

*Blessed are those who mourn  
for they will be comforted.*

*Matthew 5:4*



# SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

November 18, 2024

In Loving Memory of

**Harold (Lew) Gene Lewis Jr.**

September 7, 1961 – October 23, 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 Harold (Lew) Gene Lewis Jr. 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 (pg. 8)

### 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, Lew, 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 Lew 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.**

## LEW'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

### **John 3:16 (ESV)**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

## **Ephesians 1:3-8 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of His glorious grace, with which He has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, <sup>8</sup> which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

## **Psalms 23 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **GOSPEL PROMISE**

## **John 14:1-6 (ESV)**

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

## **HYMN OF COMFORT**

### **"When Peace, Like A River"**

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

**Refrain**  
**It is well (It is well)**  
**with my soul, (with my soul),**  
**It is well, it is well with my soul.**

He lives oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **(refrain)**

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
Even so it is well with my soul. **(refrain)**

**MESSAGE**  
**“A PLACE FOR LEW”**

**Rev. Jim Sprengle**  
**John 14:1-6**

**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.

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, Harold (Lew) Gene Lewis Jr. 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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## **HYMN**

### **“How Great Thou Art”**

O Lord, my God, When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow’r thru’out 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!**

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)**

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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### **Remembrances:**

Ascension Lutheran Church

Officiant: **Rev. Jim Sprengle**

Musician: **Brad Hall**

### **Acknowledgements**

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**CHRISTIAN OBITUARY**  
**Harold (Lew) Gene Lewis Jr.**  
**September 7, 1961 – October 23, 2024**



Harold “Lew” Lewis died October 23, 2024 at age 63 after suffering from a long illness.

He was born September 7, 1961 to Harold Gene Lewis and JoAnn Westfall in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lew is survived by his wife; Susan A. Lewis, two children; Kaleb and Rebekka Lewis, three stepchildren; Brian and Jeremy Black, Monica Price and husband Chris, grandchildren; Ashley, Lance, John, Sophia, Dylan, Meredith, Lily, Brian, Jr. and great-grandchildren; Alaya, Sam and Josie.

## **The Dash**

by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted first came the date of the birth and spoke the following date with tears.

But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time that they spent life on Earth.

And now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash.

What matters is how we live and love, and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard. Are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough to consider what's true and real,  
and always try to understand the way other people feel.

Be less quick to anger and show appreciation more,  
and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,  
remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read with your life's actions to rehash,  
would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?