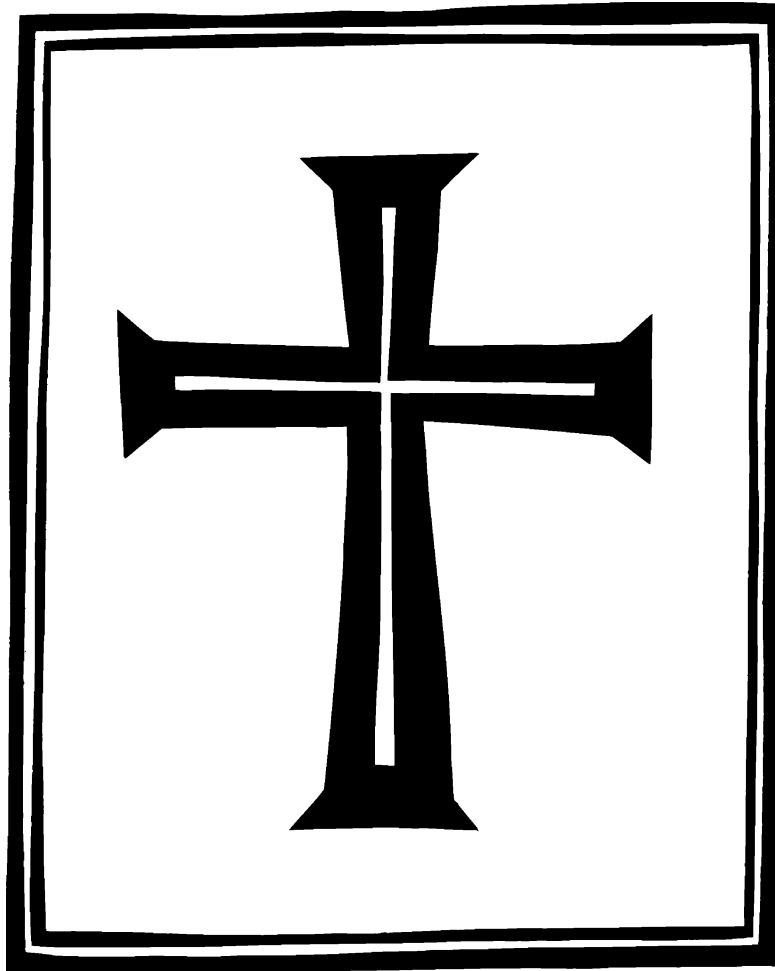


*Memorial Service for*

*Richard Milton Acker*



October 15, 1947 – December 28, 2024

January 18, 2024  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
Richland Hills, Tx

**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.

**Shall We Gather at the River**



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



*Refrain*

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899  
 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

**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 Richard. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Remembrances of Richard

### Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
  
<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;

he will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and for evermore.

### **Revelation 21:1-4**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.’

### **John 14:1-7**

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In 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? <sup>3</sup>And 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. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

### **Homily**

#### **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.**

### Lord's Prayer

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 Commendation

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

# I'll Fly Away

1. Some glad morn - ing when this life is o'er,  
2. When the shad - ows of this life have grown, I'll fly a - way;  
3. Just a few more wea - ry days and then,  
to a home on God's ce - les - tial shore,  
like a bird from pris - on bars has flown, I'll fly a - way.  
to a land where joys shall nev - er end.

*Refrain*  
I'll fly a - way, Oh, glo - ry I'll fly a - way.  
when I die, hal - le - lu - jah by and by, I'll fly a - way.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three verses of lyrics and a refrain. The first verse has three lines of lyrics. The second verse has two lines. The refrain has two lines. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, C, G, Em, D, D7, G, G7, C, Em, G, D, G.

Text & Music: Albert Brumley © 1932, 1980 admin. Integrated Copyright Group

✘ ✘ ✘

The Reverend Kyle Rouze  
The Reverend Kyle Symanski  
Intern Pastor Rebecca Chase  
Debbie Villavicencio

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Mr. Richard Milton Acker, age 77, of Richland Hills, Texas, passed away on Saturday, December 28, 2024, in Carrollton, Texas. Born on October 15, 1947, in Hearne, Texas, to Thomas Milton Acker and La Verne Stone Acker, Richard grew up in Richland Hills, where he graduated from Richland High School in 1965. He went on to earn a BA in Business Administration from Texas Wesleyan College before joining the Army Reserve in 1970, where he trained as a paratrooper—one of his proudest achievements.

Richard had a deep passion for heart-racing activities, especially in his younger years, often spending time water skiing, racing hot rods, riding horses, and working on motorcycles with friends at local spots in Haltom City and Fort Worth. His enthusiasm for motorcycles extended into his professional life, as he worked for Honda Town, Martin's Cycle, D&D Enterprises, and Chrome Specialties, building and selling motorcycles. Later in life, he shifted his career to become a painting contractor, running his own company and earning the respect of his clients and peers.

Throughout his life, Richard knew that the most important things were the people he loved. He cherished his time with family and friends, treasured the memories they made together, and told their stories to honor those special bonds. Richard's love for animals was also a cornerstone of his life; over the years, he had numerous dogs, including Little Bit, Magnum, Bear, BJ, Peppers, and Shelby, as well as a horse named Duke, all of whom brought him great joy.

Richard's legacy will be remembered for his love of life, his passion for speed, and the lasting impact he had on the people who were fortunate enough to know him. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Fund for Veterans' Assistance, run by the Texas Veterans Commission, or Richland Hills Animal Services.