



**"BLESSING** and  
**GLORY** and  
**WISDOM** and  
**THANKSGIVING** and  
**HONOR** and  
**POWER** and  
**MIGHT**  
be to our **GOD**  
**FOREVER** and  
**EVER!** Amen."

REVELATION 7:12



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

460 75<sup>TH</sup> AVE NE  
FRIDLEY, MN 55432

[www.FridleyLutheran.org](http://www.FridleyLutheran.org)

DECEMBER 16, 2024 – 11:00 AM

Jesus,  
is alive

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**Organist:** Janelle Hein

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠ **MELVIN ELMER EICHSTADT** ✠

**Worship Preparation:**..... *Psalm 23, TLH p. 128*

**Family Entrance:**

**Invocation & Prayer:**

**Hymn:**..... *WS 709: God Loves Me Dearly*

1. God loves me dearly, grants me salvation;  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
2. I was in bondage, sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working to make me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
3. He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;  
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
4. Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior, paid all I owed.  
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

## **Brief Biography: ..... With WS 777: *Amazing Grace***

The pilgrimage of Melvin Elmer Eichstadt through this world of sin and sorrow into the victorious glory of heaven may be summed up as follows: His heavenly Father and Creator granted earthly life to him when he was born on April 23, 1930, near Sanborn, Minnesota, the son of Elmer and Esther (Winkelman) Eichstadt. Melvin became a child of God by the power of the Holy Spirit through Holy Baptism on May 11, 1930, at Zion Lutheran Church in Sanborn. He would later confess his faith in his confirmation at Zion on Palm Sunday, April 18, 1943. His confirmation memory verse was **Psalm 37:5**: “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

**SING(♩):   Amazing grace – how sweet the sound –  
                  That saved a wretch like me!  
                  I once was lost but now am found,  
                  Was blind but now I see.**

Melvin actively served in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) from October 17, 1951, to October 14, 1953, and then he was honorably discharged from the Reserve of the USMC on October 16, 1959.

Melvin married Irene Schroeder on June 27, 1956. After living in Faribault, MN, for a time they moved to Austin, MN, and then to a 90+ acre farm between Austin and Albert Lea, MN, where they raised their family of four sons and farmed crops and livestock in addition to his full time employment.

Melvin completed Radiographic Technique training in 1956 and became a registered X-ray Technician on January 1, 1957. He began this work in Faribault and would go on to work in this field for over thirty years at the Austin Medical Clinic in Austin and also a shorter time at Naeve Hospital in Albert Lea. During his years at the Austin Medical Clinic, he was trained as the first technician in echocardiography which he continued to do for a number of years.

Melvin also sold insurance, ran for political office several times, and served as a leader at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Austin and its church body, the Church of the Lutheran Confession. But most important of all, Melvin remained a child of God throughout his life, committed to the truth of God’s Word and understood by faith the payment his Savior made for his sins, living his life in thanksgiving to Him. **Galatians 2:20**: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

**SING(♩):   The Lord has promised good to me;  
                  His Word my hope secures.  
                  He will my shield and portion be  
                  As long as life endures.**

Melvin’s soul was summoned to be with his Lord a week ago on Monday, December 9, 2024, his God-given time of grace here on earth being 94 years, 7 months, and 16 days. Yet his days in the glory and presence of his Savior cannot be numbered and are without end. His earthly remains will be laid to rest tomorrow, December 17, 2024, next to the remains of his wife, Irene, at Fairview Cemetery in Oakland Township, not far from the family farm near Austin. At the Last Day of the world when our Lord Jesus will come in the power of the Resurrection, He will raise Melvin’s glorified body, unite it with his soul, and thus will invite all of His believers: *“Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).*

**SING(♪): Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.**

In death, Melvin follows Irene—his beloved wife of 53 years, a great grandson, Dianne—his sister and her husband, John, and two sisters-in-law and two brothers-in-law. He is survived by his two brothers and their wives, two sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, four sons—Michael (Sue), Brian (Maureen), Dean (Jeanette), and Wayne (Tina), 12 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and many extended family and friends.

