

# *Celebrating*

THE LIFE OF



*Dr. H. George Bonekemper, III*

*July 16, 1942 ~ March 10, 2025*

FUNERAL SERVICE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025  
AT ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH - RED HILL  
AT 11:00 AM

**PASTOR KEVIN COMPTON**  
**MARGIE RODENBERGER - PLANO/ORGAN**



**SERVICE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
AND FAREWELL TO OUR BELOVED BROTHER  
GEORGE BONEKEMPER**

**WELCOME**

Opening remarks from Pastor Compton

**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome in the name of Jesus,  
the Savior of the world.

We are gathered to worship,  
to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,  
to remember before God our brother, George Bonekemper,  
to give thanks for his life,  
to commend him to our merciful redeemer,  
and to comfort one another in our grief.

**GATHERING HYMN – “Amazing Grace” (Green Book #448)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.  
In his baptism,  
George was clothed with Christ.  
In the day of Christ's coming,  
He shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life,  
we glorify you.  
**We glorify you.**

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity,  
who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,  
we praise you.

**We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure  
confidence and everlasting hope,

we worship you.

**We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor,  
forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory,

we remember before you today our brother, George.

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.

Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up  
in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ,

so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call,

we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## REMEMBRANCES

Tributes to George from family and friends.

## READINGS

Psalm 23 – Read in unison

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;

<sup>2</sup> he makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness

for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I fear no evil;

for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff,

they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

thou anointest my head with oil,

my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD

forever.

## John 15:8-17

<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become[c] my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

## SERMON

**HYMN, Softly and Tenderly, (Blue Book #734)**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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,

**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,  
**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,  
**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,  
**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,  
**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 he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **COMMENDATION**

Let us commend George to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

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

**Amen.**

## **FAREWELL HYMN – “How Great Thou Art” (Green Book, #532)**

Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**





He will be forever in our hearts.

Please Bring this booklet with you to the cemetery.  
If you are not joining us in the cemetery,  
feel free to proceed to the fellowship hall and await the family.

## COMMITTAL

### John 11:25-26

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Grace and peace from our Savior Jesus Christ be with you all.  
Let us pray.

Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our brother, George, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise him up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### John 12:23-26

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother, George, and we commit his body to its resting place;

earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him.

The Lord's face shine on him with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon him with favor and ✝ give him peace.

**Amen.**

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

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BLESSING FOR THE ASSEMBLY**

**Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
Amen.**

Let us go in peace.

The family invites you to join them in the church fellowship hall  
refreshments and sharing of stories and memories.