



*Celebration of Life in Christ of*  
**Rev. Walter G. Laughlin**

*November 4, 1929–January 7, 2023*

*Baptized December 8, 1929*

*Confirmed May 28, 1944*

*Ordained July 2, 1961*

Funeral Service  
January 13, 2023, Noon  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka



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**+ PRELUDE +**

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**+ GATHERING +**

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**PROCESSION LED BY PASTOR ANDREW PATTY**

*Please stand as you are able.*

P Welcome in the name of the Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, husband, brother and friend Walter Laughlin, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

P All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his Baptism, Walter was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory. Let us pray:

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 and confident and everlasting hope. We worship you.

**C We worship you.**

P To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

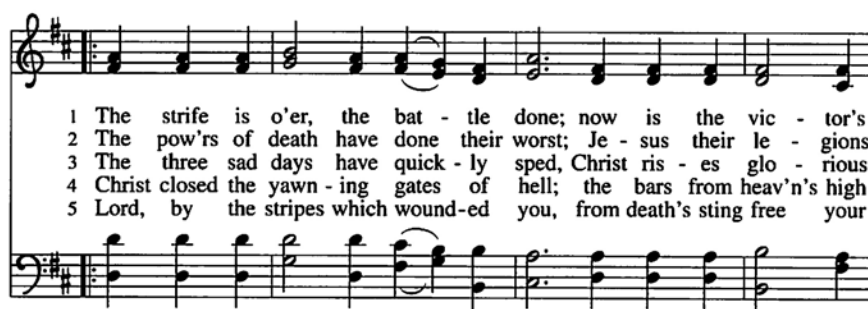
**C Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

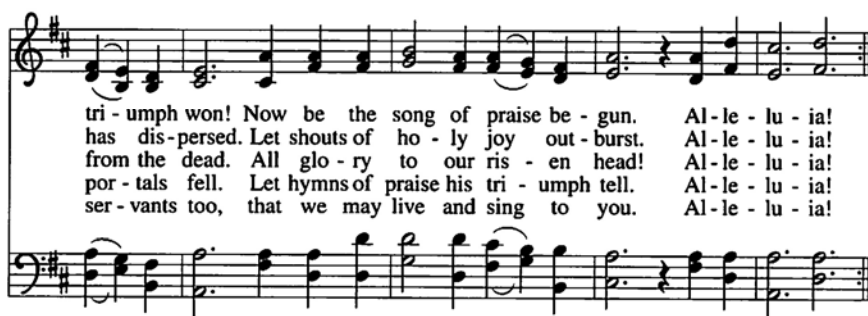
## *The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

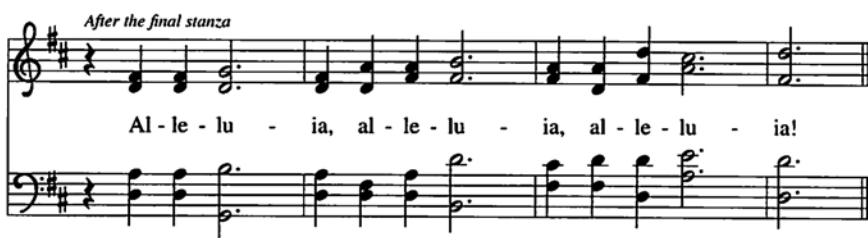


1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's  
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions  
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious  
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high  
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your



tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

*After the final stanza*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

**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. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today Walter Laughlin. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **REMEMBRANCES OF WALTER LAUGHLIN**

**BY**

**STEPHANIE MUELLER, JOHN LAUGHLIN, & MICHELE PECK**

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**+ WORD +**

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**THE FIRST READING: ROMANS 8:31-39** *Greta Mueller*

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**THE SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:1-16, 29-32**

*Ryan Peck*

<sup>1</sup>As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup>This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” <sup>9</sup>(What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup>So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. <sup>14</sup>Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup>From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. <sup>29</sup>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup>Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**GOSPEL: JOHN 3:11-17**

*Please stand as you are able*

<sup>11</sup>Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

<sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.

**SERMON**

**PR. ANDREW PATTY**

**HYMN**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
(see page 7)

**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.**

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-hove 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 ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

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

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

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

C **Amen.**

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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**THE COMMENDATION**

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

*Silence is kept.*

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

C **Amen.**



## HYMN

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
 dai - ly man - na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 put un-fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,  
 meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we  
 till we meet, till we meet, till we  
 meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 meet a - gain,

P Let us go forth in peace,  
C in the name of Christ. Amen.

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+ POSTLUDE +

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Presiding ..... Pastor Andrew Patty  
Organist ..... JoLana Pinon

Casket Bearers:

**Dr. Alane Suhr ▪ Alison Peck ▪ Ryan Peck  
Greta Mueller ▪ Michael Mueller ▪ Robert Peck  
Meredith Suhr ▪ Dr. Julie Suhr**

After the service, everyone is invited to join the family in Fellowship Hall downstairs for refreshments.

