

**A Service Celebrating the Life in Christ
of
Anthony “Tony” Fisher**

June 27, 2025
Grace Lutheran Church, Wenatchee, WA



+ + + GATHERING + + +

Prelude

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot – Fred Offutt
Oh, Sing to the Lord – Mark Sedio, Anne Krentz Organ
Thy Holy Wings – Mark Sedio
Vocal Solo: *On Eagle's Wings* – Michael Joncas
Children of the Heavenly Father – Anna Laura Page
Now Thank We All Our God – Michael Larkin
Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain – David N. Johnson
Vocal Solo: *How Great Thou Art* – Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
Variations on *When We Are Living* – John Carter, Hal Hopson, Anne Krentz Organ

Kids' Talk

Please stand as you are able.

Welcome

Welcome in the name of Jesus...

Thanksgiving for Baptism

All who are baptized...

Gathering Hymn

ELW #836, *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

Harmonies may be found in ELW – the cranberry hymnal.



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

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 ... through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

+++ WORD +++

Poem: *Ode to Teachers* by Pat Mora

First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3a, 5-7

A reading from Isaiah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23



1 The Lord my Shep-herd guards me well, and all my wants are fed:
 2 Though I should walk in dark-est ways through val-leys like the grave,
 3 For me a ta-ble has been spread where all my foes can see;
 4 Your stead-fast love will fol-low me to shield me all my days

a - mid green pas - tures made to lie, be - side still wa - ters led.
 no e - vil shall I ev - er fear; your pres - ence makes me brave.
 you bathe my head with fra-grant oil to soothe and hon - or me.
 and bring me to your ho - ly house, re - deemed from er - ror's ways,

My care-worn soul grows strong and whole when God's true path I tread.
 On my be - half your rod and staff as - sure me you will save.
 My heart and cup are both filled up with joy - ful ec - sta - sy.
 my whole life long to join the song of those who sing God's praise.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-); para. Psalm 23
 MUSIC: James L. Bain (1840-1925); arr. Gordon Jacob (1895-1984)

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
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Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

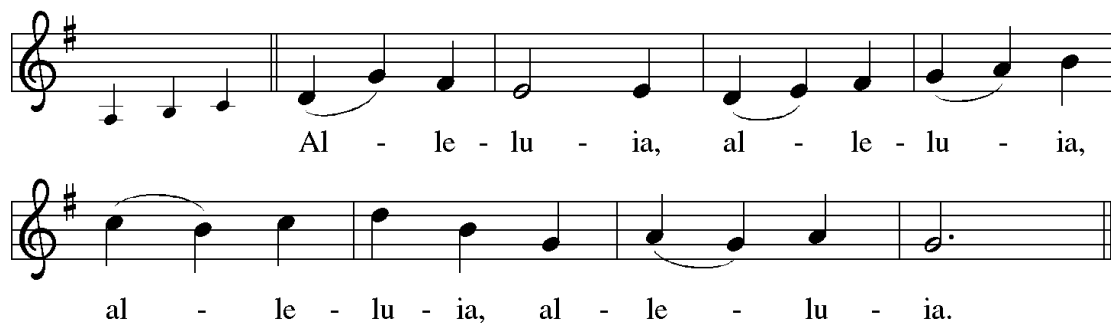
A reading from Colossians.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Come to me...

...For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

When We Are Living Sing in Spanish and/or English.



Pues si vi - vi - mos, pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,
 1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
 2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain, . . .
 3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find . . .



y si mo - ri - mos pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.
 and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . .
 when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace, . . .
 those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind; . . .



Sea que vi - va - mos o que mu - ra - mos,
 Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
 wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
 and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, so - mos del Se - ñor.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
 we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

2 En la tristeza y en el dolor,
 en la belleza y en el amor,
 sea que suframos o que gocemos,
 somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

3 En este mundo por doquier habrá
 gente que lloray sin consolar.
 Sea que ayudemos o alimentemos,
 somos del Señor, somos del Señor.

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942
 st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946

Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional

Spanish text, sts. 2-3 © 1983 Abingdon Press and tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

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Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us 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.

