

**HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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THE REV. WILLIAM L. F. GIES, STS
MAY 17, 1962 – APRIL 30, 2026

In Memoriam
The Reverend William L. F. Gies, STS
May 17, 1962 – April 30, 2026
Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Abington, Pennsylvania

September 23, 2026

11:00 AM

Prelude The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Remembrances

– arr. Thomas Quigley

P. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He 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, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so 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.

Hymn: Of the Father's Love Begotten

LBW 42

Greeting:

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. Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Bill. 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 us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

Readings:

Isaiah 43: 1 – 7

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 17

Psalms 139: 1 – 16

see page 11

Revelation 21: 1 – 5a

Hymn: The King of Love My Shepherd Is

LBW 456

P. The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

John 14: 1 – 7

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Rod Ronneberg, STS

Hymn: Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

LBW 336

The Apostles' Creed:

**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. Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

C. Hear us, Lord.

P. Grant us grace to entrust Bill to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people.

C. hear us, Lord.

P. God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has 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 shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

The Peace:

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C. And also with you.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood
who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ,
crucified and risen, is truly present in,
with and under the forms of bread and wine
for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.*

P. Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. From all that you have given us, receive these gifts, signs of our thanksgiving and praise. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need; through Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

C. Amen.

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 him thanks and praise.

P. It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise, O Lord, holy Father, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who brought to light the living hope of a blessed resurrection, that, in our grief, we may rejoice in full assurance of our change into the likeness of his glory. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P. You are holy, O God of majesty, and holy is your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. He lived as one of us; he knew our joy, our pain and sorrow, and our death. By his death on the cross you revealed that your love has no limit. By raising him from death you conquered the last enemy, crushed all evil powers, and gave new life to the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name.

Remember our brother Bill, whose baptism is now complete in death. Bring him into your eternal joy and light together with all who have died in the peace of Christ; through whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

P. Lord, remember us in your kingdom, 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.**

Invitation to Communion:

P. The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all has been prepared.

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.

Communion Hymns: **For the Bread Which You Have Broken**
Come, Let Us Eat
Sent Forth by God's Blessing

LBW 200
LBW 214
LBW 221

Communion Blessing:

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace.

C. Amen.

Post Communion Canticle:



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Post Communion Prayer:

P. Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction and a pledge of our inheritance of life eternal where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

The Commendation:

P. Let us pray. Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Bill. 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. Amen.

**C. Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right,
Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me. Amen.**

The Blessing:

P. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

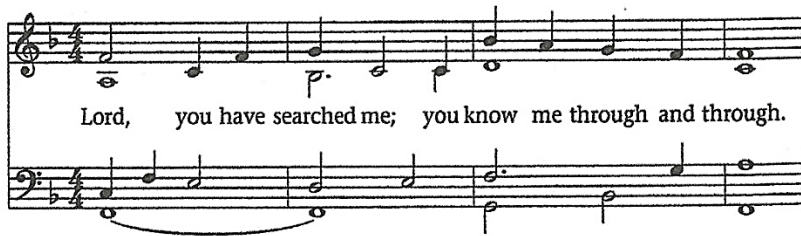
Hymn: What Wondrous Love is This

LBW 385

Postlude

Psalm 139: 1 – 16

Refrain



1. LORD, you have searched me out;
O LORD, you have known me.
2. You know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern me thoughts from afar.
3. You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.
4. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
5. You encompass me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
6. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it. *Refrain*
7. Where can I go then from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
8. If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
9. If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10. even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.
11. If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"
12. darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike. *Refrain*
13. For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
14. I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
15. My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
16. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
my days were fashioned before they came to be. *Refrain*

Worship Leaders:

Director of Music

Thomas Hobson Williams

Musicians

Erika Grant, cello

Elena Kauffman, cello

Joseph Kauffman, violin

Readers

Bruce Freer

Maureen Freer

John Minges

Preacher

The Rev. Rod Ronneberg, STS

Celebrant

The Rev. Dr. Maurice Y. Lee

Isaiah 43: 1 – 7

¹. But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ². When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. ⁵. Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. ⁶. I will say to the north, give up, and to the south, do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, ⁷. everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 17

¹⁴. Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Revelation 21: 1 – 5a

¹. 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. ². And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

³. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." ⁵. And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Holy Gospel: John 14: 1 – 7

¹. Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ². In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

⁴. And you know the way to where I am going.

⁵. Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶. Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." ⁷. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.