



FUNERAL SERVICE FOR
+ BRUCE JEROME BILGREEN +
Thursday, 7 January A+D 2021 · 11:00 A.M.



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Lutheran Service Book, Funeral Service, pg. 278

OPENING HYMN

"Beautiful Savior" LSB 537

- 1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

- 2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

- 3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

- 4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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Stand

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

INVOCATION

[P] In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

P In Holy Baptism Bruce 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.**

READING OF THE OBITUARY

Back Cover of Bulletin

PSALM

Psalm 23; antiphon: v. 1

P The LORD is my shepherd;

C **I shall not want.**

P He makes me lie down in green pastures.

C **He leads me beside still waters.**

P He restores my soul.

C **He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

C **your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C **you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

C **and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

**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 The LORD is my shepherd;

C **I shall not want.**

KYRIE

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 Bruce 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

Job 19:21-27

P The Old Testament Reading is from Job, chapter 19.

Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends,
for the hand of God has touched me!

Why do you, like God, pursue me?

Why are you not satisfied with my flesh?

“Oh that my words were written!

Oh that they were inscribed in a book!

Oh that with an iron pen and lead
they were engraved in the rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer lives,
and at the last he will stand upon the earth.

And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
yet in my flesh I shall see God,

whom I shall see for myself,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

My heart faints within me!

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Peter 1:3-9

P The Epistle is from 1 Peter, chapter 1.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary,

you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE

P Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C **to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:11-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the tenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

APOSTLES' CREED

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

C **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.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

"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*

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SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting 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.

Sit

HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

- 1 On a hill far away
Stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross
Where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain. *Refrain*

Refrain So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

- 2 O that old rugged cross,

So despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God
Left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary. *Refrain*

3 In that old rugged cross
Stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see,
For 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me. *Refrain*

4 To the old rugged cross
I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day
To my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share. *Refrain*

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Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

John 11:25-26 (NIV); Luke 2:29-32

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

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

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.

CLOSING HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461

- 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.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.
- 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.

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 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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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book

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+ SERVING THIS MORNING +

Pastor:	Rev. Matthew D. Ruesch
Organist:	Don Hoaglund
Elder:	Ed Thornton
Pallbearers:	Jeremy Beaudoin Bruce Bilgreen Hunter Bilgreen Samuel Bilgreen

Though personal interaction with all who knew and loved Bruce isn't possible at this time, his family wishes to express their deep gratitude and thanks for your presence here to honor Bruce's memory. Your care and concern is greatly appreciated.

+ BRUCE JEROME BILGREEN +
29 April A+D 1935 - 1 January A+D 2021

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant Bruce.

Bruce Jerome Bilgreen was given life by his Creator and was born on April 29th, 1935 in Iron Mountain, Michigan, the son of Walter and Caroline (Schaefer) Bilgreen. On August 25th, 1935, he received the gift of Holy Baptism and became a child of God at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kingsford, Michigan. On April 30th, 1950, he publicly confessed his faith and was confirmed at Our Redeemer. He received the precious gift of the Lord's life-giving body and blood. Bruce graduated from Kingsford High School in 1953. He enlisted in the United States Army and served in Korea from 1958 until he was honorably discharged in 1960.

On June 4th, 1966, he received the gift of a beloved companion in his wife, Kathleen Smith, at Our Redeemer. Bruce and Kathleen were blessed with the gift of children: Julie, Bruce, and Brian. They raised their children in Kingsford while Bruce worked for the United States Postal Service, from which he retired after more than thirty years of service.

He was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, camping, picking blueberries, and hunting for copper in the Keweenaw. Bruce was a loyal Kingsford Flivver sports fan who never missed a Flivver football game. He was a lifelong member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church where he formerly served on the Board of Elders.

On January 1st, 2021, God blessed Bruce with a holy death and took him home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

In addition to his parents, Bruce was preceded in death by two sisters: Beatrice Gilbert and Jean Pirlot, and a brother: Walter Bilgreen.

Bruce is survived by his loving wife of fifty-four years, Kathleen; his daughter: Julie (Fran) Wlodarczyk of Cedarburg, Wisconsin; his sons: Bruce (Kathryn) Bilgreen of Iron Mountain and Brian (Trina) Bilgreen of Kingsford; sisters: Dorothy (Glenn) Johnson of Homestead, Wisconsin, Yvonne (Paul) Voight of Port St. Lucie, Florida, and Beverly Prichard of Cookeville, Tennessee; six grandchildren: Desirae (Jeremy Beaudoin), Bruce, Samuel, Emma, Hunter, and Gracyn; along with many nieces and nephews.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother Bruce.