

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Robert “Bob” Eugene Bowers, Sr.

February 19, 1931 – June 8, 2025

**Celebration of Life
June 30, 2025 2:00 p.m.**

*In the order of service, congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

The Paschal Candle is burning to signify the Christian's assurance of eternal life through the Resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

PRELUDE

Please Stand

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

GATHERING HYMN

This Is My Father's World

ELW 824

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

A pall is placed in remembrance of Bob's baptism—a sign of being clothed with Christ in 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

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

WORD

FIRST READING: Psalm 73:23-28

- ²³ Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.
- ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me with honor.
- ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I desire other than you.
- ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.
- ²⁷ Indeed, those who are far from you will perish;
you put an end to those who are false to you.
- ²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
to tell of all your works.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸ Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 14:1-6, 25-27

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 14th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In 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? ³ And 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus 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. ²⁶ But 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. ²⁷ Peace 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.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Frank W. Anderson

Please Stand

HYMN

A Mighty Fortress

ELW 504

THE APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in 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 your peace. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love. **Hear us, Lord.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love. **Hear us, Lord.**

Help us, we pray, 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. **Hear us, Lord.**

Grant us grace to entrust Bob to your never-failing love which sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people. **Hear us, Lord.**

God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has 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 shall 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. **Amen.**

SENDING

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Bob to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

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

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

SONG

Here I Am, Lord

ELW 574

POSTLUDE

*The family will follow the pastor to the Memorial Garden for the Committal.
All friends are welcome to join them.*

COMMITTAL

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Holy God, holy and powerful, by the death and burial of Jesus your anointed, you have destroyed the power of death and made holy the resting places of all your people. Keep our brother, Bob, whose body we now lay to rest, in the company of all your saints. And at the last, O God, raise him up to share with all the faithful the endless joy and peace won through the glorious resurrection of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The bell tolls 94 times for each year of Bob's life on earth.

A reading from John:

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. (John 12:23-26)

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother, Bob, and we commit his body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

The Lord bless him and keep him.

The Lord's face shine on him with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon him with favor and + give him peace.

Amen.

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

Merciful God, you heal the broken in heart and bind up the wounds of the afflicted.

Strengthen us in our weakness, calm our troubled spirits, and dispel our doubts and fears.

In Christ's rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to everlasting life. Renew our trust in you that by the power of your love we shall one day be brought together again with our brother Bob.

Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

The God of peace,

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,

the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will,

working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight;

through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Military Honors follow the service at the Graveside.

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Thank you for the many acts of kindness shown to our family.



*Love is patient,
love is kind.
It does not envy,
it does not boast,
it is not proud...
It always protects,
always trusts,
always hopes,
always perseveres.*

What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, he called it ... "Dad."

~unknown

ROBERT EUGENE BOWERS, SR.



Robert Eugene "Bob" Bowers, Sr., age 94, passed away on June 8, 2025, in Lexington, South Carolina. A native of Lexington, North Carolina, Bob was born on February 19, 1931, and lived a long and full life marked by dedication to his work, his family, and the simple pleasures that brought him joy.

Bob proudly served his country as a veteran of the United States Navy. Following his military service, he embarked on a long and steady career with the railroad—a profession that suited his practical nature and deep appreciation for machinery and movement. The railroad remained close to his heart throughout his life.

A man of straightforward tastes and quiet routines, Bob found comfort in the familiar. He enjoyed relaxing on his swing with his pipe in hand, often accompanied by one of his beloved Spitz dogs. He had a lifelong fascination with electricity and took pleasure in tinkering with it whenever he could. Before technology became too complex for his liking, he also loved working on cars—back when they were simpler machines that responded to a skilled hand and a curious mind. When he wasn't relaxing in his swing, there was always a ride in his convertible.

Bob was deeply devoted to his family. He is survived by his three children: Deborah Wyatt and her husband Doug; Robert Bowers Jr. and his wife Patsy; and Cindy Bostic and her husband Mark. His legacy continues through five grandchildren—Michael, Nick, Bryan, Matthew, and Meagan—and two great-grandchildren, Eleanor and Harper.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Joyce. Her passing one year and three days before his own left a profound void in Bob's life. Their bond was enduring, and her absence was deeply felt during the final chapter of his journey.

May Robert Eugene "Bob" Bowers, Sr.'s memory bring comfort to those who knew him and serve as a reminder of a life lived with quiet strength and enduring love. Visitation will be held on June 30, 2025, beginning at 1:00 PM, with Memorial service immediately following at 2:00. St. Michaels Lutheran Church 400 River Road. Columbia, SC.

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OFFICIATING The Rev'd Frank W. Anderson
MINISTER Pastor, Saint Michael Lutheran Church

CANTOR Karen Shevenell
Cantor, Saint Michael Lutheran Church

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