



The Lord replied,
“The times when you have
seen only one set of footprints
in the sand, is when I carried you.”

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

May 17, 2024

In Loving Memory of

Gordon Alan Strutz

November 20, 1945 – April 27, 2024

A Christian memorial service is a worship celebration. Although there is sadness because we no longer have our loved one with us, we meet here to celebrate the joy of victory for Gordon Alan Strutz and for ourselves as we believe that Jesus Christ has died for us and was raised back to life. We worship together.

† † †

VICTORY CELEBRATION

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 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. (*Romans 6:3-5*)

CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

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!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

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.

INVOCATION

P We gather here today to receive and to share with each other the comfort and strength of our Lord.

C **In His Word is both life and hope which is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P In You, O Lord, do we trust. Be with us this day as we need and seek Your guidance and direction in grief and sorrow.

C **In You, O Lord, do we trust. And so, we make our beginning in the name of the Father Who created us, the Son Who redeemed both body and soul, and the Holy Spirit Who made this earthly body the temple of our Lord. Amen.**

P O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today, Gordon, our brother in Christ. We thank You for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion here on earth. In Your unlimited compassion, console us who mourn. Enable us, Lord, to be able to see in death the gate to eternal life and that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with Gordon and those who have gone before us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God the Father Who loved us, and by His grace gave us eternal life, strengthen you in every good deed and word. (*2 Thess. 2:16-17*)

C **Amen.**

PSALM 23 (ESV)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ 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.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

SECOND READING

REVELATION 21:1–4 (ESV)

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

GOSPEL PROMISE

John 14:1-6 (ESV)

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² 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? ³ 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. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

HYMN

“Be Still, My Soul”

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change He faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

MESSAGE

“THE BEST”

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Rev. Jim Sprenkle

PRAYER

P O God, our Father in Heaven:

C **Have Mercy.**

P O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

C **Have Mercy.**

P O God the Holy Spirit, our Counselor:

C **Grant us Your peace.**

P O, how glorious is that Kingdom wherein all the saints rejoice
with Christ.

C **They are clothed with white robes and follow the Lamb
wherever He goes.**

P Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
C **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

P Loving and merciful God, if it were not for the promise of the
resurrection and life eternal, we could not endure the sorrow
which has come upon this gathering. Only the assurance of
Your continual presence enables us to carry on during these
times. Lord, do not let these loved ones mourn as those who
have no hope. Comfort them day after day with the precious
promise of Your Word. Give them grace to come to You and
to find rest for their souls.

P Merciful God, You have appointed us to endure trouble and sorrow with our Lord Jesus Christ before we enter with Him into glory. Enable us to be strong in faith to the end and to find peace and joy in the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come. We pray through Jesus.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P 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.

THE COMMENDATION

P Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant, Gordon Alan Strutz. We humbly ask, Lord, that You acknowledge him as a sheep of Your fold, a lamb of Your flock, and a sinner whom You have redeemed. Receive him into Your merciful arms, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in Heaven.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

(Elderly Simeon spoke the following words when Baby Jesus was presented to him in the temple.)

P Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel. *Luke 2:29-32*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN

How Great Thou Art

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!**

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)**

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)**

*The family invites you to join them in the Community Room
for a time of refreshment and fellowship.*

Remembrances to:

???

Officiant: Rev. Jim Sprengle
Musicians: Brad Hall

Acknowledgements

Scripture taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Capitalization of pronouns referring to the Deity has been added and is not part of the original English Standard Version text.

Unless otherwise noted, all hymns printed in this service are in the Public Domain.

Be Still, My Soul, before the Lord, Text: © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

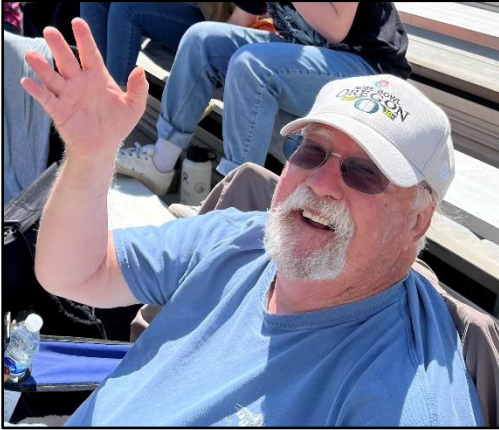
Text: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

Gordon Alan Strutz

November 20, 1945 – April 27, 2024

† † †



Gordon Alan Strutz, son of Maxwell Strutz and Velma Dobrinski, was born on November 20, 1945 in Portland, OR and died at Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital on April 27, 2024 at the age of 78 years 5 months and 7 days.

Gordon was baptized at Calvary Lutheran Church in 1945 and confirmed at St. Timothy Lutheran Church

on March 22, 1959 and was a member of Ascension Lutheran Church at the time of his death.

Gordon was united in marriage to Donna Prather on October 31, 1971 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. All of their homes were in the Gresham/Portland area. They first lived in an apartment on Powell, then moved into a house near Harold Oliver, followed by their home on 188th Place where they lived until 1997. Then they moved to their current home on Equestrian Drive. Three children were born to their union. They were Tanya Lee Strutz, Lisa Ann Strutz, and Laura Kay Strutz. Gordon had six grandchildren: Noble and Shay Trahan, Paige and Grace Rodriguez, and Logan and Nolan Glaze.

Along with being involved in the church, such as teaching Sunday School at St. Timothy Lutheran, Gordon loved cheering on his favorite football team, the Oregon Ducks; spending time at the Oregon Coast; and supporting his wife, children, and grandchildren in all their life events. Gordon had a deep faith in God and an unwavering devotion to his family.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Maxwell and Velma, and his brother Mike. Surviving to mourn him are his wife Donna, daughters Tanya, Lisa, and Laura, sister Maxine, brother Tom, six grandchildren, four nieces and three nephews.