

John Edwin Olsen

May 12, 1953 – January 26, 2021

AMAZING
GRACE!
How sweet the sound

*‘Tis grace hath brought
Me safe thus far,*

And grace will bring me home.

SAINT PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebration of Life
for
John Edwin Olsen

January 30, 2021
2:00 PM

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Today we gather in the valley. Grief rising on one side, pain rising on the other. The valley can be lonely, treacherous, and all-encompassing. I will fear no evil. Ahead lies a mountain, a mountain of hope. Joy and peace envelop all who pass through the valley and ascend the mountain. Today we make that journey to the mountaintop to celebrate life.

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LSB #793



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; To His feet your
2 Praise Him for His grace and fa - vor To His peo - ple
3 Fa - ther-like He tends and spares us; Well our fee - ble
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore Him; You be - hold Him

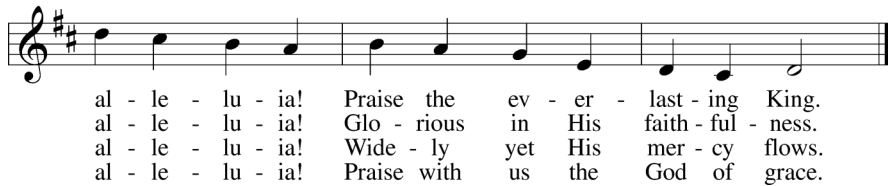


trib - ute bring; Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; Praise Him still the same as ev - er,
frame He knows; In His hand He gent - ly bears us,
face to face; Sun and moon, bow down be - fore Him,



Ev - er - more His prais - es sing: Al - le - lu - ia,
Slow to chide and swift to bless: Al - le - lu - ia,
Res - cues us from all our foes. Al - le - lu - ia,
All who dwell in time and space. Al - le - lu - ia,

Tune and text: Public domain



INVOCATION

P. In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray to the Lord. O God whose mercies are new every morning, give us strength as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. May Your rod and staff comfort us. Bring us safely to Your mountain, where we will join with all the saints proclaiming Your praise, glory, wisdom, thanks, honor, power, and strength. This we pray in Jesus' name.

C. Amen.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Eulogy

Tom Bressie

Old Testament Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. ⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man. ¹⁴ I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

Epistle Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." ¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?" ¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

On Eagles' Wings

LSB #727



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
 2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
 4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com-mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
 fam - ine will bring you no fear;
 ar - row that flies by day; Though
 guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My
 Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
 thou - sands fall a - bout you,
 on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!"
 faith - ful - ness your shield.
 Near you it shall not come.
 dash your foot a - gainst a stone.



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

Tune and text: © OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000129

Sermon

"The Beauty of This Day"
 Ecclesiastes 3:1-2a, 11a

PRAYER

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which 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.
 Amen

Benediction

P. The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
 you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you
 peace.

C. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"He Leadeth Me"

Officiating
 Organist

Rev. Carey P. Elam
 Peggy Chestnut