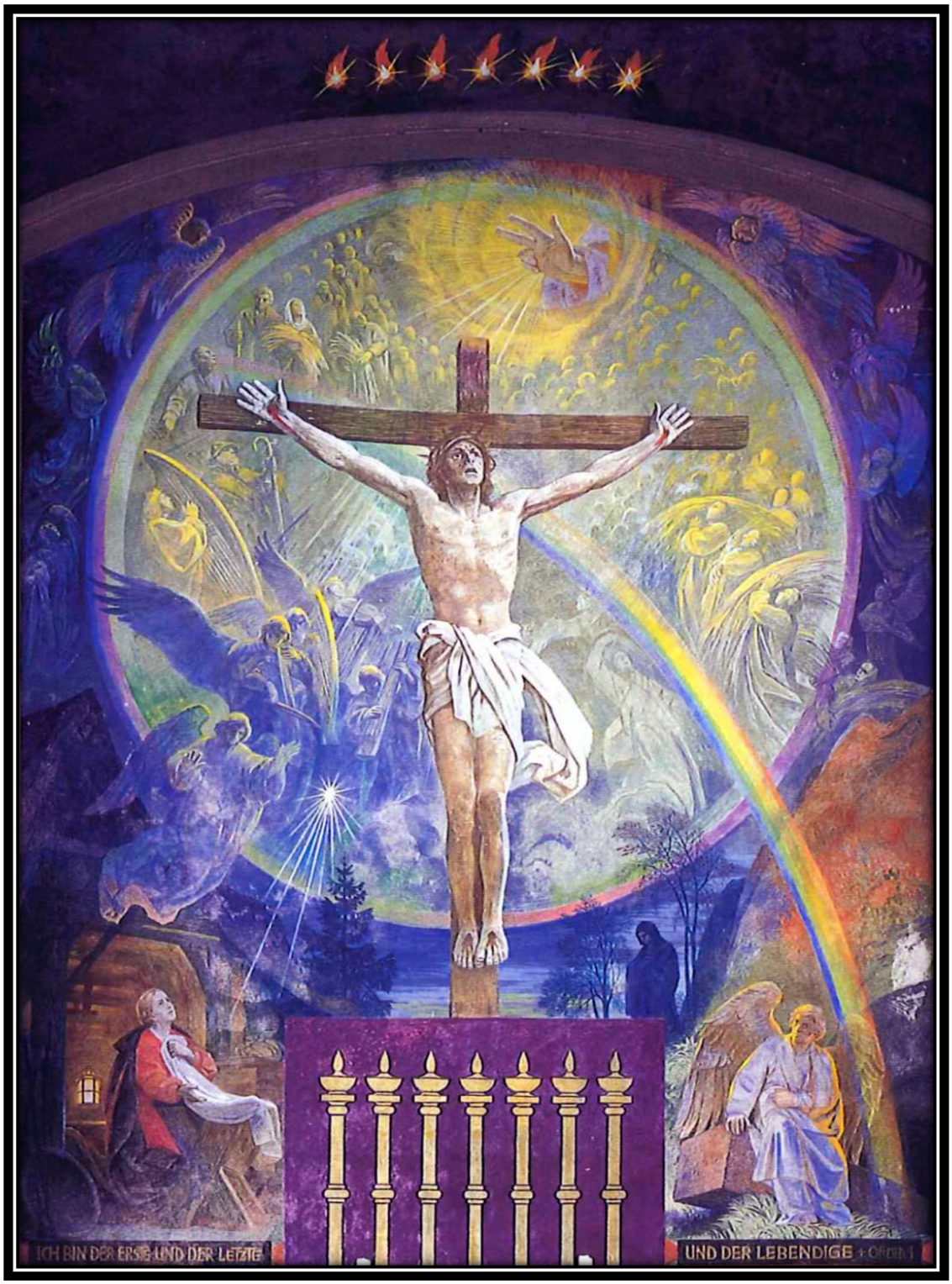


"Do Not Be Afraid. I Am The First And The Last, The Living One."
By Rudolf Schäfer

