

## The Victory Service of



### **Christopher Joseph Fletcher**

November 6, 1959 – September 20, 2022

Saturday, September 24, 2022 – 11:00 am  
A Divine Service of Faith Lutheran Church – CLC  
Manchester, MO  
Pastor Sam Rodebaugh

## **The Sermon Text**

*Luke 23:46-47*

*Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"*

## **"He Breathed His Last . . . and Then He Lived!"**



## **Response**

*"The Nunc Dimittis"*

- C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant Depart in peace according to Thy Word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people. A light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.

## **Prayer**

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, in this hour of grief, comfort the surviving family and friends of Chris Fletcher. By Your grace enable us to say in humble submission: "Thy will be done." And forgive us our sins when we forget that Your will is always good and best. While our hearts are filled with sadness at his departure, yet we know You prepared him well, and our lips speak praise that You have removed him from all the trials and tribulations of this life and received him to Yourself in heaven. Sustain us by the power of Your holy Word which promises strength and help in time of need. Comfort us with the precious hope of the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting through Jesus Christ Your Son, our living Lord and Savior. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **The Benediction**

## **Hymn: TLH #660**

*"I'm But a Stranger Here"*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading

*John 14:1-6*

"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."

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading

*Revelation 7:9-17*

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup> and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." <sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup> "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. <sup>16</sup> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. <sup>17</sup> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

## Hymn: WS #777

*"Amazing Grace"*

## The Invocation

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

## The Prayer

- P** O Lord, almighty God and Father, we praise You for the uncountable proofs of Your faithfulness and mercy. We thank You that You have given our brother to drink of that well of water which springs up into everlasting life. And we thank You that now in Your mercy, you have delivered him from all the labor and sorrow of this present life and received him into the rest and peace of Your heavenly kingdom. Grant unto us Your grace so that we too may make ready for the unknown hour and for a blessed departure from this world. Enable us to use our allotted time well in the study of Your Name, working while it is day before the night comes when no man can work. And at last do for us what You in love have done for our departed brother—deliver our souls from despair, and let us fall asleep in peace and obtain the crown of everlasting glory. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord. Amen.

## Hymn: TLH #457

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

## Reading of the Obituary

Christopher Joseph Fletcher, age 62 of New Douglas, IL, formerly of St. Louis, MO, born November 6, 1959 in Kirkwood, MO, passed away on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, IL.

Chris was born and raised in the St. Louis area. He was the second youngest of four children born to William and Marilyn Fletcher.

*"O LORD, You have searched me and known me. . . For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well." (Ps. 139:1ff)*

Chris married Cynthia Hosto on April 23, 2001. The Lord blessed the couple with twenty-one years of marriage. They spent many of their years of marriage as active members of Faith Lutheran Church where Chris also served at different times as an Elder and as the Treasurer. Chris also worked as a computer programmer in the auto insurance industry for over 20 years. He enjoyed shooting hand guns and spending time with Cindy and his dog, Sammy.

*“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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”* (Ps. 23:4ff)

Chris was preceded in death by his parents, William and Marilyn (nee Schwartz) Fletcher.

He is survived by his wife Cindy; two step-sons, Matt and Jake Howard; two step-grandchildren, Emma Howard and Caitlin (Brett) Lesiski; two brothers, Jim (Patty) Fletcher and Bill (Jenny) Fletcher; a sister, Anne (Gary) Grosse; and numerous nieces and nephews.

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*  
(2 Tim. 4:7-8)

## “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Pastor

*“Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!”*

## The Encouragement of Scripture

"Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue."  
(Job 14:1-2)

"Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor."  
(Psalm 39:5)

Thus says the Lord:

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return. By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, because all have sinned. There is no respect of persons; we die the common death of all men; for the wages of sin is death."

(Gen. 3:19; Rom 5:12; Rom. 2:11; Rom. 6:23)

“But blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who has loved us and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, and has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”  
(2 Cor. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:3)

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Being delivered for our offenses, He was raised again for our justification and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. He is the First Fruits of those who sleep, and says:

**"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."**

(1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 4:25; 2 Tim. 1:10; Jn. 11:25)

In light of these promises: We now have confidence that our beloved brother-in-Christ has been given the crown of everlasting life. May we also be found in constant readiness for our final days, ever waiting for our Lord in the light of His Word, that through His power resting on us, we may overcome the world and be counted worthy at last to reign with Him eternally in heaven. May God grant it. Amen.

**Hymn: TLH #370**

*"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"*