



HE RESTORES MY SOUL.
HE LEADS ME IN PATHS OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HIS
NAME'S SAKE. PSALM 23:3

SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE TO GOD FOR
HIS BLESSING THROUGH THE LIFE OF:

✠ **Ricky James Sowa** ✠

Born: July 6, 1952

Died: December 22, 2025

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Monday, December 29, 2025 ~ 11:00am

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

PASTORAL GREETING

- P** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

- P** In holy Baptism in 1952, Ricky 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 were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"
- C** **We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with Him in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.** *(Romans 6:3-5)*
- P** Through faith, Ricky is a child of God! Throughout his earthly life and even now in his eternal life. Jesus Christ was and is his faithful and life-giving Shepherd.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING OF RESURRECTION COMFORT

- P** Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! The Apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

- C** **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- P** When Christ, who is our life appears,

- C** **Then we also shall appear with Him in glory.**

- P** We will be before the throne of God

- C** **And serve Him day and night in His temple.**

- P** Never again will we hunger;

- C** **Never again will we thirst.**

- P** For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd.
He will lead us to springs of living water.

- C** **And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

READINGS

Psalm 23

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

John 11:17-27

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

- P** God has made us His people through Baptism into Christ Jesus.
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.

1. **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!**
2. **The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**
4. **Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**
5. **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.**

SERMON

Blessed!

John 11:17-27

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken by the Congregation*)

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

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: 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. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain*
3. But 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*

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Officiating: Rev. Dean M. Davenport
Organist: Tom Schroeder

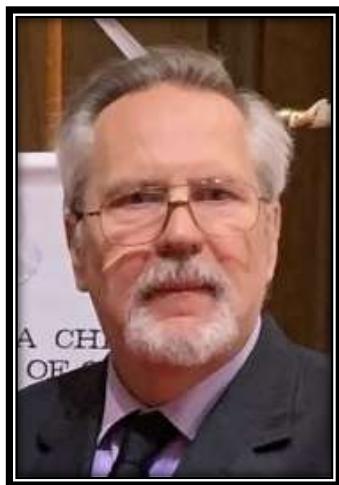


*Please join the Sowa family for a luncheon
immediately following the service in the gym
at the West end of the building.*



Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
14175 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154

In Loving Memory ~



Ricky James Sowa

July 6, 1952 – December 22, 2025

Ricky James Sowa, age 73, formerly of Dearborn, Michigan, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2025.

Ricky was born on July 6, 1952, to the late Edward and Teofila Sowa. He was known for his kind, loving, and selfless spirit toward everyone he met. Ricky had a special gift for making people laugh and loved sharing stories that brought joy and connection to those around him.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Pamela; his loving children, Victoria (Tom) Harrison and Marc Sowa; and his cherished grandsons, Bradley and Benjamin Harrison, of whom he was immensely proud. Ricky is also survived by his sister, Judy (Mike) Berry. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Edward and Dennis Sowa.

A memorial service honoring Ricky's life will be held on Monday, December 29, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livonia, Michigan. Visitation will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Ricky will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.