

# ***Funeral Service in Loving Memory of Ralph H. Kreft***

February 4<sup>th</sup> 1923 to June 16<sup>th</sup> 2021

“...thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord  
Jesus Christ.” *1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:7*

Welcome in the name of our Lord and risen Savior Jesus Christ. Who has defeated sin and death and through faith has given to us who have believed everlasting life. It is our desire that this service not be a simple remembrance of the faithful departed nor a place of mere mourning. But a remembrance of all those of faith who have been washed in the blood of the lamb. The blessings that Ralph has bestowed upon the church, his family, and friends is far reaching and we give thanks to God for all the blessings he bestowed upon him. We come to God who is the source of all comfort and peace who though we are saddened lifts us with the everlasting joy that comes through faith in His son.

## **Order of Service**

**Hymn: 770 What a Friend We have in Jesus**

*Stand*

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

### **Invocation**

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

**C** Amen.

### **Remembrance of Baptism**

**P** In Holy Baptism Ralph 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.

## Psalm 23

### **The Lord Is My Shepherd**

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.**

## Kyrie

**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 Ralph 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.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 25:6-9*

On 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.

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

He 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.

It 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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-10*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 11: 17-27*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Apostles' Creed

**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.**

# Hymn 801 How Great Thou Art

## Sermon

### 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 Ralph 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 Ralph 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

**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

**A** “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.**

**A** “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 Collect

**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.**

## Benedicamus

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

## Benediction and Dismissal

- 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** Amen.

- P** Let us go forth in peace,
- C** in the name of the Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: 763 When Peace like a River





## **Ralph Kreft**

1923 - 2021

Ralph Harold Kreft age 98 of Belknap Township peacefully went to be with his Lord on June 16, 2021 from Birch Lane AFC Home.

He was born February 4, 1923 in Rogers City to Charles and Clara (Juhne) Kreft.

On November 10, 1951 he married Ethel Delores Karsten at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Ralph retired from Calcite in 1983. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Rogers City.

Ralph is survived by grandchildren, Lacey (Robert) Peters, Chelsea (fiancé, James Burby) and Kaylee (fiancé, Greg Lubbers) born to Randy and Karen Kreft and Jacob (Jeff Foust), Sandra and Michael born to Karen and Roland Zinke; four great grandchildren, Aubrey Felicity Peters, Daniel Foust, Malakai Zinke and Ava Zinke; Ralph is also survived by a sister-in-law, Deanna Karsten.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel; siblings, Rudolph, Fred, Elmer, Carl, Elsie, Hattie, Laura, Agnes, Hannah and Ellen.

Friends may visit at St. John Lutheran Church in Rogers City on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. through time of his memorial service at 11 a.m. with Pastor David Weirauch officiating.

Inurnment will take place at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given to St. John Lutheran Church or a charity of your choice in memory of Ralph Kreft.

Many thanks go to all the caregivers at Birch Lane and Hospice of Michigan for all they did for Dad.