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

5000 W. Tidwell, Houston, TX 77091 • 713-290-9087 • www.OSL.cc

Rev. Steven Cholak, Officiating • Jeff Armstrong, Organist

COVER ILLUSTRATION – "I Am The First And the Last" by Dr. Rudolf Schäfer presents the awesome vision of our Lord Jesus as He revealed himself to the apostle John in the opening scene of the Book of Revelation. There Christ was standing amid the seven golden lamps which signified the church. Schäfer captures the essence of the vision as Christ upon the cross, shedding His precious blood to win forgiveness for the sins of mankind, dominates the entire image. Our Lord's humble entrance into this world as the Babe of Bethlehem is shown in the left foreground. A joyful choir of angels proclaims the Christmas gospel above the stable and a gleaming star announces the Savior's birth. In the right foreground stands the empty tomb with its resplendent guardian angel so that all might know that Jesus has conquered death for us. The beautiful life promise of the rainbow extends from the cross to the open door of the tomb. The risen Lord walks in the nearby garden behind the tomb awaiting the arrival of the women. The angels ascending from the empty tomb are carrying home the life harvest of God's people. Over all is the extended hand of God the Father surrounded by the countless hosts of heaven, prophets and apostles, faithful men and women of God (including Martin Luther), those who have already received their share of God's gracious gift of eternal life. Schäfer painted this masterpiece for the altar of the village church in Oberjesigen, Germany.

A Service of Thanksgiving
Celebrating God's Gift of Eternal Life For



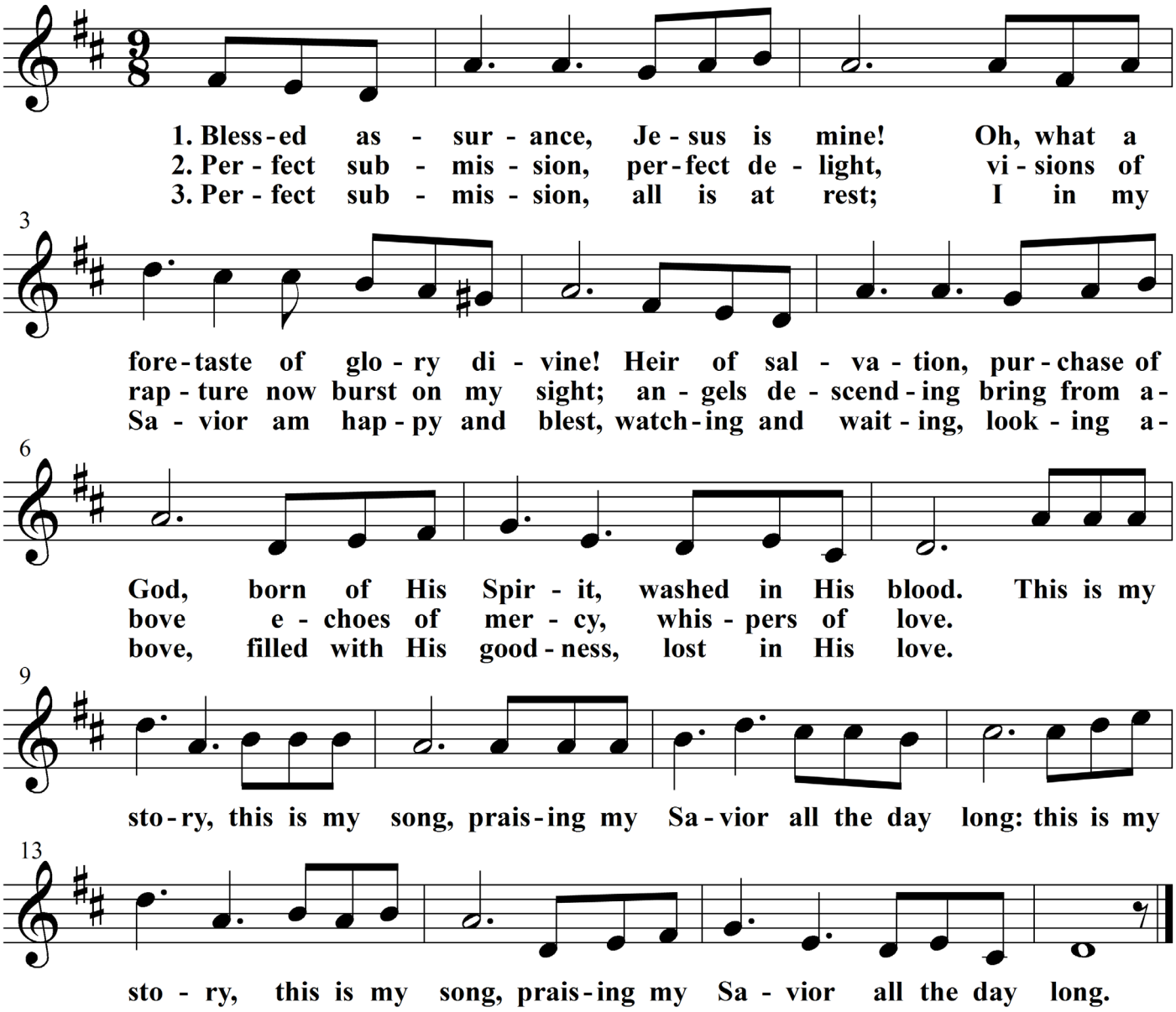
George Edward Sumner
September 9, 1941 ~ November 8, 2026

