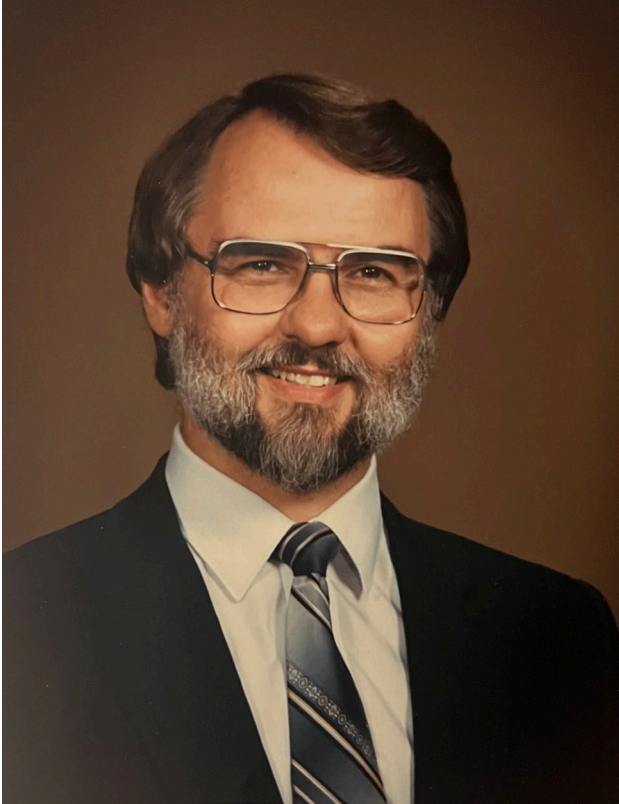


In Memoriam
of
Rev. Robert Kretzschmar



*The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.
(Psalm 145:18)*

Calvary Lutheran Church
Baltimore, Maryland
March 2, 2024

A Celebration to God in Remembrance of
Rev. Robert Kretzschmar
July 30, 1943 – February 8, 2024

Pre Service Music

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place

J. Brahms

Opening Hymn

837 Lift High the Cross

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

Refrain

5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.
Refrain

- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

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 T Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P In Holy Baptism Robert 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.**

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 Robert 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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:29-31

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹but they 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Epistle

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

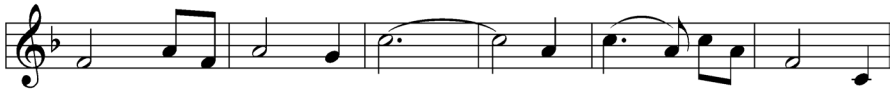
C **Thanks be to God.**

The Hymn

744 Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Sit

Sermon

Rev. Paul Bickel

The Hymn

878 Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Kneel/Stand

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 Robert 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 Robert 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.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. 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 T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

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

Closing Hymn

801 How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress

P. Manz

Today's Servants

Guest Proclaimer: Rev. Paul Bickel

Liturgist: Rev. Kevin Barron

Organist: Barbara Sommer

Obituary for Rev. Robert J. Kretzschmar

7/30/43 – 2/8/24

Pastor Bob, known for his sweet demeanor, thoughtfulness, and unwavering dedication to our Lord, leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, and service that will forever be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Bob was born July 30, 1943 in Monroe, Michigan to Carl and Bernice Kretzschmar, moments after his “womb-mate,” Donald. The spirited boys grew up in a Lutheran household. The twins were called to be pastors, like their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather before them. In their early twenties, the twins summered in Ocean City where they ministered through music and song on the beach.

For over forty years, Bob served as a beacon of hope and solace to countless souls through his ministry as a Lutheran pastor. Bob vicared at Emmanuel, Catonsville, MD, and was ordained on September 7, 1969. He served as a Navy Chaplain in Newport, RI, and led parishes in Roselle, IL, and throughout Baltimore, MD (First Lutheran, Towson; Bethany Lutheran, Violetville; and Calvary Lutheran, Baltimore). For 25 of those years, he found his home at Calvary Lutheran Church, where his presence brought comfort and inspiration.