We thank the Lord for blessing us with Melvin and allowing him to touch our lives in the way that he did as a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, brother-in-Christ, and friend. **Job 1:21:** *“The LORD gave, the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

**SING(♪): When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we’d first begun.**

**Responsive Psalm of Comfort: ..... Psalm 37:3-7a, 18**

- P: Trust in the LORD, and do good;*
- C: Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.**
- P: Delight yourself also in the LORD,*
- C: And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**
- P: Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him,*
- C: And He shall bring it to pass.**
- P: He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,*
- C: And your justice as the noonday.**
- P: Rest in the LORD,*
- C: And wait patiently for Him; ...**
- P: The LORD knows the days of the upright,*
- C: And their inheritance shall be forever.**

## Scripture Readings of Comfort:

2 Corinthians 1:3-4; John 10:27-29; John 14:1-6;

Luke 2:25-32; Romans 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm 116:15

## Confession of Faith: ..... *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there 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.

## Hymn: ..... *TLH 552: Abide with Me!*

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!
2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see.  
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!
6. I need Thy presence every passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!
7. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.
8. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

**Sermon:**..... *Revelation 7:13-17*

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" <sup>14</sup> And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> "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 dwell among them. <sup>16</sup> "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup> "for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (NKJV<sup>TM</sup>)

## **MELVIN'S JOYOUS AND ETERNAL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

**Hymn:**..... *TLH 656: Behold a Host, Arrayed in White*

1. Behold a host, arrayed in white,  
Like thousand snow-clad mountains bright,  
With palms they stand. Who is this band  
Before the throne of light?  
Lo, these are they of glorious fame  
Who from the great affliction came  
And in the flood of Jesus' blood  
Are cleansed from guilt and blame.  
Now gathered in the holy place,  
Their voices they in worship raise,  
Their anthems swell where God doth dwell,  
Mid angels' songs of praise.
2. Despised and scorned, they sojourned here;  
But now, how glorious they appear!  
Those martyrs stand a priestly band,  
God's throne forever near.  
So oft, in troubled days gone by,  
In anguish they would weep and sigh,  
At home above the God of Love  
For aye their tears shall dry.  
They now enjoy their Sabbath rest,  
The paschal banquet of the blest;  
The Lamb, their Lord, at festal board  
Himself is Host and Guest.

3. Then hail, ye mighty legions, yea,  
 All hail! Now safe and blest for aye,  
 And praise the Lord, who with His Word  
 Sustained you on the way.  
 Ye did the joys of earth disdain,  
 Ye toiled and sowed in tears and pain.  
 Farewell, now bring your sheaves and sing  
 Salvation's glad refrain.  
 Swing high your palms, lift up your song,  
 Yea, make it myriad voices strong,  
 Eternally shall praise to Thee,  
 God, and the Lamb belong.

### **Prayer & Lord's Prayer:**

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.

### **Benediction & Announcements:**

**Hymn:**..... *TLH 463: For All the Saints*

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,  
 Who Thee by faith before the world confest,  
 Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest, Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;  
 Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
 Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold,  
 Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old  
 And win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!
4. O blest communion, fellowship divine,  
 We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
 Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!
6. But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;  
 The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
 The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia! Alleluia!
8. The golden evening brightens in the west;  
 Soon, soon, to faithful warriors cometh rest.  
 Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Announcements:

- † Melvin's family extends a word of thanks to all who have been supportive and encouraging during this time of their temporary loss but Melvin's great gain.
- † Everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship meal in the church's fellowship hall following the funeral service.
- † A committal is planned for tomorrow, Tuesday, December 17, 9 am, at Fairview Cemetery in Oakland Township, MN.
- † Video of the worship service will be live streamed. Find light blue button/link labeled: "Live Stream Services" at: [FridleyLutheran.org](http://FridleyLutheran.org)
- † Video will also be archived at the same website under "Sermons."
- † Memorials may be designated per the donor's personal choice. The family sincerely thanks those who express themselves in this fashion and conveys its gratitude for such remembrances at this time.

### † Correspondence:

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### † Pall Bearers:

Stephen Eichstadt  
Keith Devine  
Aaron Ude  
Simon Moe

Caleb Eichstadt  
Drew Eichstadt  
Asher Eichstadt

## John 11:25-26:

Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

