

Messiah Lutheran Church

2727 Five Mile Road NE

Grand Rapids MI 49525

Alvin Ray (“Al”) Davis

February 18, 1961 - June 24, 2023

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalm 116:15

We are gathered to give thanks to God for the life of Al and to pray for those who mourn his loss. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the seal of God’s promise that He will give the gift of eternal life to those who cling to Him and to His promise.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today our brother Al. 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. Help us to see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following symbols are used in this order of service:

P Pastor **C** Congregation

✠ The sign of the cross may be made by the pastor and/or the congregation.

Funeral Service

Lutheran Service Book (LSB) - p. 278

Preservice Music

At the ringing of the bell, please stand as able and face the rear of the church.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation - Matthew 28:19b

LSB 278

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

C Amen.

The casket is covered with a funeral pall.

Remembrance of Baptism - Romans 6:3-5

LSB 278

P In Holy Baptism Alvin 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.**

Hymn

For Me to Live Is Jesus

LSB 742



1 For me to live is Je - sus, To die is gain for me;
 2 For Christ, my Lord, my broth - er, I leave this world so dim
 3 My woes are near - ly o - ver, Though long and dark the road;
 4 Lord, when my pow'rs are fail - ing, My breath comes heav - i - ly,



So when my Sav - ior pleas - es, I meet death will - ing - ly.
 And glad - ly seek an - oth - er, Where I shall be with Him.
 My sin His mer - its cov - er, And I have peace with God.
 And words are un - a - vail - ing, O hear my sighs to Thee.

**5 In my last hour, O grant me
 A slumber soft and still,
 No doubts to vex or haunt me,
 Safe anchored in Thy will;**

**6 And so to Thee still cleaving
When death shall come to me,
I fall asleep believing
And wake in heav'n with Thee!**

Text: Ein schön geistlich Gesangbuch, 1609, Jena; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615
Text and tune: Public domain

Kyrie - Lord, Have Mercy (Mark 10:47)

LSB 278

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
C **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 Alvin 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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle*1 Corinthians 15:51–57*

⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵“O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as able

Verse - Revelation 1:5-6

LSB 279

P Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C **to Him be glory and power forever.***

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel*Luke 2:25–32*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

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

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

LSB 279

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.**

Sit

Hymn

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

LSB 633

To honor the Holy Trinity, please stand as able for stanza 8, singing "Amen" at the end.



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
 2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, Death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um-phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; With sin - cer - i - ty and love



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

**5 Mighty Victim from the sky,
 Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
 You have conquered in the fight,
 You have brought us life and light.
 Alleluia!**

**6 Now no more can death appall,
 Now no more the grave enthrall;
 You have opened paradise,
 And Your saints in You shall rise.
 Alleluia!**

**7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
 This alone can sin destroy;
 From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
 Newborn souls in You to be.
 Alleluia!**

**△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
 Savior, by whose death we live,
 Spirit, guide through all our days:
 Three in One, Your name we praise.
 Alleluia! Amen.**

Sermon

God's Grace to Al Davis

Alvin Ray (“Al”) Davis, aged 62, entered eternal life on June 24, 2023. Al was born in Paw Paw, Michigan on February 18, 1961, the son of Melvin and Beverly Davis. On October 17, 1981 he married Renee Feigel; on December 5, 1982, he was united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in Holy Baptism and confirmed at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Mount Prospect, Illinois. The Davis family became members of Messiah Lutheran Church on September 6, 2001.

Al was active in worship and fellowship at Messiah; he served on the Board of Trustees, frequently helping with outdoor work around the church. He also volunteered as a cook for events like our Advent and Lent Prayer Breakfasts and our Lenten Fish Fry.

Surviving are Al’s wife, Renee Davis; his sons, Theo Davis and CJ (Sarah Deacon) Davis; his father, Melvin Davis; his brothers, JR Davis and Tommy Davis; his brother-in-law, Greg (Kyung-ran) Feigel; his sister-in-law, Peggy Korzen; and his mother-in-law, Alice Feigel. Al was preceded in death by: his mother, Beverly Davis; and his brother, Doug Davis.

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” (Jude 24-25)

Please stand as able

Prayer of the Church

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

P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your 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 newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Give to the family of Alvin 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 Alvin 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 - Matthew 6:9-13

LSB 280

- 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 - Song of Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)

LSB 281

P “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

Concluding Collects - 2 Timothy 4:22

LSB 281

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.**

The pastor places his hand on the head of the casket as he says:

P May God the Father, who created this body; may God the ✠ Son, who by His blood redeemed this body; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus - Psalm 103:1

LSB 281

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction w/ Dismissal - Numbers 6:24-26

LSB 281

- 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.

Hymn***I Know That My Redeemer Lives***

LSB 461



- 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!**

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.
Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book

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