

The Memorial Service of  
of  
**Russell D. Johnson**  
August 27, 1958 — January 23, 2022



*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

Psalm 23:6

**Saturday, February 5, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

725 SW Buchanan Street

Topeka KS 66606

The Rev. Andrew C. Patty

Laurie Jackson, organist

Carolyn Sandquist, violinist

Honorary Pallbearers:

Arthur Sandquist

Dr. Sid Apps

Steve Janson

Chris Janson

Terry Jones

Clay Myers

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## + GATHERING +

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### PRELUDE

*Organist* LAURIE JACKSON

*Violinist* CAROLYN SANDQUIST

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling  
Children of the Heavenly Father*

P 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 Russell David Johnson, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P 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.

**C Amen.**

### GREETING

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.

Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust Russ to your never-failing care and love.

Comfort us as we bear the pain of his death, and receive us all into your everlasting arms, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*Please be seated.*

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+ WORD +

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**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:27-31**

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<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.

**SECOND READING: 1ST CORINTHIANS 13:4-8, 13**

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## GOSPEL READING: JOHN 6:35-40

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

## SERMON

PR. ANDREW C. PATTY

## HYMN

*How Great Thou Art*

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!

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

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**+ SENDING +**

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

*Silence is kept.*

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Russ.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,  
a lamb of your own flock.

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.

**C Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace,

**C in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Amazing Grace*



### **The Obituary**

Russell David Johnson, 63, of Topeka, passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022. He was born August 27, 1958, in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Ronald and Marilyn (Apps) Johnson. Russell graduated from Topeka High School in 1976. He attended KU and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering Physics.

He was a self-employed contractor and worked for Kansas Dept. of Transportation. Russell was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Topeka where he married Tresa E. Buchholz on May 29, 1982. He was her groom for 39 years.

Survivors include his wife, Tresa Johnson of Topeka, Kansas and numerous family and friends. He was preceded in death by

his parents and his brother, Randall D. Johnson.

Russell loved nature. While growing up, camping with his extended family was a highlight. He was active in the Boy Scouts and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on November 7, 1976. Russell was an Assistant Scout Leader with Troop #29. There were a variety of beloved pets over the years; some even went along on vacations! In addition, he assisted with wildlife rehabilitation and care.

Russ assisted his wife during her teaching career with special projects, activities and field trips. At Halloween, he did magic tricks for the students. He shared his talent of memorization and dressed up as an Old World storyteller from "The Night before Christmas." He portrayed other characters as well. Russell was a great Santa Claus! As Santa, he would visit classrooms in the school and go to the homes of family and friends.

Russell was a catalyst in putting together a free haunted house in an old Victorian home and at Trinity Hall. People came together for this event that "kids" of all ages delighted in. Many family and friends volunteered their time.

Russell was truly a Renaissance man with interests and skills in many areas. He did extraordinary carpentry and stone work. Russ was a train aficionado, built model rockets, was a diecast collector and a numismatist. Music greatly enriched Russell's life. He played the Baritone sax, guitar and other musical instruments. He was a member of the THS Marching Band, Trinity Band and Menninger Jazz Band.

Russ met health issues and life difficulties with strong faith and determination. He was a devoted husband, a caring talented man who will be greatly missed by many.

Russell will be interred at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Blue Rapids, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church – Youth Group, 725 SW Buchanan, Topeka, Kansas 66606 or charity of choice. Honor Russell by reconnecting with a friend or family member, reading a book to a child or helping an animal in need.