

Acknowledgments

Preacher: Pastor Richard Gurgel

Presiding Ministers: Pastor Austin Claflin, Pastor Robert Gurgel

Accompanists: Tami Koenig, Sarah Sell

Singers: Andrea Frick, Tami Koenig, Amanda Wenzel Cello: Michael Sell

Cover art painted by Barb Gurgel

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The Christian Funeral of Karl Robert Gurgel



Friday, September 25, 2026
St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Winona

Bells & Welcome

Remembrance *a remembrance of the time of grace given by God to Karl Robert Gurgel, read by Pastor Austin Claflin.*

340 Away in a Manger, stanza 3

3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Prayer

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

In Holy Baptism, Karl was clothed with the robe of Christ’s righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul affirms, “In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”

The apostle also writes, “All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!

There Is a Higher Throne CW 885

1 There is a high - er throne than all this world has known,
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be - fore the throne;

where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue will one day come.
we'll hon - or him in per - fect song where we be - long.

Be - fore the Son we'll stand, made fault-less through the Lamb;
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hun - ger die;

be - liev - ing hearts find prom - ised grace; sal - va - tion comes.
the Lamb be - comes our Shep - herd-King; we'll reign with him.

Refrain

Hear heav-en's voic - es sing; their thun-d'rous an-them rings through
em - 'rald courts and sap-phire skies; their prais - es rise.
All glo-ry, wis-dom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and hon - or are
to God our King who reigns on high for - ev - er - more.

Refrain sung 2x after final stanza

Responsive Readings drawn from Psalm 33, Romans 8, and Philippians 4

Leader: Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.
C: Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

L: Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.
C: For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.
L & C: The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. Psalm 33:1-5

443 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness, stanza 1

1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness— see what to -
day is done! Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, comes
forth the glo - rious sun. My Sav - ior there was
laid where our bed must be made when to the
realms of light our spir - it wings its flight.

L: What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

C: He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

L: Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

C: Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

L: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

C: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

L & C: For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31–39

2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed when Christ lay
in the tomb; but lo, he now is rout - ed, his
boast is turned to gloom. For Christ a - gain is
free; in glo - rious vic - to - ry he who is
strong to save has tri - umphed o'er the grave.

L: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

C: Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

L: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

C: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:4–7*



3 This is a sight that glad - dens— what peace it
does im - part! Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens the
joy with - in my heart. No gloom shall ev - er
shake, no foe shall ev - er take the hope which
God's own Son in love for me has won.

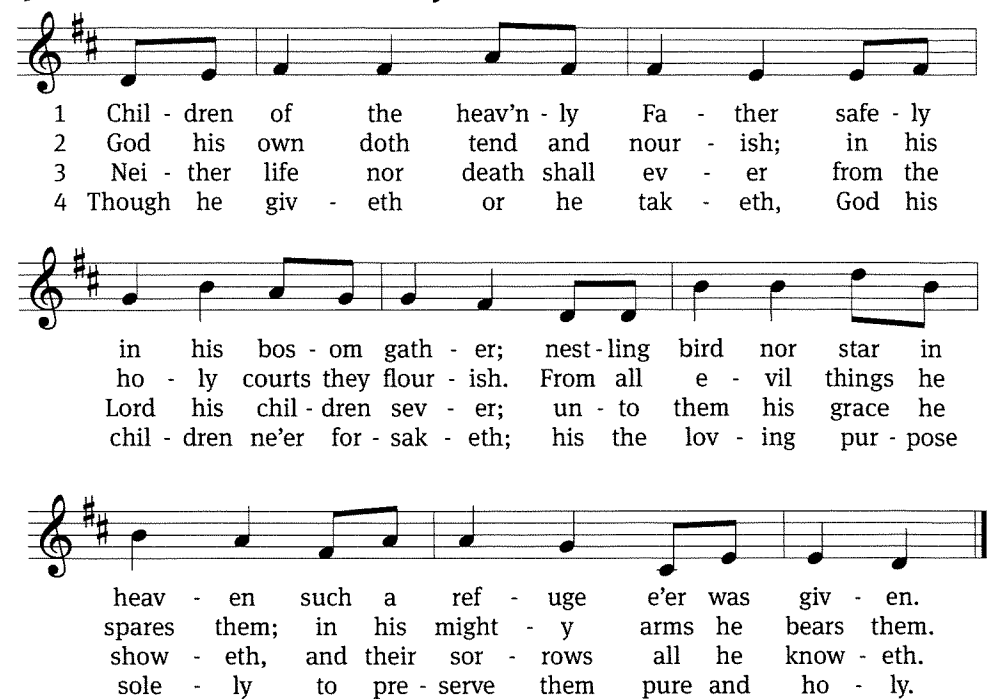
Gospel Reading *John 14:1–7*

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

502 Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther safe - ly
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; in his
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his
in his bos - om gath - er; nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; un - to them his grace he
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose
heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; in his might - y arms he bears them.
show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Sermon Reading *Psalms 33:20-22*

²⁰We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

²¹In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

²²May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Sermon

884 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See *sung by fellow pastors.*

Lord, when your glory I shall see
and taste your kingdom's pleasure,
your blood my royal robe shall be,
my joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne,
your righteousness shall be my crown;
with these I need not hide me.
And there, in garments richly wrought,
as your own bride I shall be brought,
to stand in joy beside you.

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Special Music: I Will Rise

Sending

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. (*Jude 24–25*)

Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.
Amen.

342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is, *stanzas 3-5*

3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;
4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then
5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;

be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.
the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.
but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.

For God's own Child in mer - cy mild
The an - gel host can nev - er boast
To him hold fast un - til at last

joins you to him—how great - ly God must love you!
of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.