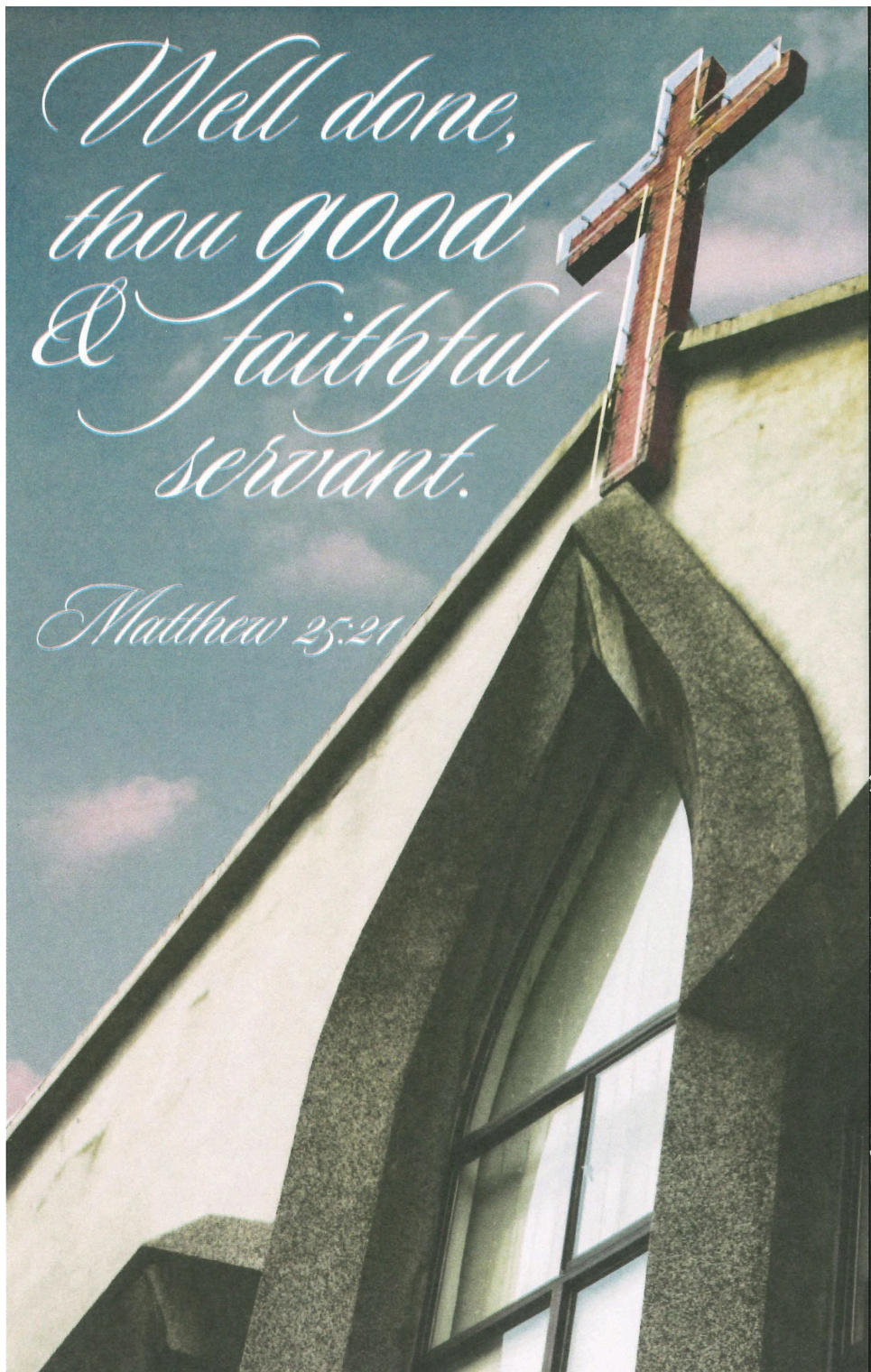


*Well done,
thou good
& faithful
servant.*

Matthew 25:21



+ Soli Deo Gloria +
Thursday, May 7, 2026

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

Willard Francis Ross

Born	September 15, 1929
Baptized	St. Paul Lutheran Church Marshfield, Missouri
Died in Christ	April 30, 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

Greetings and Welcome

Please Stand

Remembrance of Baptism

- P** In Holy Baptism, Willard 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.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till
 all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,
 2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,
 3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied
 4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, *refrain*

Our king vic-tor-ious, Christ, the Son of God.
 The hosts of God in con-quer-ing ranks com-bine.
 Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
 As Thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to Thee.