Pastor Bob also served the Southeastern District as pastoral delegate to conventions, member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Mission Society of Maryland, member of LINC Baltimore for Lutheran Inner City Churches, member of the board for Professional Care Services of the SED, and delegate for the Baltimore Lutheran High School Association. Pastor Bob was Chaplain at Spring Grove State Hospital, Director of Pastoral Services at Union Memorial Hospital, and President of the Lutheran Home and Hospital Foundation Board.

Continual learning was a hallmark of Bob’s journey. He earned a Master in Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, followed

by a Master in Counseling Psychology from Loyola College to supplement his parish ministry with pastoral counseling. He was recognized as a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (L.C.P.C.) in Maryland and a National Certified Counselor, as well as a clinical member and fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He served the community as a counselor with the Pastoral Counseling Services of MD, Inc., and served his fellow pastors as Pastoral Counseling Chaplain at professional church worker conferences and as Circuit Counselor. His quiet humility lent itself to the role of counselor, where he poured his heart into facilitating communication to heal relationships through therapeutic ministry. His genuine concern for the well-being of others touched lives in ways that rippled outward to suffering families.

Bob enjoyed music, often picking up a guitar or trombone to praise God in song and anthem. He led informal worship on the beach in his early ministry, and years later, relaunched that style of “church without walls” as he created an outdoor service and praise band at Calvary. His musical enjoyment stretched beyond professional settings into performing with his kids in a Christmas band for the enjoyment of both church and family.

Among Bob’s greatest joys was time spent with his brother’s family on vacation. Together the two families created and performed songs. To hear the twins sing together was a beautiful high point. Song and laughter followed wherever the Kretzschars explored on praise to many roller coaster lines.

Nature and water drew Bob’s attention and admiration. He was a competitive swimmer well into his middle years, and sought the pool for exercise for as long as he was able to do so. He ran in several local races through scenic landscapes, declaring that a strong finish is a victory of its own. He captained the USS Kretzschmar at Lake Langanore to the delight of his children. In later years, Bob was an avid Regatta-enthusiast, often found racing the “Glory Bee” against other model sailboats at Oak Crest Village.

The greenest of thumbs, Bob nurtured the most wilted of plants back to vibrant health, and found serenity in the process of planting and tending to local horticulture, even beyond his own garden. Bob's well-tended yard and pond were officially recognized as a wildlife refuge. Bob also ushered comfort for his family with his consistent, yearlong use of the fireplace and his meticulously stacked cord of firewood.

This period of mourning is compounded by the recent passing of his twin brother, a loss that weighs heavily upon the hearts of those who knew them both. From this life to the next, their bond remains unbreakable. We imagine "the Dads" back to swimming laps and strumming guitars in heaven. They live on in our hearts and traditions, and through Christ, they live on in heaven as well. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Bob was the cherished husband of Diane E. Kretzschmar (nee Hoopert) and the devoted father of Ian Kretzschmar and his wife Lisa, Tracey Clements and her husband Bryan, James Gentry III, Brendan Kretzschmar and his wife Wendi, and Matthew Kretzschmar. Bob's love extended to his grandchildren: Morgan Clements, Jordan Clements, James Gentry IV, Julia Gove, Elin Gentry, Lincoln Gove, Connor Gove, and Leah Kretzschmar, all of whom he adored. Though Bob has gone to his heavenly home, his smile continues to shine brightly in our hearts. His kindness, compassion, faith, and humor will be cherished by those who knew him and by those who are blessed by the caring ripple the Holy Spirit created through him.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org or to Calvary Lutheran Church, 2625 E. Northern Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21214, in honor of Rev. Robert James Kretzschmar's legacy of love and service.

***Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)***