

A Christian Memorial Service for **Rev. Dr. Dennis Ray Halm**

Sunday August 30th, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Welcome

Opening Hymn: “How Great Thou Art”

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Refrain:

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

When thru the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze **Refrain**

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin! **Refrain**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow with humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! **Refrain**

Text: *Carl Gustaf Boberg tr. Stuart W.K. Hine*; Tune: *Swedish arr. And harm. Stuart W.K. Hine*;
Text and music: © 1953, renewed 1981 Manna Music

Invocation and Prayer

A Responsive Reading from Psalms and Romans

(The reading will be read by Ray's grandsons: Jonathan and Timothy Stueve)

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Ps. 90:1-2)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31)

I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. (Ps. 34:4-5)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (Rom 1:16a)

I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. (Ps. 116:1-2)

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Rom. 10:13)

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (Ps. 103:11)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 5:1)

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast. (Ps. 139:7-10)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angel nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. (Rom. 8:38-39)

Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you. For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. (Ps. 116:7-9, 15)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom. 15:13)

Choral Anthem "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Allen Pote

Reading—John 20:11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Apostles’ Creed

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.

Hymn: “In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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Sermon

Hymn: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.

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.

He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly 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.

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.

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 Tune: Duke Street, John Hatton. Public Domain

Reflections from a friend: Rev. Dr. Shang Ik Moon

Prayers + Lord's Prayer + Kontakion + Benediction

Closing Song: “When the Saints Go Marching In”

Oh when the saints go marching in, Oh when the saints go marching in
Oh Lord I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in

Oh when the trumpet sounds the call, Oh when the trumpet sounds the call
Oh Lord I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in

Oh when I go, I'll see His face, The face of Christ who saved my soul
And with extended hands, He'll greet me, As the saints go marching in

We are traveling in the steps, The steps of those who've gone before
But if we stand, we'll be reunited, On a new and sunlit shore

Oh when the saints go marching in, Oh when the saints go march in
Oh Lord I want to be in that number, When the saints go marching in

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Dismissal

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Halm Family gifts have been established for Concordia University Irvine and CUEnet. Therefore, as a reflection of Ray's start as a high school teacher and principal, and in recognition of one of the passions of his last years, we ask that memorials be sent to Trinity Lutheran High School. Ray was instrumental in the founding of this young high school and believed strongly in its ministry and mission.



Dr. Ray Halm

The Rev. Dr. Dennis Ray Halm passed away unexpectedly on August 4, 2020, while tending his garden after a happy and peaceful morning. As a university president, pastor, high school principal, and English teacher, Ray was an accomplished man who served his schools and churches with distinction, the details of which can be found in the formal obituaries from Concordia University Irvine and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This remembrance is more personal.

Ray was born in Portland, Oregon in 1941 to Anne Edna (Moeller) and Alfred Raymond Jackson. His father passed away when Ray was three years old, and his mother moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to raise her young son.

There Anne eventually met and married Ralph Halm, who adopted eight-year-old Ray. They moved to Provo, Utah, the place Ray came to consider home.

Dr. Halm throughout his ministry.

After meeting and marrying his college sweetheart, he eventually graduated from Concordia in Seward, Nebraska, and was placed as a called teacher in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. From there he began his extremely varied career in ministry.

Ray was an uncommonly optimistic man; little would get him down for long, either in his professional or personal life. It is easy for his family to see, in retrospect, that the Lord called him from one challenge to another early in his professional life to prepare him for his presidency at Concordia University Irvine. As a result, the Lord moved the family from Indiana back to Nebraska, then on to Wisconsin, Missouri, and Minnesota, before finally arriving in California. Through all these moves, he was forever chipper, quick to help his daughters and wife adjust, and always ready to tease or to hug.

Ray's abundant curiosity shaped many parts of his life. He was adventurous, traveling to numerous countries and camping in dozens of national and state parks. He played the guitar, sang harmony with his wife, and yodeled in any canyon he entered. He never ran across a hobby he didn't think to explore whole-heartedly—at various points in his life he was an avid photographer, model railroader, small motorcycle enthusiast, amateur astronomer, horse rider, tennis player, runner, and cross-country skier (several of these popped up in his life more than once). One of his happiest personal achievements was the "hole-in-one" he earned as a golfer, which might be the one hobby he consistently pursued throughout his life.

Ray never stopped working and never stopped learning. During his last weeks of life, he was mentoring several dozen Lutheran teachers in the colloquy program at CUEnet, while at the same time writing two academic articles for future submission to Lutheran journals. He was always reading. In the days before his passing, he was part-way through a book on the doctrine of justification and a Daniel Silva's newest thriller, he had just reviewed his favorite book in preparation for a breakfast spent discussing Crime and Punishment with his youngest grandson, and had settled on a pre-marriage counseling book for his eldest grandson. There was never quite enough time in the day for Ray.

The gravitational center of his life, however, was steady and enduring: In all things, he strove to share with all the love of Jesus and the message of the Gospel. He believed that good preaching and effective teaching were essential to the health of the Church, and he felt blessed to be able to be used as God's instrument in both areas throughout his life. He was indomitable and generally inexhaustible, and he used his enormous energy to be a blessing to the Church, Lutheran education, and his treasured family and friends.

Dennis Ray Halm was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 52 years, Darlene, and he is survived in death by his beloved second wife of four years, Jean. Ray's sisters, Jean (Halm) Hagen and Beverly (Halm) Anderson, survive him. Ray is also survived by his daughters and their husbands, Heather and Tom Stueve and Shawne and Brian Moore, as well as by the grandchildren on whom he doted: Jonathan Stueve (and his fiancé, Sarah Ladick), Timothy Stueve, and Peyton Moore.