

The Order of Service for the funeral of:

+ *Rev. Melvin E. Thur* +

September 24, 1937-April 11, 2013

*A Celebration of Life through Faith in
Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior*

Saturday, April 13, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church – Beaver Dam, WI

Please stand and turn to face the processional cross

Processional Hymn: *How Great Thou Art*

LSB 801

- 1 **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
 Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
 Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; (*Refrain.*)**

Refrain **Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
 How great Thou art! How great Thou art!**

- 2 **When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
 I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
 And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; (*Refrain.*)**

- 3 **But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
 Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
 He bled and died to take away my sin; (*Refrain.*)**

- 4 **When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
 And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
 And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" (*Refrain.*)**

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

Invocation

PIn the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CAmen.

P: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

Remembrance of Baptism

PIn Holy Baptism Melvin Thur 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.**



¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,**

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.

⁶**The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

⁸**Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.**

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

**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 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.

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Melvin 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 Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: *Just as I Am, without One Plea*

LSB 570 sts. 1, 4–6

1 Just as I am, without one plea

**But that Thy blood was shed for
me**

**And that Thou bidd'st me come
to Thee,**

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse,
relieve;**

Because Thy promise I believe,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**4 Just as I am, poor, wretched,
blind;**

**Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,**

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine
alone,**

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Epistle

Ephesians 4:11–16

¹¹And (God) gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

PThis is the Word of the Lord.

CThanks be to God.

Hymn: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

LSB 461 sts. 1, 3–4, 7–8

1 **I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.**

3 **He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.**

4 **He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.**

7 **He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.**

8 **He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

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Stand

Holy Gospel

John 11:21–27

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

G**lory to You, O Lord.**

²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

G**lory to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

LSB 279

PGod has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

G**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.

Sermon Hymn: *I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

LSB 729

1 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full
salvation,
Great and free.

2 I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender
mercy
Trusting now.

3 I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me
holy
By Thy blood.

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4 I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself
shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Sermon: - *“A Divine Directive for Life” –Proverbs 3: 5-6*

- 1 **Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee.
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

- 2 **As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.**

- 3 **When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on the Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."**

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Stand

Prayer of the Church



Lord's Prayer

LSB 280

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in 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

LSB 281

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."

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.

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."

Concluding Collect

P The Lord be with you.

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.

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.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Sit

A word from President John Wille – South Wisconsin District of LCMS

- 1 **Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!**
- 4 **Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**
- 5 **When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.**

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Acknowledgments

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Rev. Melvin E. Thur

The Reverend Melvin Ernest Thur was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, April 11, 2013 and looks forward to the resurrection of all flesh on the last day.

He was born on Friday, September 24, 1937 on a farm in the Township of Cleveland, Jackson County, near Fairchild, Wisconsin. He was the son of Ernest Robert Frederick Thur and Freda Marie (Hefty) Thur. He was baptized in the Christian faith on October 5, 1937 by the Reverend Paul F. Buck, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI. He confirmed his faith in his savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, on March 20, 1951 at Zion Lutheran Church in Granton, Wisconsin with the Rev. Arthur A. Oswald officiating.

He graduated from Oriole Hill grade school, RR Neillsville, WI on May 22, 1951. During the spring of 1951 he decided that he wanted to become a pastor. He enrolled in the pre-ministerial program in September of 1951 at the Concordia College High School Department, Milwaukee, WI graduating on June 8, 1955. He graduated on June 6, 1957 from Concordia College, Milwaukee, WI. He then went to the Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, IN from which he graduated with a BA degree on June 7, 1959. While at the Senior College he met his wife, Mary Lou Fahlsing. He continued his studies for the Pastoral Ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO from which he received his Bachelor of Divinity Degree on May 31, 1963 and his Master of Divinity in December of 1963.

He was united in Holy Matrimony with Mary Lou Fahlsing on June 10, 1961 at Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN by the Rev. Harold Ott. This union was blessed with four children, Paul, Lois, John and Rebekah.

From August of 1961 to August of 1962 he served as vicar at St. Mark Lutheran Church of Cleveland, Ohio. He was ordained into the holy ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, Granton, Wisconsin on June 23, 1963 by the Reverend Gustav M. Krueger. His first assignment was a dual parish in Nebraska. He was installed on July 14, 1963, as pastor of two congregations, Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church of rural Davenport, NB and St. Mark Ev. Lutheran Church in Ruskin, NB. During his last year of Ministry in Nebraska, Bethlehem congregation voted to close and did so on January 1, 1967. He served St. Mark until July of 1967. He was installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran, Paullina, Iowa on June 25, 1967 and served there until December of 1971. In December of 1971 he was installed as associate Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Racine, Wisconsin. He became the senior pastor in 1982. He served at Grace until he accepted a call to become pastor of St. John's

Lutheran Church, Keystone, Iowa and was installed as their pastor on June 24, 1984. On October 8, 1989 he became pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church of Suring, Wisconsin where he served until he retired in October of 1999. During that time he also served as Circuit Counselor. On October 1, 1999 he retired from the active ministry and moved to Beaver Dam. He took an Intentional Interim Ministry workshop in November of 1999 so that he might help congregations where needed in the Beaver Dam area. He then served as an Intentional Interim pastor at Zion, Clyman for 9 months from 2000 to 2001 and continued to preach and teach confirmation classes there until they received a pastor in 2001. He then filled in as Circuit Counselor until 2003. During that time he also preached regularly at Divine Savior, Hartford until they received a pastor in 2002. He preached and taught Bible Class and Confirmation classes at Peace during two vacancies. He served as Zone Counselor of LWML and Youth Counselor and on various district boards during his ministry.

He enjoyed sharing the good news about Jesus as our Savior and Lord with individuals and through preaching, teaching Bible Classes, Adult Information classes, youth confirmation classes and working with the youth group.

Due to health issues he discontinued preaching in 2011. He enjoyed visiting the elderly in their homes and Nursing homes. He also loved reading, gardening, golfing, building with wood and watching sports on TV. He enjoyed visiting and playing with his family, especially his grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and daughter-in-law Stephanie (Ramsey) Thur.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, his son Paul (Michele) of Grafton, his daughter, Dr. Lois Thur of Roseville, MN, his son John (Dr. Jean) of Oshkosh, and his daughter Rebekah “Becky” Thur of Fairfax, IA, his four grandsons - Matthew, Nickolai “Nick”, Dennis and Daniel. He is survived by his brothers - David (Judy) Thur of Winter, WI, the Reverend Richard (Jane) Thur of Florissant, MO, and the Reverend Gary (Dianna) Thur of Farmington, NM, brothers and sister-in-laws – Richard (Shirley) Fahlsing of Ft Wayne, IN, Patricia (Dean) Stigall of Orange, CA, William Fahlsing of Ft Wayne, IN, Ted Fahlsing of West Lafayette, IN, Elaine Welty of Ft. Wayne, IN, Suzan Breaz of Lowell, IN, and Ray Fahlsing (Francie Krawcke) of Brooklyn MI, also nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Peace Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam.

+ Rev. Melvin E. Thur +

Born: September 24, 1937

Baptized: October 5, 1937

Confirmed: March 20, 1951

Married: June 10, 1961

Ordained: June 23, 1963



Participants in the Service

The Officiant: Rev. Mark A. Wenzel

The Organist: Mrs. Shirley Clough

The Crucifer: Aaron Wenzel