The death of a Christian has been transformed from tragedy into victory by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the moment of physical death the soul of the believer is safe at home in heaven with their Lord. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that those who remain - for a time - here on earth, would gather to celebrate God's gift of life and savor the memories of blessings received through our beloved who now lives with Christ in heaven. We affirm the faith in which they lived and through which they have been given eternal life in the sanctuary where they received the forgiveness of sins in Word and sacrament. ***"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."*** *(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)*

Opening Hymn

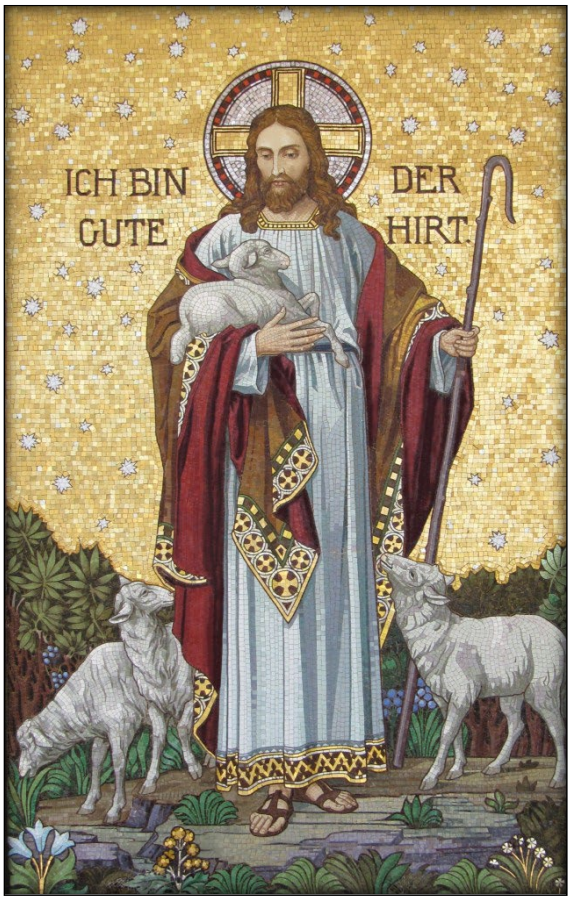
BLESSED ASSURANCE

Text: Fanny J. Crosby



Invocation

Opening Prayers



Scripture Readings

PSALM 23

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.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1–8

[1] For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
[2] a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
[3] a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;
[4] a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
[5] a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
[6] a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
[7] a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
[8] a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.



