

A Celebration of Life

Stephen Doerfler



September 27, 1966 – December 25, 2024

January 3, 2025
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.

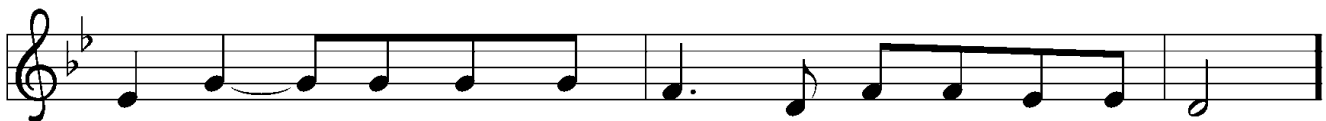
How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

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 Stephen. 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.

Remembrances of Stephen

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6-8

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.

The New Testament Reading

Romans 8:31-39

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to John the 14th chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord**

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.

P The Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Homily

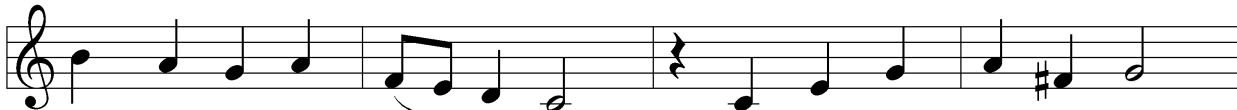
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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
 your 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*, 1978
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

The Creed

- P We confess the faith of the church throughout the ages, the faith Stephen 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 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**

Words of Institution

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.**

Distribution of Holy Communion

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.**

Thank -ful hearts and voic - es raise; - tell ev - ery
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joyce and
 bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us with your
 prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth with joy! With -
 shouts of thanks-giv - ing, A - men, A - men; With -
 shouts of thanks-giv - ing A - men! A - men!

The Commendation

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

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Southern Traditional

Just a clo - ser walk with Thee,
 I am weak, but Thou are strong.
 When this trou - bled life is o'er,
 Grant it Je - sus is my plea.
 Je - sus keep me from all wrong.
 time for me will be no more.
 Dai - ly walk - ing close to Thee
 I'll be sa - tis - fied as long
 Lord, please guide me safe - ly o'er -
 Let it be dear Lord, let it be.
 as I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
 to Thy shore dear Lord, to thy shore.

Arr. by Viktor Andersson © 2001 Calvary Lutheran Church

O When The Saints Go Marchin' In

Southern Traditional

O when the saints go march - in in, O when the saints go march - in' in,
 O when they gath - er round the throne, O when they gath - er round the throne
 O Lord I want to be in that num - ber, when the saints go march - in in.
 O Lord I want to be in that num - ber, when they gath - er round the throne.

Arr. by Viktor Andersson © 2001 Calvary Lutheran Church

Repeat first verse



The Reverend Kyle Rouze
 The Reverend Kyle Symanski
 Intern Pastor Rebecca Chase
 Debbie Villavicencio, organ/piano



“Wisdom of the Bear”

In endless forests, where memories bloom,
Our love, entwined, forever consumes,
I appreciate the time we shared,
The laughter, joy and endless care.
Your presence, a gift in life's sweet quest,
A cherished bond, a love at rest,
Though you're gone, your spirit stays,
Wisdom of the Bear, through joy and pain.
My dear one, I'll hold you close,
A grateful heart, a love that grows,
For even in darkness, a love shines bright,
An appreciation of life, in memory's light.

Stephen Mark Doerfler was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on September 27, 1966, and was called home suddenly and unexpectedly on Christmas Day 2024, at the age of 58 years old. A loving and Christian husband, father, brother, teacher, and coach, Stephen valued his family, friends, students, and his community. Stephen is survived by his wife of 31 years, Elizabeth O'Neal Doerfler, and his 3 sons, Stephen Mark Doerfler II, Alexander Matthew Doerfler, and Nicholas Bernard Doerfler. He is preceded in death by his parents, Steve Wallace Doerfler and Ruthanne Marks Doerfler. Stephen also leaves his 2 brothers, Michael Todd Doerfler and Andrew Paul Doerfler, their wives, and many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

A dedicated and nurturing teacher and coach, Stephen taught Science and coached at Bowie Middle School in Irving, TX and he was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills, TX. Stephen truly loved being a teacher and a coach as well as cooking, gardening, and hiking. Most of all Stephen enjoyed spending time with his family.

Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, from 8:30am to 10am at Calvary Lutheran Church followed by a service at 10am. A short reception will follow the service. Stephen will be interred in the Calvary Lutheran Church Columbarium to rest in peace with his church community.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests oak or pecan trees be planted in Stephen's name.