



"I am the
resurrection
and the
life."

JOHN 11:25

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FRIDLEY, MN 55432

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Pastor: John P. Hein

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Organist: Janelle Hein

Date: October 12, 2015 – 10:00 am

† RICHARD ALLEN COWAN †

Invocation & Prayer:

Opening Hymn: *WS 744: How Great Thou Art*

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. And 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]**

Brief Biography: *With WS 785: Children of the Heavenly Father*

The pilgrimage of Richard Allen Cowan through this world of sin and sorrow into the victorious glory of heaven may be summed up as follows: His earthly pilgrimage began when he was born on March 12, 1943, in Beloit, WI, the son of Allen and Doris Cowan. Richard became a child of God by the power of the Holy Spirit through Holy Baptism. Richard graduated in 1961 from high school in Janesville, WI. "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27).

**SING(♪): Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

Richard married Jane Smith on April 25, 1998, at Grace Lutheran Church in Fridley, MN. Richard had five children from a former marriage: Steve, Kevin, Kenneth, Brian, and Christopher. He also was blessed with Jane's children: Kuyle and Kendra. The Lord blessed their marital union with 17 years of Christian companionship. For 50 years Richard faithfully served His Lord as a truck driver, retiring in 2010.

Richard also made his Christian confession before the world through his membership at Grace Lutheran Church, joining with his wife on April 26, 1998. Richard glorified his Lord Jesus throughout his life, understanding well the payment His Savior made for his sins: *"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"* (1 Corinthians 6:20).

**SING(♪): God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

Richard's soul was summoned to be with his Lord this past Wednesday, October 7, 2015, his time of grace on earth being 72 years, 6 months, and 25 days. He was surrounded by family as he peacefully fell asleep in the Lord after hearing the Word of God, hearing the singing of a few hymns, saying the Lord's Prayer, and receiving the Lord's blessing. His earthly remains will be laid to rest at Plankinton, SD, awaiting the Last Day of the world when our Lord 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(♪): Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

Richard was preceded in death by his father, Allen; mother, Doris; son, Christopher; father-in-law, Harold Smith; and mother-in-law, Elnora Smith. He is survived by his loving Christian wife, Jane; son, Steve; son, Kevin (April); son, Kenneth (Leta); Brian (Ana); son, Kuyle Christiansen (Jeni); daughter, Kendra (Chris) Enochson; 9 grandchildren; and aunts, Verna and Joyce Kiesz.

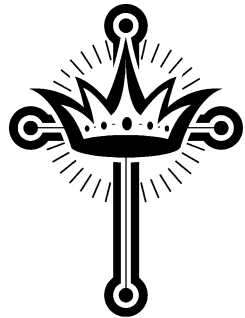
We thank the Lord for blessing us with Richard and allowing him to touch our lives in the way that he did as a husband, father, brother in Christ, companion, and friend. *"The LORD gave, the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:21).

SING(♪): Though He giveth or He taketh,
 God His children ne'er forsaketh;
 His the loving purpose solely
 To preserve them pure and holy.

Scripture Readings of Comfort:

Hymn:..... *TLH 388: Just As I Am*

1. Just as I am, without one plea
 But that Thy blood was shed for me
 And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
2. Just as I am and waiting not
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
3. Just as I am, though tossed about
 With many a conflict, many a doubt,
 Fightings and fears within, without,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken every barrier down.
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



Sermon: *John 14:6*

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (NKJV™)

"Richard Kept His Eyes on the Road"

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!
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!

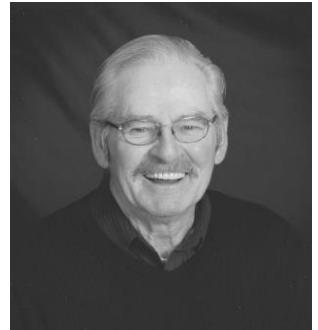
Prayer:

Lord's Prayer:.....*Solo*

Benediction:

Closing Hymn:*TLH 200: I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

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.
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!"



Announcements:

- † Everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship meal in the church's fellowship hall following the funeral service.
- † Richard's family extends a word of thanks to all who have been supportive and encouraging during this time of their temporary loss yet Richard's great gain.
- † Memorials may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church which the family wishes to be used for the school.