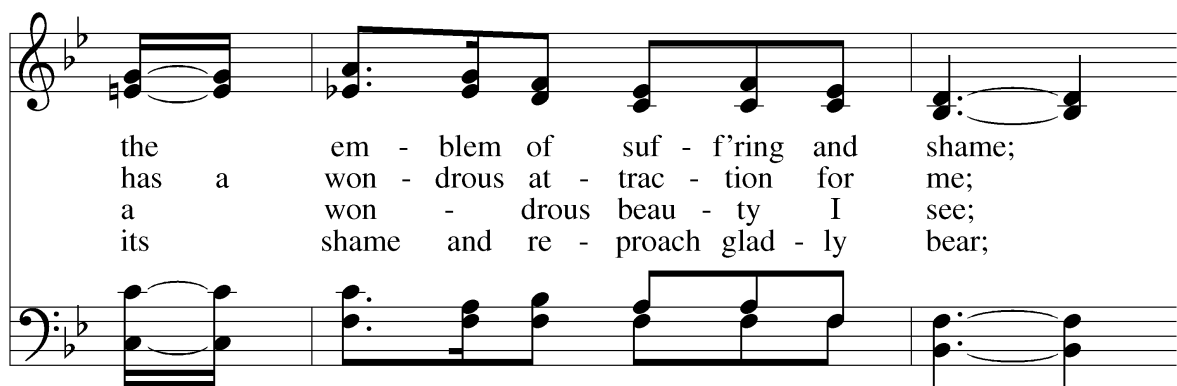
Holy Communion *All are welcome at our Lord's supper.*

On a Hill Far Away

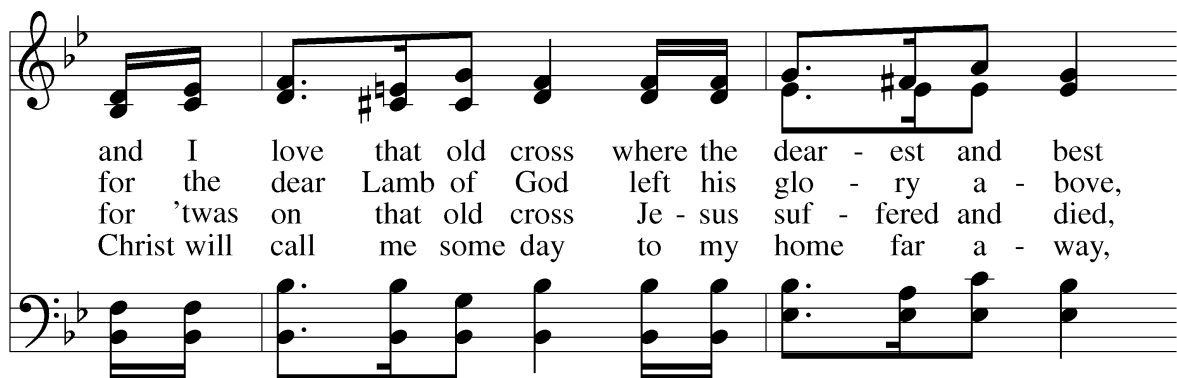
The Old Rugged Cross




1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross,
2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
a won - drous beau - ty I see;
its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross,

cross, the old rug - ged cross,

till my tro - phies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rug - ged cross,

Text: George Bennard, 1873–1958
 Music: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, George Bennard, 1873–1958

The Post Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
- C **Amen.**

Liturgy for Embracing both Joy and Sorrow **Jordan Chapman**

The Commendation & In Paradisum

- P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Rex. 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.**

"Hallelujah Chorus" from the *Messiah* G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

✠ ✠ ✠

The Reverend Phillip Heinze
The Reverend Kyle Rouze
The Reverend Kyle Symanski
Intern Pastor Rebecca Chase
Viktor Andersson, Director of Worship & Music
Debbie Villavicencio, organ/piano

✠ ✠ ✠

Obituary

Rex Gilbert Norris

July 2, 1931 - February 16, 2025

We remember and honor the life of Rex Norris who passed away on February 16 at the age of 93. Born in Albion, Indiana, he spent most of his life in Fort Worth, Texas, living each moment with energy, passion, and an undeniable zest for life.

Rex proudly served in the United States Air Force, where his dedication and service were a testament to his commitment to his country.

Rex was the life of every gathering, a man whose presence filled a room and whose voice conveyed joy and generosity that captivated everyone around him. Whether it was a family celebration, a shared meal, or games with friends, he loved to be in the thick of it, always ready to sing, laugh, or raise a glass in celebration of any occasion-big or small. He never needed an excuse to throw a party or lift his voice in song, and his uninhibited delight was contagious to all who knew him.

Rex worked in menswear for over 50 years in Fort Worth, where he was known for his expertise. Whether it was through tailoring a fine suit or cultivating a vibrant garden, Rex had an eye for detail and passion for bringing elegance and joy to the world around him. His love for working on his garden and yard reflected this creative spirit-he found peace and purpose in nurturing plants and flowers, turning his outdoor spaces into places of tranquility and beauty.

For many years, Rex sang with the Southwestern Seminary Oratorio Chorus, where his passion for music shone brightly. A 50-year member of Calvary Lutheran Church in North Richland Hills, Rex also took great pride in singing with the Church Choir, where his powerful voice and enthusiasm for music left a lasting mark. His faith was steady, and his love for life was ever-present, inspiring those around him to live fully and celebrate each day.

He leaves behind his devoted wife of 70 years, Shirley; his brother Joe and Midge; his children, Carrie and Rick, and Scott and Karen; his grandchildren, Peter and Bonnie, Katherine and Jordan, Rachel and Rylan, Hunter and Amy, and Levi; his great-grandchildren, Hudson, Janie, Joey, and Rex; along with a wide circle of friends and extended family who will forever treasure his larger-than-life spirit. His memory will continue to bring a smile to our faces every time we gather to celebrate, sing, or share a story in his honor.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Music Ministry at Calvary Lutheran Church in his honor.

Rex will be deeply missed, but his spirit will live on in the celebrations, songs, and memories we continue to share.

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.” Psalm 104:33

