

Christian Funeral for Melvin D. Bodtke

Born: Sunday, February 9, 1936

Entered the Church Triumphant: Friday, March 1, 2024

Date of Service: Thursday, March 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church—The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

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Hymn

The Old Rugged Cross

Verse 1

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suff'ring and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain**

Chorus

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown**

Verse 2

**O the old rugged cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary**

Verse 3

**In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me**

Verse 4

**To the old rugged cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share**

Text: George Bernard

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Remembrance of Baptism

- P** In Holy Baptism Melvin 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 (KJV)

- P** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- C** **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- P** He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- C** **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**
- P** Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- C** **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**
- C** **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.**

Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
- C** **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and 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 Melvin 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 Reading

Isaiah 49:8–10, 13–16

⁸Thus says the LORD:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages,

⁹saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’

to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’

They shall feed along the ways;

on all bare heights shall be their pasture;

¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst,

neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,

for he who has pity on them will lead them,

and by springs of water will guide them.

¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

for the LORD has comforted his people

and will have compassion on his afflicted.

¹⁴But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me;

my Lord has forgotten me.”

¹⁵“Can a woman forget her nursing child,

that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb?

Even these may forget,

yet I will not forget you.

¹⁶Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;

your walls are continually before me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 12:1–3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse for Lent

A If we have died with Christ,
we shall also live with Him;

C **if we are faithful to the end,
we shall reign with Him.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:25–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

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.

801 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!

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989; Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989;
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Sermon

537 Beautiful Savior

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of
 God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -
 serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904; Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.; Text and tune:
 Public domain.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into 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 peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- 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 so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to the family of Melvin and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Receive our thanks for Melvin and for all the blessings You bestowed on him in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with him we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O 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 He 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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

A "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.**

A "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 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.

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction and Dismissal

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.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of the Lord. Amen.

878 Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

- 5 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!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Melvin D. Bodtke

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His servant, Melvin.

Melvin D. Bodtke was given life by his creator on February 9, 1936, in Gilead to Walter and Lydia (Gerberding) Bodtke. Melvin received the gift of baptism and became a child of God on February 23, 1936, and he publicly confessed his baptismal faith and was confirmed, both at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Gilead, Nebraska. Melvin graduated from Reynolds High School in 1953. Melvin received the gift of a beloved companion as he married Shirley Asche on October 28, 1956.

God blessed Melvin with many wonderful people as he served God in his vocations at home, church, work, and in the community. Melvin served his country in the Nebraska Army National Guard. He worked for Thayer County, H. Ell's Implement, moved to Beatrice in 1960 and worked for Sprague's which later became Carl A. Anderson Automotive for 18 ½ years and opened and operated Melron's Store from January 1, 1979 to 2018. Melvin taught a diesel mechanic class at Southeast Community College and was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Beatrice where he served as a trustee and elder, and he was a member of United Commercial Travelers. He enjoyed playing cards, tinkering, spending time with friends and taking videos.

On Friday, March 1, 2024, at Bryan Medical Center East in Lincoln. Melvin D. Bodtke, at 88 years of age, was blessed by God with a holy death, and God graciously took him home to rest in the arms of Jesus to await the resurrection of the dead.

Melvin is survived by his sons, Dennis Bodtke and wife Sally of Lincoln, Duane Bodtke of York; grandchildren, Amanda Cades, Evan Bodtke and wife Jessica; great grandchildren, Bria Cades, Jaffari Huls; sisters, Florence Trias of Tucson, Arizona, Alice Peacock of Lee's Summit, Missouri; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Shirley in 2014; brother, Bill Bodtke; and brothers-in-law, Jess Trias and Jim Peacock.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our brother, Melvin.

