

Memorial Service For
++ Rhonda Kay (Rossler) Boettcher ++
September 28, 1948—October 19, 2024
First Lutheran Church Longmont Colorado
Monday, November 11, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

Piano & Organ Duet - Stan & Gary Elmquist

WELCOME

TOLLING OF HANDBELL

We are called to worship as one body in Christ. Tune your hearts to listen so Holy Spirit may uplift you and help you in all you do for Him.

P: Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: 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 death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"* ELW 413 (Verses 1 & 2)

From age 7 through age 12, I was part of the Junior Choir at Our Saviour's Lutheran, Menomonie, Wisconsin. We were 110 members strong! Every Sunday, we processed signing the opening hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy"

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Rhonda. We thank you for giving us to know and to console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

HYMN

"Now Thank We All Our God"

ELW 840

On December 20, 1970, David and I were united in marriage at Our Saviour's in Menomonie, Wisconsin. This was our recessional.

P: Let us pray:

Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness. We give you heartfelt thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors. May, we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in your eternal and everlasting glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

HYMN *"I Love To Tell the Story"* ELW 661 (Verses 1 & 2)

Telling the story of God's word is do easily done through song. Lift strong your voices and witness.

LESSON: JOB 19:25-26

²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth;

²⁶and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God.

HYMN *"My Faith Look Up to Thee"* ELW 759

To have faith as a mustard seed that can grow and be nourished by so many along our life's journey is represented in this beautiful hymn.

LESSON: 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-57

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

HYMN: *"The Lord's My Shepherd"* (Brother James Air) ELW 778 (Vs 1 & 2)

I have many wonderful teachers and musical experiences. Singing this anthem in ninth grade at a contest was a spiritual experience and helped me realize that my calling was to teach music.

LESSON: ROMANS 14:7-8

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

HYMN: *"When I Survey the Wonderful Cross"* ELW 803

Christ's crucifixion is uplifted in the hymn and has become one of the favorites after hearing Gilbert M. Martin's arrangement of it by Luther College's Nordic Choir. Luther College, Decorah, Iowa was where I received my BA in Music, Education and Psychology in 1970.

SERMON: Based on the Gospel of John 11:25-26

Pr Garrett Struessel

HYMN:

"Blessed Assurance"

ELW 638

"This is my story, this is my song, praising my Saviour all the day long.." Finding His Love and gifts throughout our lives is our task for each day.

P: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

C: 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:

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to the newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death, we may pas with him to you joyful resurrection.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that may have strength to meet the days ahead in comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant us grace to entrust Rhonda to your never-failing love which sustained her in this life. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, and remember her according to the favor you bear for your people.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

C: Hear us, Lord

P: God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died and especially those most dear to us who rest in you. Make us certain that because he live we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall 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

HOLY COMMUNION

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up you hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORDS 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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

Sung at all of my relatives' funerals. This hymn was sung to remind us the God created us and all that exists and that He is sovereign.

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW 781

No matter what are age, we are all His children. He will comfort and protect us in all we do in our lives

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733

No wonder this is the most chosen hymn of all time. We are never alone or forgotten – not now or in the future.

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW 856

Growing up on a Wisconsin farm and having privilege of living in Colorado and Wyoming, this hymn speaks to the awesome world God created for us to take care of and to cherish.

COMMENDATION

P: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Rhonda. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, and a sinner

of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen

P: Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Grant to us, your servants, so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake in your likeness; to you, the author of giver of all life, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen

P: Grant her eternal rest, O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Now may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant that makes you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight. Through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

C: Amen

HYMN: *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"* ELW 619

(All 8 verses per Rhonda's request)

He lives that we may conquer death! We may begone from this earthly life but what we do here will live on and we will be raised on the last day.

POSTLUDE

"Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In"

Piano & Organ Duet - Stan & Gary Elmquist

Joining the saints that have gone before us is a welcome happening.

Serving Today:

Organists, Gary Elmquist, Stan Elmquist

Pastor Garrett Struessel

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
 though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW 840

1. Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices, who
 2. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the

wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who
 ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and
 Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the

from our mothers' arms, has blest us on the way with
 keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed, and for
 one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;

count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 free us from all harm in this world and the next.
 thus it was, is now, and shall be ever-more.

