



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

and I will dwell in the house
of the LORD for ever.

PSALM 23:6

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
Thursday, January 15 2026

The Worship Service Celebrating Life and
the Sure Hope of the Resurrection given to

Earl Dean Blair

Born: June 16, 1939

Baptized: Germany, 1960

Died in Christ: January 11, 2026

Isaiah 41:13

*For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."*

The Prelude

Please Stand

Remembrance of Baptism

- P** In Holy Baptism, Earl 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.

The Processional Hymn

"When Peace, Like a River"

LSB #763



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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

The Invocation and Opening Litany

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

C Amen.

P In baptism we have been buried with Christ.

C And we shall LIVE with Him. (Jn. 6)

P Listen, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. (1 Cor. 15:51)

C The perishable shall be clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. (1 Cor. 15:53)

P Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? (1 Cor. 15:54-55)

C But thanks be to God! He GIVES us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:57)

- P** Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (Jn. 11:25-26)
- C** **I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end, He shall stand upon the earth. (Job 19:25)**
- P** He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. (Rev. 21:4)
- C** **He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen! Come Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)**
- A** **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

The Prayer

- P** Let us pray, together...
- A** **O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today, Earl, our brother in Christ. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion on this pilgrimage upon earth. In Your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us Your aid so we may continue our course on earth with confidence in You until the day You call us to heaven. Grant us a blessed reunion with those who have gone before us with faith in Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.**

Please Be Seated

The Comfort of God’s Word

Psalm 23

- P** The Lord is my shepherd,
- C** **I shall not be in want.**
- P** He makes me lie down in green pastures,
- C** **He leads me beside quiet waters,**
- P** He restores my soul.
- C** **He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.**
- P** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
- C** **I will fear no evil,**
- P** 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 love will follow me all the days of my life,

C And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

First Reading

Romans 8:31-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor 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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Please Stand

Verse

P Alleluia Alleluia,

For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than
any two-edged sword,

C piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints
and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and

intentions of the heart. Alleluia. (Heb. 4:12)

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th Chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 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? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Hymn

"Nearer My God to Thee"

Nearer, my God, to thee, Nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be: Nearer, my God, to Thee
Nearer, my God, to Thee
Nearer, my God, to Thee

Nearer, my Lord, to Thee, Nearer to thee,
Who to thy cross didst come, Dying for me!
Strengthen my willing feet, Hold me in service sweet
Nearer, O Christ, to thee, Nearer to thee!

Nearer, O Comforter, Nearer to thee
Who with my loving Lord Dwellest with me!
Grant me thy fellowship! Help me each day to keep
Nearer, my Guide, to thee, Nearer to thee!

But to be nearer still, Bring me, o God
Not by the visioned steeps Angels have trod
Here where thy cross I see, Jesus I wait for thee,
Then evermore to be Nearer to thee!

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Please Be Seated

The Message

Pastor Rance Settle

Please Stand

"How Great Thou Art"

LSB #801



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!

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The Apostles' Creed

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.

The Prayers of the Church

P 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, O 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 gate of death and the grave we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection.

C Hear us, O Lord.

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

C Hear us, O 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, O 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, O Lord.

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

C Hear us, O Lord.

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

C Hear us, O 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 that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection opened the

kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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 which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.

Nunc Dimittis

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.

The Benediction

P Let us go forth in peace.

C In the peace and joy of Christ

P For He is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The Lord Bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to 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.



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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Postlude

"Amazing Grace"

Jimmy Mitchell, Bagpipes

 Officiating

Pastor Rance Settle

Director of Music Ministry

Stephanie Poyner

OBITUARY



Earl Dean Blair, born June 16, 1939, in Denver, Johnson County, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, January 11, 2026 leaving behind a legacy of kindness, service, and quiet devotion to family, friends and community.

Earl was the son of the late Dennis and Emma Myrtle (Webb) Blair. He is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Irmgard Gerta Berta Blair (Peters) and his son Kevin (Heather). Also surviving are three sisters, Betty June Baxter, Anna Lois (Jerry) Foster, Emma Faye (Elias) Moreno and sisters-in-law Sue, Laura and Oneida. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Kenneth Lee Blair, Paul Dwayne Blair and Dennis Michael Blair.

One of seven children, Earl learned early the values of hard work, cooperation, and caring for others—values that guided his life.

Earl proudly served his country in the United States Army. While stationed in Germany, he met his life's love, Irmgard. He and Irmgard were married in 1961, beginning a lifelong partnership marked by love and faith.

After completing his military service, Earl began a long and distinguished career with Grange Insurance, where he worked for 36 years. Starting as a computer programmer, he advanced through dedication and integrity to become Vice President overseeing processing accounting. He was respected by colleagues not only for his professional skill, but for his fairness and gentle leadership.

Earl was known to all who knew him for his kindness, patience, and generous spirit. He served in leadership roles at Zion Lutheran Church for more than 20 years, offering steady guidance and faithful service. He was always ready to lend a hand to friends, neighbors, or anyone in need, never seeking recognition for his help. In quieter moments, he found joy puttering in the yard, content in simple, peaceful work.

Earl will be deeply missed by his family and friends. His life stands as an enduring example of humility, service, and love—one that will continue to inspire all who were blessed to know him.

In lieu of flowers please consider a gift to
Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Flower Mound, TX.





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