

**A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN HOPE
FOR
GEORGE ROBERT DENNIS
APRIL 20, 2024**



ST. MATTHEW'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Proclaiming the Love of God for All People

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**A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN HOPE FOR
GEORGE ROBERT DENNIS
August 18, 1938 – March 25, 2024**

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

WELCOME

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, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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.

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

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.**

Please be seated.

SCRIPTURE READINGS**Psalms 116:1-2, 10-19**

Natalie Dennis

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

¹⁰ I kept my faith, even when I said, 'I am greatly afflicted';

¹¹ I said in my consternation, 'Everyone is a liar.'

¹² What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,

¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the LORD

A reading from Romans:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

EULOGY

Matthew Dennis

GOSPEL John 14:1-6, 27

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN 622

“Neither Death nor Life”

Karin Dunker

(Soloist sings verses 1-4, Congregation sings Refrain and verse 5)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept.*

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

HYMN 779

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound."

After all have communed, please stand as you are able.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **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.**

HYMN 367 "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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SERVING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Presider and Preacher	Rev. Lesley M. Radius
Readers	Natalie Dennis & Alissa Nixon
Worship Assistant	Mark Vinciguerra
Soloist	Karin Dunker
Pallbearers	TBD
Chancel Care	TBD
Organist	Carol Kocher

OBITUARY

BURLESON-- George Robert Dennis, 85, loving husband and father, transitioned to Eternal Life with his family by his side on March 25, 2024 in Burleson, TX. Born August 18,1938 to George E and Mary Dennis in Freer, TX. He grew up in Wichita Falls, TX. He served in the US Army. Graduated from the University of Houston with a BSEE in 1966 and a MSEE in 1972.

George married Roberta Heurlin Dennis in Elmwood Park, IL on May 27, 1961. Throughout their marriage, they lived in Fremont, NE, Wichita Falls, Houston, TX, Phoenix, AZ. Huntingtown, MD, Mansfield, Venus, Belton and Burleson, all in TX. The moves followed George's job changes as an Electrical Design Engineer. They retired on their farm in Venus, TX. After George's Alzheimer's progressed, they sold the farm and moved to Belton, TX to be near two sons who lived close. Their final move was to Burleson, TX to The Wilshire Senior Living, close to a daughter and son.

George had many interests. He ran a Marathon, learned to fly, taught flying, farmed, hunted, read extensively (His favorites were about old-time Texas and all Tom Clancy's books), and tinkered with old cars. His favorites were Hudsons. He had two 1952 Hudson Hornets and a 1935 Terraplane project. George and Roberta traveled to many Hudson National Meets in many areas of the USA making friends wherever they went. George and Roberta were 27 year members of the HET club, joining in Salt Lake City in 1997.

Thank you to Saint Gabriel's Hospice, ameriCARE and The Wilshire staff for the loving care given to George.

George was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Derrel Dennis and James Dennis, and grandson, Nathan Dennis.

Survived by wife, Roberta; children, Geoffrey Dennis (Amanda), Emily Nixon, and Matthew Dennis (Gennie); grandchildren, Breanna Rodriguez (Carlos), Alissa Nixon, Natalie Dennis, Colton Dennis, Matti Abbott (Noah) and Nicolas Dennis; and great grandchildren, Addison, Jeremiah, Oaklie and Mae; sister-in-law Ila Dennis, brother-in-law Reid Heurlin, plus many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

CELEBRATION of LIFE: Saturday, April 20 at 11:00 at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 5709 Wedgewood Dr., Fort Worth, TX. Private burial at DFW National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts to Crowley House of Hope, designate for the Clinic, 200 N. Magnolia St., Crowley, TX 76026. Service will be Livestreamed at: stmatthews-elca.org/watch or Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church, Fort Worth Facebook page live (videos)

**Memorials: George's memory may be honored
with a donation in his name to
Crowley House of Hope, designate for the Clinic,
200 N. Magnolia St., Crowley, TX 76026.**