I Love to Tell the Story

ELW 661

1. I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
2. I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat what
3. I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet! I
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And

love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true; it
love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the
when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song, I'll

sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

ELW 759

1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2. May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3. While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me stread,
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; bles Sav - vior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nonr let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

Muisc: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1972-1872

The Lord's My Shepherd

ELW 778

1. The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie in
 2. My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make with-
 3. Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; for
 4. My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence fo my foes; my
 5. Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me, and

pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by. He
 in the paths of righ-teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake; with-
 thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still; for
 head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows. My
 in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shal be; and

lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
 in the paths of righ-teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
 thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
 dead thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
 in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shal be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*; Edinburgh, 1650
 Music: James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gardon Jacob, 1895-1984

Arr. © Oxford University Press

BROTHER JAMES' AIR

8 6 8 6 8 6

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown.
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

HAMBURG
 LM

Alternative tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and

vine! Hear of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his
sight; an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of
blest, watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his

blood. This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day
love.
love.

long: this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

ASSURANCE
9 10 9 9 and refrain

1. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

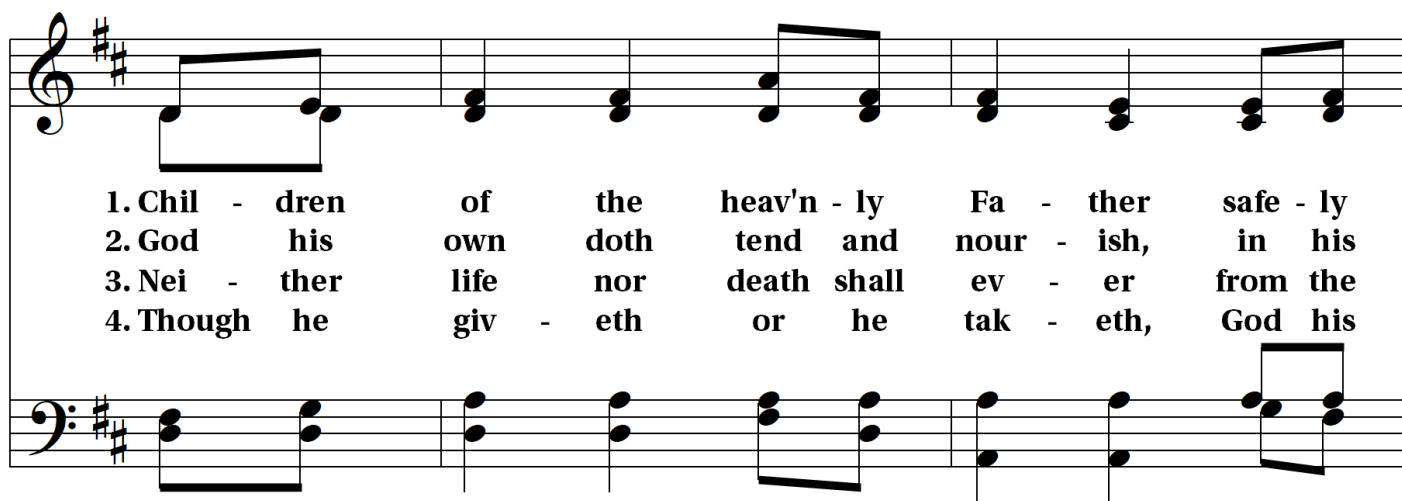
Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise ad - o - ra - tion,

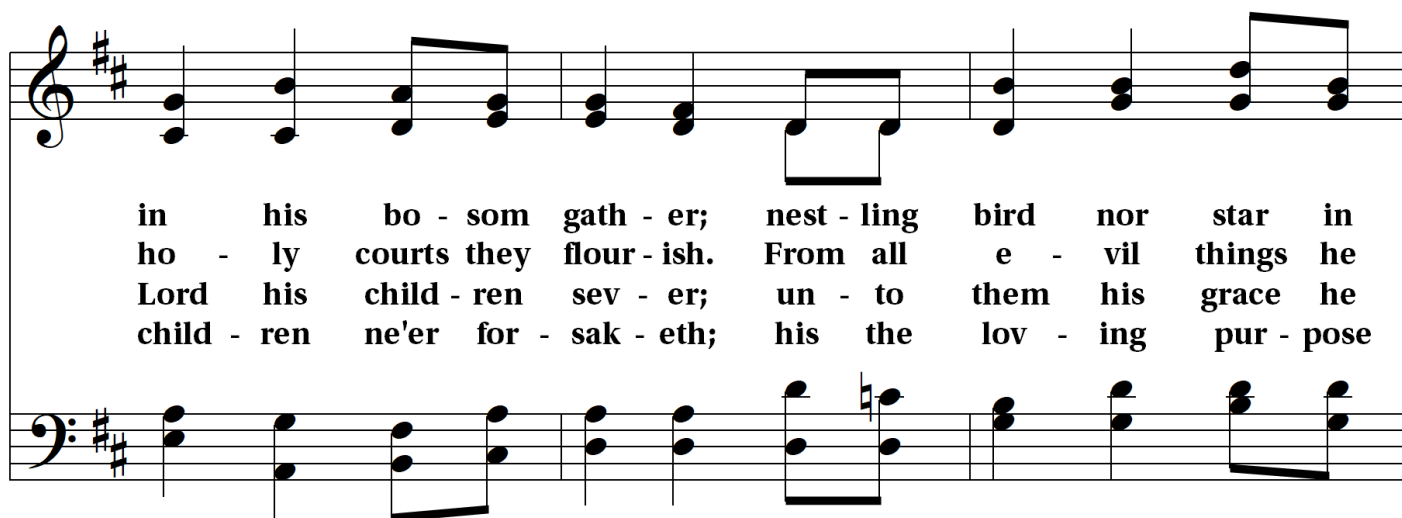
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Children of the Heavenly Father

