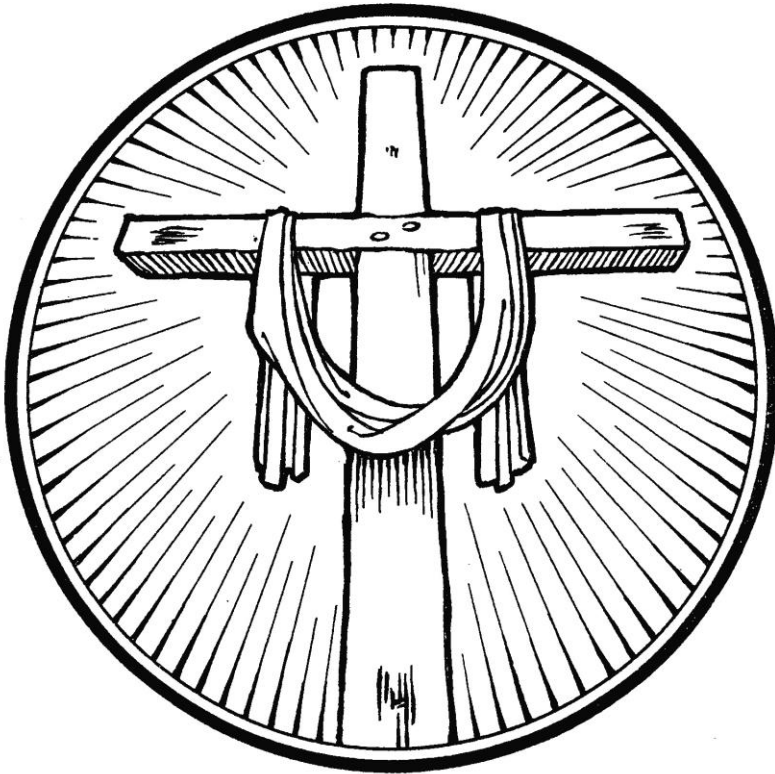


**THE FUNERAL SERVICE**  
**FOR**  
**DARIAN DONALD LITZAU**  
OCTOBER 11, 1969 — APRIL 11, 2026



**APRIL 16, 2026**  
**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "CHRIST DOTH END IN TRIUMPH" J.S. BACH, COMPOSER

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"HOW GREAT THOU ART"



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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INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

- P** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**C** Amen.

- P** Blessed be the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.  
**C** He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Darian was covered with Christ's righteousness  
in Holy Baptism on November 16, 1969.

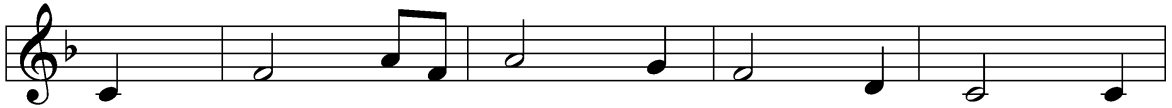
- P** In Holy Baptism, Darian was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"
- C** We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, 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.

### PSALM 23 [spoken in unison]

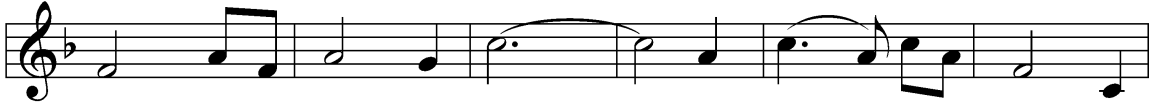
<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.

HYMN

“AMAZING GRACE”



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.

Text and tune: Public domain

**SALUTATION & 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 Darian 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.

## OLD TESTAMENT

**JOB 19:21-27**

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**

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.

## DARIAN'S CONFIRMATION VERSE

**1 CORINTHIANS 6:20**

**C** For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

## GOSPEL

**JOHN 14:1-6**

"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.

## 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.

## SERMON HYMN

## “A MIGHTY FORTRESS”



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,  
4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;  
All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
But for us fights the val - iant One,  
We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
He's by our side up - on the plain



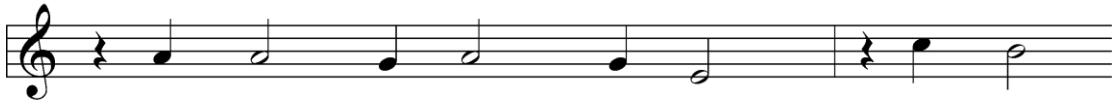
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main - eth.

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## SERMON

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Lord, in your Mercy,

**C** Hear our Prayer.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### 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.
- 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 Darian and 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.

*Darian's family thanks you for the outpouring of your love, support, and presence this morning. Following today's service, all are invited to the committal at St. Paul's Cemetery. For those who wish to remain at church, you are invited downstairs for fellowship and meal which the family will join after we've returned from the cemetery.*

### BENEDICAMUS & 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.

# RECESSIONAL HYMN

# "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES"



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort  
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -  
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to  
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who  
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious  
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry  
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort

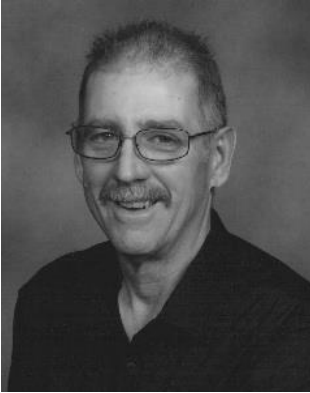


once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.  
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.  
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.  
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 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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# POSTLUDE



Darian Donald Litzau was born on October 11, 1969, in Glencoe, Minnesota, to Donald and Audrey (Reinke) Litzau. He grew up in Lester Prairie, Minnesota, where he developed the values and character that guided him throughout his life.

He graduated from Lester Prairie High School in 1988, where he was known for his strong academics and dedication as a member of the wrestling and baseball teams. He later attended Ridgewater College in Hutchinson, Minnesota, earning a degree in Diesel Mechanics in 1990 as valedictorian.

Faith was a cherished part of Darian's life. He was baptized on November 16, 1969, and was later confirmed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie on April 15, 1984. His confirmation verse, 1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV), "For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's," remained an important source of strength and guidance throughout his life. He faithfully served his church community in many leadership roles, including as trustee, elder, vice chairman, chairman, a member of the endowment committee, cemetery assistant, and for 35 years as a trumpet player for special services.

On March 23, 1991, he married the love of his life, Denise Ann Litzau (Paehlke), at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie. Together, they built a life centered on love, faith, and family, recently celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary.

Following the untimely passing of his father, Donald, Darian became the proud owner and operator of the family business, Litzau Excavating. He carried on the family legacy with dedication, pride, and an unmatched work ethic, keeping the business strong for many years. Other than spending time at the lake with his family, his favorite place was digging in the dirt, and there was no place he would rather be than behind the controls of his equipment, doing the work he loved. Some of Darian's most cherished memories were those spent fishing with his own family, traditions, and moments that he lovingly carried on with his children and grandchildren, creating memories at the lake that will be treasured for generations. He also enjoyed spending time outdoors as an avid deer hunter, another passion that brought him peace and joy.

Officiant: Reverend Joseph J. Barlau

Organist: Lynn Mueller

Trumpet: Adam Posselt