Graveside service will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Perpetual Cemetery in Lohman, MO at noon on Saturday, January 14, 2023, officiated by Pastor David Viles. Luncheon following at Faith Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, MO.

*Stephanie, John, and Michele would like to thank  
Pastor Andrew, family of Trinity Lutheran, and our  
family and friends from coast to coast for their  
encouragement, prayers, and love as we have been on  
this journey and celebrate the reuniting of our dear  
parents.*



Rev. Walter George Laughlin, 93, of Tulsa, Oklahoma passed away with family by his side on January 7, 2023, at Trinity Woods Retirement Community. He was born to George and Elsa (Kuehn) Laughlin on Nov 4, 1929 in Osage, Iowa. He was baptized into the Christian faith by the Rev. T. P. Solem on December 8, 1929 and confirmed by Rev. Solem on May 28, 1944.

Rev. Laughlin graduated from Osage High School in 1948 before enrolling at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. After working for his dad's plumbing business for a year, he enrolled at Luther College in Decorah, IA before enlisting in the US Navy. He served from 1950-1954 aboard the USS Oriskany and began to actively consider a future in ministry while serving as assistant to the ship's chaplain. After his discharge from the Navy he resumed his studies at Luther and graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classics. In 1957, he entered Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1961. He served his internship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Virginia MN. He was ordained into the Holy Ministry of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in 1961 in Osage. He also obtained a certificate of Clinical Pastoral Education and training in multiple areas of Specialized Pastoral Care.

His first call was at Immanuel Lutheran Church in rural Cushing OK from 1961-1965. Walter heard of Helen Fischer through their work in the ALC Parish Education Committee and met on a blind date. After a long distance courtship he was married to the love of his life Helen A. Fischer in Lohman MO on April 11, 1964.

Walter served as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK (1965-1968); Our Saviours Lutheran Church, Dannebrog NE (1968-1975); Concordia Lutheran Church, Concordia KS (1975-1983). He then served as a chaplain at Mercy Hospital Medical Center in Des Moines Iowa (1983-1985). His ministry continued at United Lutheran Church, Hampton NE (1985-1989) and St Paul Lutheran, Byron (1989-1994) and Hardy (1991-1994) NE until his retirement from the ELCA on November 13, 1994. He served as a supply Pastor for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Valley Falls, KS (1997-2001) as well as New Hope Lutheran, Onaga, KS, St. Paul's Lutheran, Palmer KS and Trinity Lutheran in Topeka KS.

He and Helen moved to Topeka, KS where they purchased their first home and became active members of Trinity Lutheran Church. In retirement he continued to enjoy walks with Helen, biking, photography, gardening, tennis, camping, fixing things, fishing, traveling, involvement in interdenominational ministry programs/associations and serving in the community. Over his life, ministry and retirement Walter and often Helen welcomed refugees into their home, provided pastoral care to those who were homebound/hospitalized, volunteered in neighborhood school, served on the Topeka Lutheran Fine Arts Council, Habitat for Humanity, Doorstep/Topeka Rescue Mission, participated in community choirs, mentored new pastors, served on boards of directors & trained others in hospice, and started a community garden in Topeka recently named after Walter & Helen. His mission in ministry revolved around building up others, discovering ways to develop relationships and encouraging people he met. He shared this passion for service with his children and grandchildren. Walter and Helen moved to Tulsa, OK in 2020.

Walter is survived by children Stephanie (Michael) Mueller of Tulsa, OK, John Laughlin (Dr. Julie Suhr) of The Plains, OH, Michele (Bob) Peck of Waterloo IA; six grandchildren: Elsa Mueller (Anthony Filipas), Greta Mueller, Dr. Alane Suhr (Austin Alexander), Meredith Suhr, Alison Peck, Ryan Peck; siblings Alvin (Carol) Laughlin of Sarasota FL, James (Helen) Laughlin of Littleton CO, Lenore Olson of Topeka KS and Alice Laughlin of Ridgeland SC; and sixteen nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Helen (Fischer) Laughlin, sister and brother-in-law Ruth and John Stout, brother-in-law Bill Olson, and nephew Iago Laughlin.

Visitation will be 11 am – 12 pm Friday, January 13, 2023 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka with Facebook live streamed funeral service (@topekatlc) at 12 noon, officiated by Pastor Andrew Patty. Burial service will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lohman, MO at 12 noon Saturday, January 14, 2023 officiated by Pastor David Viles.

In lieu of flowers his family invites memorials to Trinity Lutheran Church, 725 SW Buchanan St, Topeka, KS 66606 or Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297 - <https://www.lirs.org/more-ways-to-give/> or Oaks Indian Mission, 155 North Military Road, Oaks, OK 74359 - <https://www.oaksindianmission.org/>.