- 5 Let every race and every language tell
 Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
 Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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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? (I 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, Willard, 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

1 Samuel 7:10-13

As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the Lord thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were routed before Israel. And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the Lord has helped us." So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Verse

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB #686

v. 1-2

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love. Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.

Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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.



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
 2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
 3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
 doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
 hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
 shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
 sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

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Please Be Seated

The Message

“Death is Defeated!!”

Pastor Mark Lasch

Choir Anthem

“God So Loved the World”

John Stainer
 LOG Chancel Choir

Please Stand

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 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
 2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
 3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
 Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
 What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
 And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
 And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
 I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
 Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

P Manz

Officiating

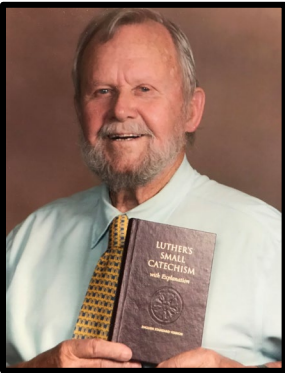
Pastor Walt Waiser

Pastor Mark Lasch

Director of Music Ministry

Stephanie Poyner

OBITUARY



Willard Ross, age 96 at his passing, born in Gould, Arkansas, formerly of Marshfield, MO, his childhood home, formerly of Alameda, California, later Hayward, California and Oroville, California before moving to Lewisville, Texas, entered eternal life with Christ on April 30, in Lewisville, Texas. Willard was preceded in death by his dear wife, of 51 years of marriage, Joan Ross (Smith), his son, Aaron Ross, his sister Mildred Schultz (Lloyd), brother Arnie Ross (Leta), his brother Herb Ross (Dola), his sister Bertha "Billie" Holmes (Paul), his sister Maxine Bainbridge (Harry), his brother Lawrence Ross (Edna), and his twin brother Wilse Ross (Anne).

Willard is survived by his four children, Eric Ross (Megumi), Paul Ross (Arjumin), Adrienne Sekishiro (Daryl) and Joel Ross (Rocio) and quite a number of grandchildren and even great grandchildren. Willard loved his family, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchild very much, so Willard will be sorely missed.

Willard and his twin brother, Wilse, were the youngest in a large farm family. He was born on September 15th, 1929, weeks before the Great Depression. He was of simple means but had a hard work ethic that set him apart from many, even in his own generation.

In 1948, desperate to find good employment in the plumbing trade as his brothers had found, he moved west from Marshfield, MO to Hayward, CA. Unable to find employment because of all of the returning GIs from WWII, Willard decided to join the Navy in 1949 on the advice of his brothers. Not long after his enlistment and training, he found himself halfway around the world, embroiled in the Korean conflict. Willard served on the USS Philippine Sea (CV-47), an Essex class carrier. During his time, his ship would participate in the famous "Inchon Invasion" to split the Chinese/North Korean forces, eventually moving them above the 38th parallel, which divides Korea even to this day.

Willard was a very faithful man of God. In his early life, Jesus was not part of his life. But his mother began taking her children to the Lutheran church after she met a Lutheran pastor while she was a patient in a hospital. She immediately began taking the children to church, and that experience had a profound effect upon Willard. Willard remained a devout and faithful servant of Jesus all of his life, impacting his children, his friends, his coworkers and neighbors. Willard was passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus with children, adults and anyone he met. Willard was always willing and ready to faithfully offer his time and talents in service to the Lord by serving others. In his retirement years, Willard participated in Laborers for Christ and several other emergency operations like Lutheran Early Response Team after hurricane and tornado damage. He also helped serve meals with the church's Holy Cow Smoker Team and served for years raising vegetables in the church garden for those in need.

Willard's greatest desire was to see that everyone he met in life got the opportunity to hear about the love of Jesus. He wanted everyone to have a personal relationship with the risen Lord Jesus, and those who knew him know that Willard truly, genuinely loved his Lord and Savior Jesus with all of heart, mind and soul.

Now Willard is most certainly with the Lord. Willard looked forward to the day when he could meet his loving Savior, Jesus, and he has accomplished this goal.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorials be sent to

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www.lbt.org



*Loving,
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Growing,
Together in Christ*

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