

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE
FOR
THE REV. DR. ROBERT G. HUGHES
AUGUST 28, 1937 — SEPTEMBER 3, 2023



SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 11:30 AM

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor † Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

PRELUDE MUSIC

Thanks Be to Thee

by G. F. Handel

GATHERING AND 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 Robert, 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. To you, Eternal God, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

APOSTOLIC 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.**

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress

ELW red hymnal #505

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Robert. 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.**

READING—REVELATION 21:1-7

Read by Jeffrey Hughes, Jr.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.

READING—JOHN 10:11-18, 27-29

Read by Jeffrey Hughes, Jr.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

GOSPEL READING—JOHN 14: 1-6, 25-27 Read by Rev. Jeffrey Rickards

¹“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.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. 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.

SHARING OF MEMORIES

Rev. Dr. Foster McCurley
Jeffrey Hughes, Sr.

FUNERAL MEDITATION

Rev. Jeffrey Rickards

CHOIR ANTHEM

Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring

by J. S. Bach

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

THE 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

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew

Let us commend Robert to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. *Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Robert. 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.**

SENDING HYMN

Amazing Grace

ELW red hymnal #779

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE MUSIC

Trumpet Tune

by Henry Purcell

*All may follow to the back of the sanctuary and outside to the Columbaria
for the Service of Committal.*



Mr. & Mrs. [Name] [Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

The Rev. Dr. Robert G. Hughes, age 86, passed away on September 3rd, 2023, surrounded by four generations of family, outside of Ocean City, New Jersey. The son of George and Ethel Hughes, Robert was born in Pottsville on August 28th, 1937, he is survived by his wife of 62 years Dona Lee, his three children Jeffrey (Janice), Randal (Tammy), and David (Laura), and five grandchildren, Jeffrey Jr. (Nicolette), Matthew (Gabrielle), Patrick, Joseph, and Ella. And great-grandchildren Caden, Oliver, and Rayla Rose.

Robert graduated from Tamaqua High School and received a bachelor's degree in English Literature from Lehigh University in 1959. He went on to receive a master's degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia (LTSP), and his doctorate from the Princeton Theological Seminary. He served as Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Ashland, PA before becoming a professor at LTSP in 1972. He established the Academy of Preachers in 1982 and directed the Academy until 1996. He was elected as the President of the LTSP from 1990 to 1999. While President of LTSP, he spearheaded a capital campaign that led to a major building project on campus and was a leader in growing the ministry ultimately doubling the student body during his tenure. During his "retirement", Robert spent his time traveling, when he was not consulting or fundraising for the Church, writing his books, or serving as a leader of ALOA.

During his nearly nine decades of life, Robert was a Renaissance man of unquenchable curiosity. As a young man, he pursued a degree in Civil Engineering at Lehigh University before realizing he did not enjoy mathematics, he pursued a future in the Air Force before realizing he was colorblind, and finally settled on a distinguished life of service as a minister for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America., Lutheran Seminary professor, and Lutheran Seminary President. He was throughout his years a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, a teacher, a world-traveler, an author, a napper, and perhaps, dearest of all, a fan of his beloved Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles, who he lived to see win two World Series and a Super Bowl.

He will be remembered for his gregarious personality, sense of humor, infectious laugh, love of reading, thirst for knowledge, his ceaseless devotion to friends and family, and his generosity of spirit.