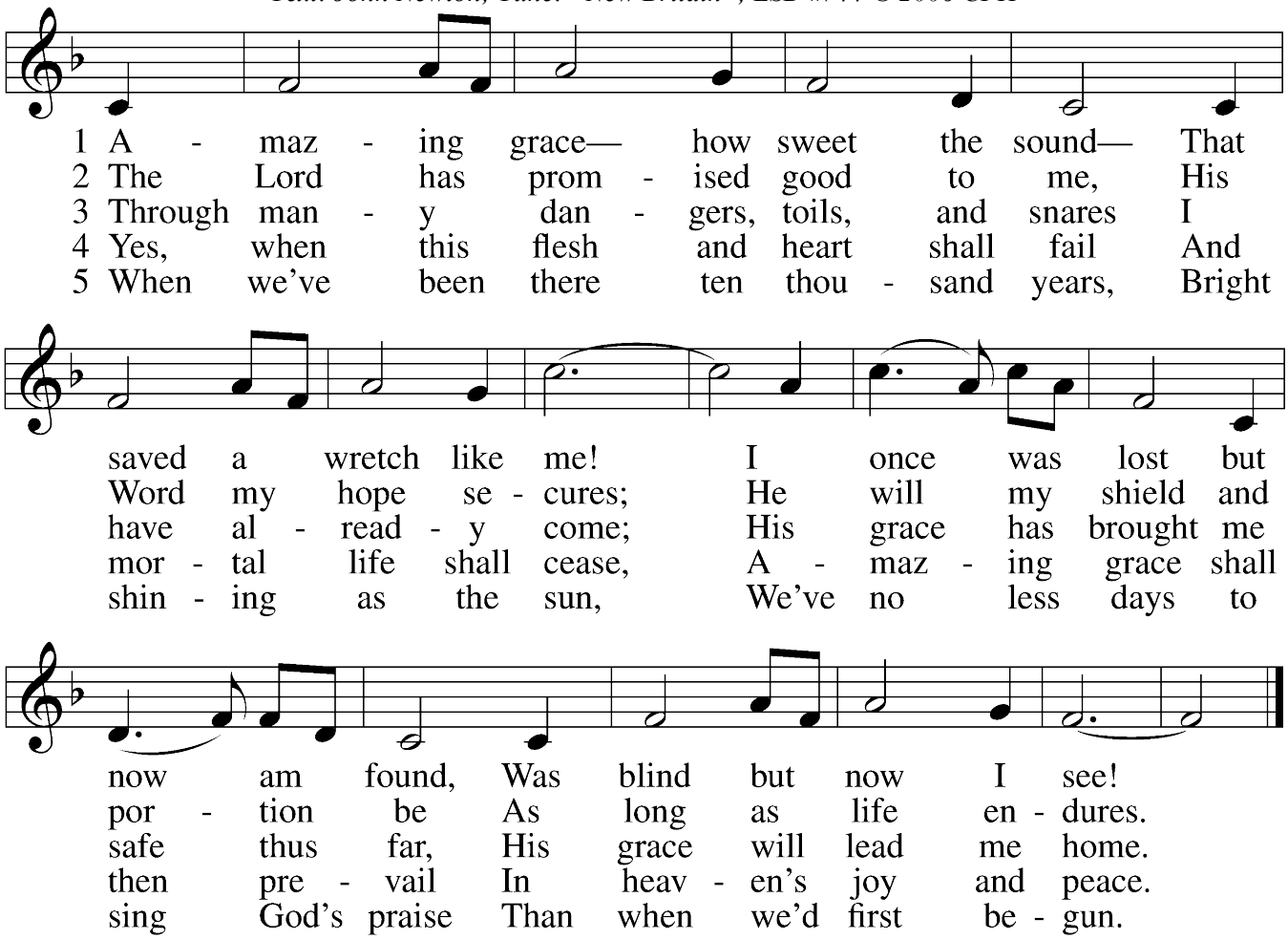
ST. JOHN 3:9–17

[9] Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” [10] Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? [11] Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.
[16] “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Sermon Hymn

