

Celebration of the Life of Wade Mattheis
November 1, 1949 – November 13, 2022



November 30, 2022
Lord of Love Lutheran Church
10405 Fort Street
Omaha, NE 68134

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

P: Welcome in the name of Jesus the Savior, who died and was raised to new life by the grace of God. We are gathered here to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our brother Wade, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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: "Borning Cry"

ELW 732



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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 our brother Wade. 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. Illumine our lives, so we may 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.

Eulogy written by Marilyn Mattheis

Reading of Scripture

Isaiah 40: 28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Romans 8:35,37-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, 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.

John 14:1-6, 27

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Homily: Rev Becky Sells

Hymn: Amazing Grace

ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

said a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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.
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 again 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.**

Intercessions

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. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

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.

God of mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

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

C: Hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.

God of mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

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.

God of mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Commendation

P: Let us commend Wade to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Wade. 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.

P: Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

C: Amen.

Sending

Table Prayer

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW 781

The musical score is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Postlude

Please join the family for lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Officiant: Rev. Kathy Gerking

Organist: Carol Novak

Technical Director: Christopher Rich

Technical Assistant: Renae Rich

Wade's Story

Wade Mattheis was the first born son of Rueben and Maxine Mattheis, born on November 1, 1949. The first chapter of his life was spent becoming big brother over and over again to Phil, Susan, Jim, David and Teresa. He grew up in Lennox, South Dakota, spent some time in college and served his country in the US Air Force. With a one week notice, he married Marilyn Hexem on Feb 12, 1971 and shipped off a month later for a 13-month deployment to South Korea. Upon his return, he was assigned to Offutt AFB in Omaha where he became an avid Cornhusker fan.

Upon his discharge from military service he hunted for a job and answered an ad in the paper by the John Day Company. He interviewed, they didn't seem overly impressed, but in a follow up call they asked if he knew anything about implement dealers. He told them his dad owned an implement dealership and he had worked there through his teen years. He didn't explain further that his job was to sweep the floors. He got the job and for 37 years he made a life and provided for his family.

Wade has two sons. Aaron is with the US Park Service in Estes Park, Colorado, and many happy memories were made there through the years. His son, Lieutenant Colonel Adam Mattheis, resides in Pensacola, Florida. He and his wife, Jenn, made Wade a grandpa with the births of Ella and Reid. Pinning aviator wings on Adam's shoulder was one of the proudest moments of his life. It made him feel good that he had sons in both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Defense. He was the best father he could be. He knew he sent two good men into the world.

He retired at 62 and became a very contented retiree. He found a group of golfers that changed his life. Tuesday and Thursday mornings became his favorite days of the week. He loved his many trips to Hendricks MN. He was never happier than when he was sitting in Ron and Marlene's garden sipping a beer. His lawn mower and snow blower were his special friends. His uncle Dick had instilled in him that lawn mowing was an art, not a task. He was never successful in convincing his wife that that was true.

Wade was challenged to be diagnosed with three different types of cancer. He loved his oncologist. Dr Su got him through the first two in 2014 and 2018 and gave him 7 wonderful years of life. The third cancer was just too mean. He said he had a good life but he was ready to journey on to the next. He entered Hospice House in Omaha on Nov 8 and his wide smile, not seen for so long, was again on his face. He left this world on Nov 13, 2022. Family and friends can know that he's safe forever.

May his memory be a blessing.

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