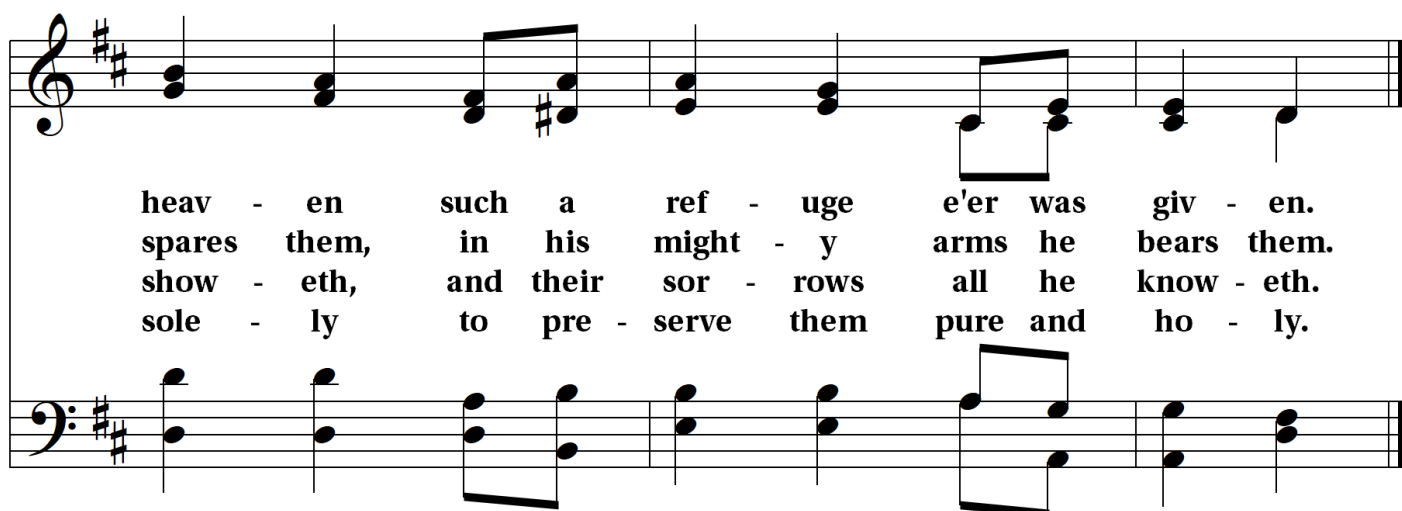
ELW 781



1. Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
 2. God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his
 3. Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
 4. Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bo - som gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
 Lord his child - ren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
 child - ren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

Music: Swedish folk tune

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

LM

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

ELW 733

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and, spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
 stars in their cours - es a - bove; join with all na - ture in
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with then thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



handhath pro - vid-ed; great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960
Music: William M. Runyan, 1870-1957
Text and music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS
11 10 11 10 and refrain

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856



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 G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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I Know That My Redeemer Lives

ELW 619

1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives!
 2. He lives tri - um - phant from the grave;
 3. He lives to grant me rich sup - ply;
 4. He lives to si - lence all my fears;

What com - fort this sweet sen - tence gives!
 he lives e - ter - nal - ly to save;
 he lives to guide me with his eye;
 he lives to wipe a - way my tears;

He lives he lives, who once was dead;
 he lives ex - alt - ed, throned a - bove;
 he lives to com - fort me when faint;
 he lives to calm my trou - bled heart;

he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head!
 he lives to rule his church in
 he lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
 he lives all bless - ings to im - part

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.
 Music: attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DUKE STREET
 LM

5. He lives to bless me with his love;
 he lives to plead for me above;
 he lives my hungry fould to feed;
 he lives to help in time of need.

6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 he lives and loves me to the end;
 he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
 he lives my prophet, priest, and king!

7. He lives and grants me daily breath;
 he lives, and I shall conquer death;
 he lives my mansion to prepare;
 he lives to bring me safely there.

8. He lives, all glory to his name!
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;
 what joy this blest assurance gives:
 I know that my Redeemre lives!