

To remember and to thank God for the life of
Mel Johnson

June 30, 1927–July 14, 2021

July 26, 2021 | 3 p.m.



Prelude

Heidi Thomas, pianist

Welcome

Military Honors

Gathering

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother Mel, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Mel. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A Life Remembered

Heather Johnson

Music

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Moran, Kacie, and Trinity Thomas

Reading

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from where will my help come?

²My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.

Gospel

Matthew 5:14–16

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus taught his disciples, saying:] ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Ron Swenson

Hymn

ELW 879: **For the Beauty of the Earth**

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:

Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'For the Beauty of the Earth'. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system contains the first three verses of the hymn. The second system contains the continuation of the lyrics. The third system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the final line of the hymn. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Text: Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, alt.
Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

To each petition the assembly responds:

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Commendation

Let us commend Mel to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, holy God, we commend our brother Mel. In this life, through the waters of baptism, you embraced him with your tender love; now bid him to enter eternal rest. Welcome him into your paradise, where there will be no more sorrow, no weeping or pain, but where he will enjoy the fullness of peace and joy in your presence, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

LBW 567: God of Our Fathers

1 God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y hand
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the past;
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some way;

leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry band
in this free land by you our lot is cast;
lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing day;

of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the skies:
oh, be our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and stay;
fill all our lives with heav'n - born love and grace

our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
your word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
un - til at last we meet be - fore your face.

Text: Daniel C. Roberts, 1841–1907, alt.
Music: NATIONAL HYMN, George W. Warren, 1828–1902

Benediction

Benediction Response

“You Are My Sunshine”

Moran, Kacie, and Trinity Thomas

Sending

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Larry Scalfari, organist

Committal

Following the service, you are invited downstairs to Fellowship Hall for a reception while the family gathers in the Augustana Memorial Garden for a brief, private committal service of the ashes. The family looks forward to greeting you at the reception while sharing refreshments and stories.

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Inurnment

Augustana Memorial Garden
Denver, Colorado

Memorials

may be designated to
Augustana Lutheran Church
5000 E Alameda Ave
Denver CO 80246
<https://www.augustanadenver.org/>

or

US Forest Service

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/donations>

You are invited

to greet the family at a reception
in Fellowship Hall
following the service.

Worship Ministries

Presider: Pastor Ann Hultquist

Preacher: Pastor Ron Swenson

Pianist/Organist: Heidi Thomas

Organist: Larry Scalfari

Usher: Rosalee Wanchisen

Musical Trio: Morgan, Kacie, and Trinity Thomas

A Life Remembered: Heather Johnson Greenhalge

My help is in the mountain
where I take myself to heal
the earthly wounds that people give me.

I find a rock with sun on it and
a stream where the water runs gently
and the trees which, one by one,
give me comfort.

So I must stay for a long time
until have grown from the rock
and the stream is running through me,
and I cannot tell myself from one tall tree.

Then I know that nothing touches me
nor makes me run away.

My help is in the mountain
that I take away with me.

Indigo Raven
Taos Native