AMAZING GRACE

Text: John Newton; Tune: "New Britain"; LSB #744 © 2006 CPH



Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

There is no more poignant or powerful opportunity for the proclamation of the Biblical message of Law and Gospel than the moments in which Christians celebrate the home-going of a loved one to eternal life in the mansions of heaven. The funeral sermon is designed to declare that wondrous Gospel and to set before all present this day the truth that every believer is a sinner saved by grace alone. Salvation cannot be earned. It can only be given as a free gift by the God whose love for us moved Him to give His only Son to die in our place upon the cross so that we might live with Him forever.

Ministry of Music

WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER

Text: Horatio G. Spafford; Music: Philip P. Bliss; Arranged by David Ashley White © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Jubilate Choir

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, oh my soul!
And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Obituary

GEORGE EDWARD SUMNER

September 9, 1941 - November 8, 2026

George Edward Sumner, 85, of Houston, Texas passed away on Sunday, November 8, 2026, eight months after his diagnosis of Acute Myeloid leukemia. He was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston to Charles Ferris Sumner, Jr. and Vera Vogt Sumner. George was the youngest of five children. He grew up in the Garden Oaks subdivision in Houston.



George was a devoted son, brother, uncle, dad, grandfather, friend, and a wonderful husband to his wife Mary. They celebrated their 43rd anniversary in July. George and Mary loved road trips and together visited all 50 states. George was Uncle George to many and Papa George to many more. He was also known as "Smokin" George to many fellow police officers in the 1970s. That name didn't come from his actual smoking but from his aggressive driving when on a call.

George served his country for three years in the U.S. Army and was a member of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Upon his return from the service, he worked for his brother Charles in the homebuilding business.

In 1971 he joined the Houston Police Department and honorably served for 28 years, retiring in 1999.

Shortly after his retirement, he and Mary began a new adventure by moving to the small town of Fayetteville, Texas. They moved to the big red building they had previously purchased, and made the Red & White on the town square their home for the next 14 years. In 2012 they sold their much-loved Red & White and moved back to Houston to be closer to family.

George was an adventurous kind of guy. He loved four wheeling in his customized red jeep on the jeep trails near Silverton and Ooray, Colorado and also in Moab, Utah, having participated in Moab's Easter Jeep Safari for several years. If the trail ended, he was always up to blazing a new trail. When George took Mary on her first trip to experience the Colorado trails, she was so "newly in love" she went along bravely. As years went by she, on several occasions, said, "STOP THIS JEEP and let me out!!! I will walk out of here!"

George was a MacGyver kind of guy. He could rig up almost anything to get out of a bind and always had a safety pin, band-aid, screwdriver, cough drop, extra jacket, a bottle of water or most anything else someone needed when not near a store.

A sweet meeting took place recently when the driver of our trash truck knocked at our door. He had been missing George's bright smile and wave and bringing bottles of water to the crew. He was concerned and wanted to check on his friend. They had a very special and emotional visit.

George was a life-long Lutheran and was four years old when Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston was founded. His mother became a charter member so he was there throughout his life and he and Mary are still members today. He was secure in his faith and knew where he was going when his time here on earth was over.

George was preceded in death by his parents and his four siblings, brothers Charles Sumner and wife Camille, Donald Morbeck Sumner, Richard Sumner, sister Joan Fain and husband Bill Fain, very special nephew Don Sumner and Godson Paul Dedear.

He is survived by his wife Mary Sumner, stepson Michael Niemann and grandson Matthew Niemann. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Johanna Sumner and Sharlot Sumner, many nieces and nephews and on Mary's side, many more family members who love him dearly. He proudly answered to Uncle George, Papa George, and Porge.

His remains were entrusted to the Neptune Society. A Celebration of Life will be held November 20, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Houston and his remains interred, also at a date not yet determined at Houston National Cemetery.

