

In Loving Memory



REVEREND GEORGE ALBERT RAKOS

June 21, 1940 – December 20, 2021

Tributes

Preacher: Reverend Tony Schultz

Liturgist: Reverend Jonathan Rockey

Readers: Vicar Dave Keddington
Reverend James Baumgartner
Reverend Albino Kong
Reverend Kyle Mietzner

Organist: John Zimmerman

Anchorage Lutheran Church

1420 N Street

Anchorage, AK 99501

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Order of Service

Processional Reading

Reading: John 3:13–16

¹³No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Processional Hymn

837 Lift High the Cross

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 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

Refrain

- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Remembrance of Baptism

- P In Holy Baptism George Albert Rakos was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to George Rakos and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

850 God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion



Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -



hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
 dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Psalm: Psalm 121 - Read by Vicar Dave Keddington

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Scripture Lesson

Romans 5:1–11 – Read by Reverend James Baumgartner

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Scripture Lesson

Revelation 21:1–7 – Read by Reverend Albino Kong

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵And He who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also He said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Presentation

LSB 279

A Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C to Him be glory and power forever.

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: John 16:16–33 – Read by Reverend Kyle Mietzner

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁶“A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me.” ¹⁷So some of His disciples said to one another, “What is this that He says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see Me, and again a little while, and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸So they were saying, “What does He mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what He is talking about.” ¹⁹Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see Me, and again a little while and you will see Me’? ²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. ²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. ²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ²³In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. ²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. ²⁵“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.” ²⁹His disciples said, “Ah, now You are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that You know all things and do not need anyone to question You; this is why we believe that You came from God.” ³¹Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with Me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

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

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**



Song of the Day: " Borning Cry"

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

2 I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

3 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

4 When you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun."

5 In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

6 When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise."

7 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold."

Message: "In the Presence of God" – Pastor Tony Schultz

Prayers of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

P Give to the family of George Rakos and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Receive our thanks for George Rakos and for all the blessings You bestowed on him in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with him we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

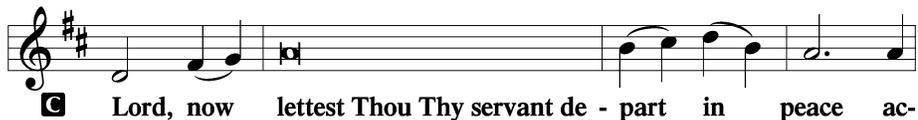
Lord's Prayer

- P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**



Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Concluding Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction and Dismissal

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 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 Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

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Acknowledgments

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book
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Obituary

REVEREND GEORGE ALBERT RAKOS

June 21, 1940 - December 20, 2021

George Albert Rakos was born June 21, 1940 in Tacoma, Washington to Albert and Georgia Rakos. He was baptized into faith at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Tacoma and confirmed at Calvary Lutheran in Aberdeen. He grew up in Hoquiam, a small logging town, where his railroad engineer father guided his sons toward Concordia Academy in Portland, OR. He followed his dad's advice, and then completed his studies at Concordia College, Seward, NE after serving for a time in the Marine Corps Reserves.

After college, George was called to serve as Principal/Teacher at Zion Lutheran School in Piedmont, California where he met the love of his life, Carolyn Theiss. They were married at Zion on August 10, 1963. They were both teachers, so they packed their car one summer and headed up the Alcan highway. They fell in love with Alaska, moved up in 1967, and back again in 1974 after a five year call to serve as Director of Christian Education at Grace Lutheran Church, Modesto, CA.

George enjoyed a long career with the Anchorage School District, as a teacher at Turnagain and Government Hill, and as a principal at North Star, Gladys Wood, Inlet View and Girdwood. He retired in 1995, enjoyed a stint with USFWS where Carolyn volunteered him to become their boat safety trainer, and then began serving in volunteer lay ministry. He landed at the end of Funny River Road, where the community wanted to establish a church. Funny River Community Lutheran Church was born, and George pursued ordination. He was ordained and installed as pastor there on May 21, 2006. While he retired from full time ministry in 2015, after 20 years at Funny River, he continued to serve pastoral vacancies all over Alaska and as circuit visitor to many congregations.

George loved his family with deep devotion. He loved and was loved by friends all over the world. His generosity and kindness were fruits of his faith. He loved to host friends and family at the cabin on the Kenai River. He loved Alaska and had an irrepressible spirit of adventure. He and Carolyn loved to travel and explore. A particularly special place was Remininy, Slovakia, where he traced his roots.

He played high school and college football. He was an avid and accomplished fisherman. He had a passion for woodworking. He built the family home in 1974, then a cabin, a fleet of wooden river boats, a cedar strip canoe, lots of furniture, including the altar furniture for his church. He enjoyed downhill skiing, and loved to tell stories about his days working in his uncle Bob Seaman's Sport Shop on Fourth Avenue. He was a lifelong learner and student of history.

For all his varied interests, accomplishments and professional roles, the most important thing about George is his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He sought to do His Father's will, to point people to the cross of Christ, and to share the Good News that Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, overcame death to redeem and save all of humanity.

The Lord called George to his eternal rest on December 20, 2021. He leaves behind his beloved wife Carolyn, daughter Karen, daughter and son-in-law Jahna and Joe. George would remind us in this holy season that God's love came down to us in Jesus, Immanuel, God with us. We take comfort in His peace, His love, His mercy and His grace, now and forever, resting in the promise of the resurrection to life everlasting.

A funeral service is scheduled for Thursday, December 30 at 10:00AM at Anchorage Lutheran Church, 1420 N Street, Anchorage, Alaska with the Reverend Tony Schultz officiating. A graveside service and internment will be scheduled in the spring at Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery.

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