

# ***Claude “Mac” McPeak***

*November 9, 1934 – May 23, 2026*



**Memorial Service**  
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Lakeland, Florida**

**Monday, June 15, 2026**  
***10:30 in the morning***

‡ *Claude William “Mac” McPeak* ‡

*Birth*

*Nov. 9, 1934*

*Baptism*

*Apr. 1, 1935*

*Communion with Saints*

*May 23, 2026*

\*=ALL STAND for this part of worship

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

*Meditation on “Abide with Me”*

Paul Fey

**GATHERING**

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

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All who are baptized into Christ  
have put on Christ.  
In his baptism,  
*Mac* was clothed with Christ.  
In the day of Christ’s coming,  
*he* shall be clothed with glory.

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.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*A Mighty Fortress*

ELW 405



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; our help - er he a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing; were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth; the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing; for still our an - cient foe  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be?  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim,  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go,



doth seek to work us woe; his craft and pow'r are great,  
 Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sa - ba - oth his name,  
 we trem - ble not for him; his rage we can en - dure,  
 this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may kill:



and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 for lo! his doom is sure, one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 God's truth a - bid - eth still, his king - dom is for - ev - er.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–1890  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

## **\*APOSTOLIC 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**

Let us pray. **Almighty God,  
source of all mercy and giver of comfort,  
graciously tend those who mourn, that,  
casting all their sorrow on you,  
they may know the consolation of your love;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*(We sit)*

## **FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 40:1-11, 28-31**

- <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.
- <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.
- <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All flesh is grass;  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades,  
[[when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades,]]  
but the word of our God will stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup> Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”  
<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms  
and carry them in his bosom  
and gently lead the mother sheep.  
<sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.  
<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint  
and strengthens the powerless.  
<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted,  
<sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 143:1-10

*We will read the Psalm responsively, by half verse.*

<sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness;  
**answer me in your righteousness.**

<sup>2</sup> Do not enter into judgment with your servant,  
**for no one living is righteous before you.**

<sup>3</sup> For the enemy has pursued me,  
crushing my life to the ground,  
**making me sit in darkness like those long dead.**

<sup>4</sup> Therefore my spirit faints within me;  
**my heart within me is appalled.**

<sup>5</sup> I remember the days of old;  
I think about all your deeds;  
**I meditate on the works of your hands.**

<sup>6</sup> I stretch out my hands to you;  
**my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

<sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, O Lord;  
my spirit fails.

**Do not hide your face from me,  
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.**

<sup>8</sup> Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning,  
for in you I put my trust.

**Teach me the way I should go,  
for to you I lift up my soul.**

<sup>9</sup> Save me, O Lord, from my enemies;  
**I have fled to you for refuge.**

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God.

**Let your good spirit lead me  
on a level path.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 8:31-35, 37-39**

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

## \*GOSPEL

**John 1: 1-5, 9-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ... <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.** (*We sit*)

## SERMON

*The Rev. Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE

*Beautiful Savior*

ELW 838

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!  
 robbed 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!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

## \*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 OF INTERCESSION

*(We sit)*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Help us, 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. God of mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives 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. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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 *Mac* to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.  
Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, *Mac*.  
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.  
Receive *him* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest  
of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.  
**Amen.**

\*SENDING HYMN

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW 660

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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**\*BENEDICTION**

God the Creator, the beginning and the end,  
Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
and the Spirit, our advocate and guide,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*RECEPTION BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

arr. H. Alexander Matthews

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**SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Dr. Olga-Maria Cruz
Assisting Minister	Kristen Storms
Organist	Gene Hodges

## Claude W. McPeak



Claude W. “Mac” McPeak died on Saturday, May 23, 2026 at age 91. A nearly 50-year resident of Lakeland, Mac owned Graphics House of Lakeland and Plant City Printing. Mac was born on November 9, 1934, in Hillsboro, Illinois to Delbert and Mildred McPeak. After a brief sojourn through Port Reading, New Jersey, he and his parents and his five brothers and sisters ultimately settled in Tampa, Florida. Mac graduated from Brewster Technical High School in Tampa and then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After training in Parris Island, South Carolina and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Mac was stationed at Marine Barracks Washington, DC, 8th and I, “Oldest Post of the Corps”. His dates of Marine Corps service were 1953-1957.

After his discharge from the Marine Corps, Mac went to work in Washington, DC where he met Barbara Jean Wellendorf. They married in July 1958 and remained dedicated to each other for 67 years, raising four children. Mac and Barbara spent the first years of their marriage in Washington, DC, Falls Church, VA, and

Lovettsville, VA before moving to Lakeland in 1979 where Mac opened his two businesses.

Family and friends of Mac remember a man with a generous spirit and a twinkle in his eye. He loved nothing better than a quick quip or a good prank, often professing his innocence by musing, “And there I was, just minding my own business.....” Mac enjoyed traveling with his family, camping with his children, playing with his grandchildren, serving as a Boy Scout leader when his sons were young, visiting museums, and attending car shows. Mac was an avid Scrabble player and it was a point of immense pride in the family if one could beat him.

Mac was raised Baptist but was a long time Lutheran and a member of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Lovettsville, VA and Grace Lutheran Church in Lakeland, FL. As a member of these congregations, Mac served as an usher, a greeter, and a congregation council member.

Mac is survived by his wife, Barbara, and their children Steve McPeak (Holly) of Lucketts, VA, Mike McPeak (Tane) of Lovettsville, VA , Jan Healy (Bob) of Gainesville, VA, and JoEllen McPeak of Lakeland, FL. Mac was a beloved grandfather, and is survived by his grandchildren K. Lee McPeak (Maura) of Frederick, MD, Corrie Stiller (Tim) of Strasburg, VA, Kristen Healy of Hughesville, MD, Michael Healy of Gainesville, VA, William Healy of Gainesville, VA, Caroline Healy of Richmond, VA, Victoria Stranger-Thorsen of Lakeland, FL, and Hunter Stranger-Thorsen of Wesley Chapel, FL. Mac is also survived by five great grandchildren, Lilly Jarvis, Payton McPeak, and Landon McPeak of Frederick, MD, and Jeri Stiller and Bristol Stiller of Strasburg, VA.

Mac is also survived by his siblings Leila Lietka of Riverview, FL and Cathy Webb (Claude) of Tampa, FL.

Mac was predeceased by his parents, Mildred and Delbert McPeak, and his siblings Melvin McPeak, Ralph McPeak, and Milly Coker.

A memorial service is planned for June 15, 2026 at 10:30 am at Grace Lutheran Church, 745 South Ingraham Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801 with visitation with the family to follow. Interment will be at a later date at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Lakeland Hospice House, Lakeland, FL or Grace Lutheran Church, Lakeland, FL in memory of Mac.