

IN LOVING MEMORY



DALE DAVID EHRlich

JULY 29, 1942 ~ APRIL 17, 2024

St. John Lutheran Church
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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www.elca.org

**A Service of Worship In Memory of
Dale David Ehrlich
Wednesday, April 24, 2024 ~ 10:30 AM**

PRE-SERVICE MUSICSandra Krug

P: Pastor C: indicates the assembly's response

*Before the service begins, please turn your
cell phones to silent mode or off. Thank you.*

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~ Please stand as you are comfortable, as family is seated. ~

Special Music "I Will Rise" Chris Tomlin

~ After the family is seated, the congregation may be seated. ~

THE INTRODUCTION

P: Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church in the name of Jesus Christ, † the Savior of the world. Our purpose here today is to remember and honor the life of Dale Ehrlich and to express our love and our affection for a man who will be dearly missed.

No matter when or where death reaches us it should never find us unprepared because we know that dying is part of living. And it is here in the presence of death that our Christian faith provides us not only insight into the mystery of death, but it provides us with strength for the mastery of life, because Jesus taught us not only how to live but he also showed us through God's love that we can die with confidence. Just as Jesus comforted Martha with these words "*I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die*" (John 11:25-26). Though in sorrow we are aching from his loss, our hearts can remember and rejoice in the memory of his life.

INVOCATION FOR THE GATHERED

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray: Dear God, we do come to you with confidence today because we are remembering a man who trusted in you his whole life through, and we trust in you too. We do not have much wisdom, but we do have a deep love and respect, and you have taught us through your word and through Christ our Lord, that you will always be with us, no matter what. And so, we surrender our hearts, our minds, and our spirits, to the tender touch of your loving presence that heals our wounded hearts.

Send now your Holy Spirit into this time and place. Enter into the depths of our being and give us the comfort that only you can provide. The prophet Isaiah reminds us, "*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand ... For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you"*" (Isaiah 41:10, 13). In the name of the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

~ *Please stand as you are comfortable.* ~

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Dale was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he will 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.

C: We glorify you.

P: 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.

C: We praise you.

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

C: We worship you.

P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. In the name of the Father, the Son † and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our beloved Dale. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our journey on earth. In your boundless compassion, give courage and faith to all who mourn, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead with steadfastness and patience; not as those who are without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life in your presence, with those they love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

~ The congregation may be seated. ~

Hymn.....“Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me”; Vs 1 – 3; LBW 333

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
 2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;
 3 Lord, when the shad - ows length - en and night has come,

di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
 for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.
 I know that you will strength - en my steps toward home,

With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
 Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,
 then noth - ing can im - pede me, O bless - ed Friend!

so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
 for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.
 So, take my hand and lead me un - to the end.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

First Reading: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want; ²he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. ⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: John 14:1-7, [27]

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." [²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.]

Third Reading: John 16:20, [22]

²⁰Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. [²²So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.]

The Holy Gospel According to John 3:15b-17

^{15b}That whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Special Music *“How Great Thou Art”* Carrie Underwood

Remembering and Celebrating the Life of Dale Larry Ehrlich

Reflection..... Pastor Teri Sutherland

Special Music *“Save a Place For Me”* Matthew West

~ Assembly may stand as you are comfortable ~

THE APOSTLES CREED

P: With our faith in Jesus Christ, the giver of the water of life and light to the world, so the church confesses its need of Christ and its trust in God's mercy. We invite all the people of God in confessing the faith of the church:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: In our remembrance of Dale, let us pray: Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your people together into one body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Grant to us who are still on our journey, 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,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the spiritual union of our faith, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: 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, he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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 congregation may be seated.* ~

Special Music *“Go Rest High On That Mountain”* **Vince Gill**

THE COMMENDATION

P: Let us commend Dale David Erlich to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

A moment of silence is kept.

P: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Dale. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, our beloved, whose sins you have redeemed. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of all who have gone before him into the light. In the name of the Father, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING AND THE SENDING

P: *“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples”* (Luke 2:29-31). God be with your people as we leave this place. Guide us with your hand and protect us from harm. Let us be a blessing to others as we have been blessed. Give us faith and comfort in this time of sorrow. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Let us go forth in peace,

C: in the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING MUSIC **Sandra Krug**

Lunch: Lunch will be served for family and friends in the St. John Lutheran Church Parish Hall following the worship service, all are invited to stay for lunch. The luncheon is hosted by the members of St. John.

Memorial: In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in honor of Dale Ehrlich be given to “St. John Lutheran Church.” Contributions and condolences may be sent in care of the Pohlman-Varner-Peeler Mortuary of Russell, Kansas, who are coordinating the funeral service.

Internment: A graveside service will immediately follow the worship service at St. John Lutheran Cemetery.

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Teri Sutherlin

Eulogist: Larry Ehrlich

Reader: John Dumler, PMA

Organist: Sandra Krug