Rest in peace precious man, you were and will continue to be loved and missed. Heaven is brighter now, that's for sure!

For those desiring to offer a memorial gift in George's name, please consider Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5000 West Tidwell, Houston, TX 77091 (Forward Faithfully Building Fund).

HOUSTON POLICE PRESENTATION

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

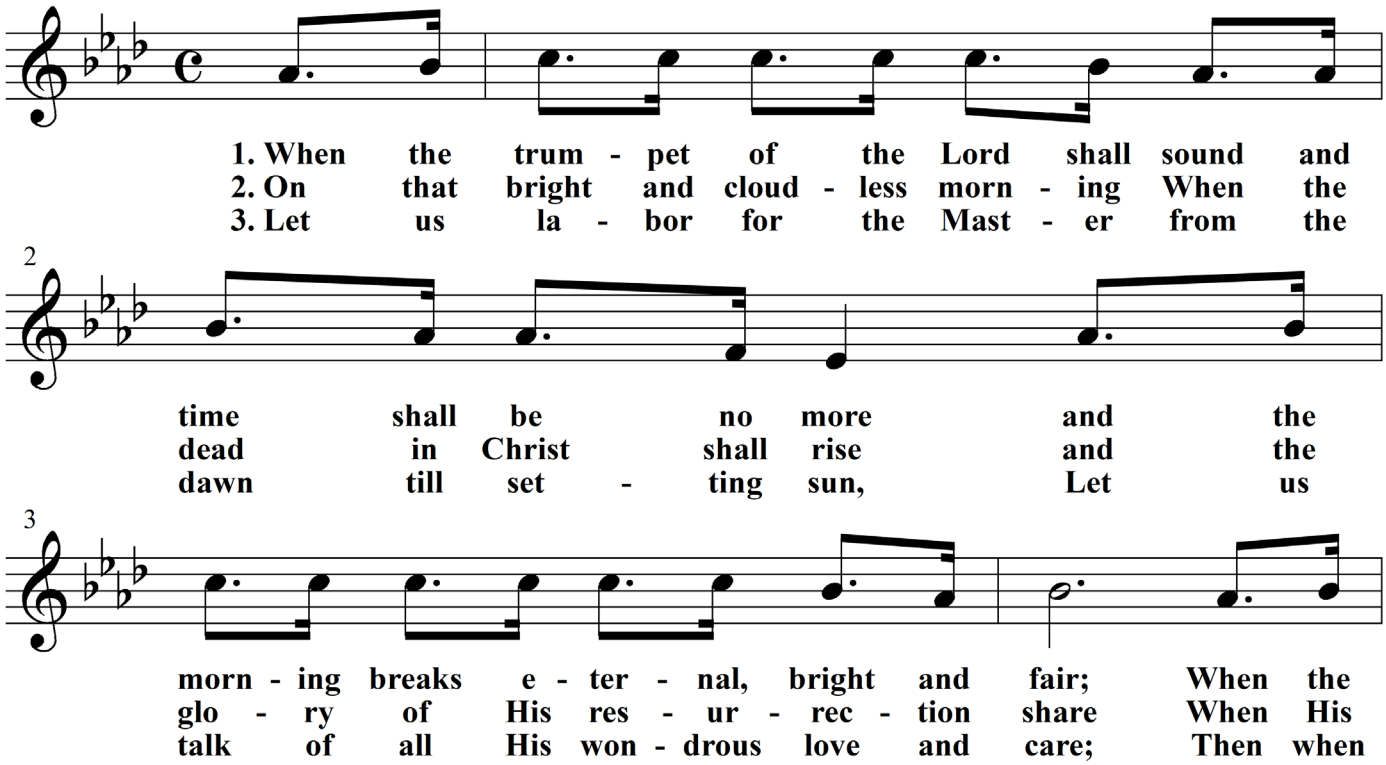
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

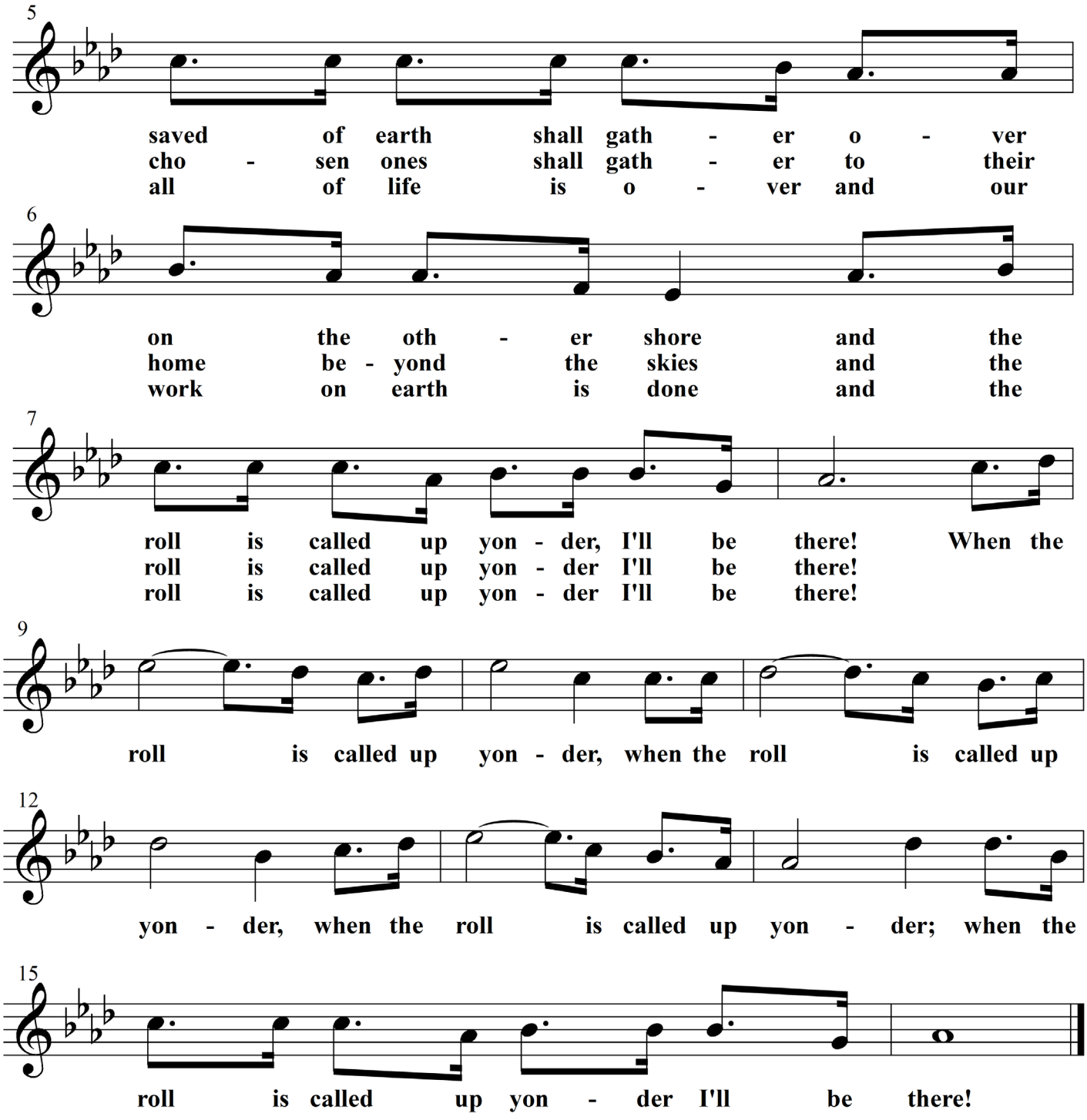
Benediction

Closing Hymn

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

Author: James M. Black (1893); Tune: ROLL CALL





+ + +

Soli Deo Gloria



REVELATION 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
"Blessed indeed," says the Spirit,
"that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

English Standard Version