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

...one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

+ + + SENDING + + +

Commendation

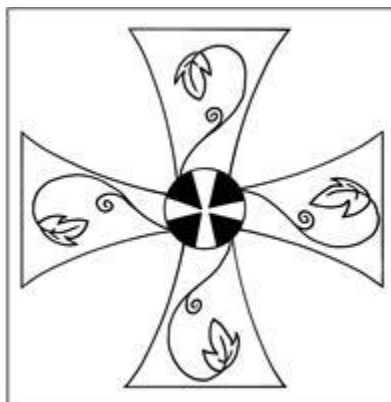
Let us commend Tony to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

... into the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.



Sending Hymn

When the Saints Go Marching In

1 Oh, when the saints go march - ing in, oh, when the
 2 Oh, when the Lord in glo - ry comes, oh, when the
 3 Oh, when the new world is re - vealed, oh, when the
 4 Oh, when they gath - er round the throne, oh, when they
 5 And on that hal - le - lu - jah day, and on that

saints go march - ing in, O Lord, I want to be in that
 Lord in glo - ry comes, O Lord, I want to be in that
 new world is re - vealed, O Lord, I want to be in that
 gath - er round the throne, O Lord, I want to be in that
 hal - le - lu - jah day, O Lord, I want to be in that

num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
 num - ber when the Lord in glo - ry comes.
 num - ber when the new world is re - vealed.
 num - ber when they gath - er round the throne.
 num - ber on that hal - le - lu - jah day.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WHEN THE SAINTS, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version

Arr. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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

Postlude

Let All Things Now Living

John Turner

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Thank you for your presence today. All are welcome to a reception
 following the service at Pybus Market, Wenatchee.

Serving Today:

Presiding Minister	Rev. James Aalgaard
Pianist/Organist	Deacon Ruth Anderson
Trumpeter/Vocal soloist	Tony Morgan
Readers	Adam Brandt, former student Millie Watkins, principal, superintendent Rick Bruce, childhood friend
Tech	Marlena La Paz

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Acknowledgements

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Anthony "Tony" Bruce Fisher, 61 of Wenatchee, passed away December 5, 2024, due to complications from a brain tumor.

Tony was born on February 1, 1963, in Santa Monica, CA to Bruce and Shirley Fisher. He grew up in Foster City, CA where he attended Audubon Elementary, Bowditch Middle, and San Mateo High Schools. He moved to Spokane, WA in 1978 with his family and graduated from University High School in 1981. When Tony was young, he excelled in sports, played Little League baseball, and competed in the national finals for Punt, Pass, and Kick. He also played varsity baseball and football at University High School in Spokane, WA.

Tony graduated in 1985 with a B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Eastern Washington University where he met the love of his life, Kay Pflugrath. They were married in Wenatchee, WA in August 1985. In 1990 Tony and Kay welcomed their daughter Kara Grace. Tony completed his Master of Education in 1991 and his Administrative Certificate in 2000.

Tony and Kay spent their first ten years of marriage in Chehalis, WA. Tony worked for the Chehalis School District where he was a reading specialist, and taught 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. He coached high school baseball for three years and enjoyed fishing. In the summer of 1994 Tony began teaching at the Orondo School District where he taught 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades for twenty years. While there, he started a chess team and took several students to the state championships over the years. Tony cared about his students and their successes. On several occasions, Tony and Kay would buy clothing, school supplies, or a meal for a student. In 2012 Tony retired from Orondo School District due to medical issues after completing nearly 30 years of teaching. During retirement, Tony volunteered at Pybus Market and created a whole new family there.

Tony enjoyed his summers on Lake Chelan at the condo. For nearly 40 years their Chelan family was a big part of Tony and Kay's life. Tony and Kay enjoyed traveling to Hawaii, going on cruises, and going to Husky football games with Kay's brother and brother-in-law.

Tony is survived by his wife Kay, one daughter Kara Grace Melton (Taylor), two grandchildren Colt Kelly Melton and Hailey Grace Melton; four sisters Karen Schoknecht (Kim), Pam Radmilovic (Rick), Chris Silver (Steve), and Lisa Lindquist (Jeff); one brother-in-law Kent Pflugrath (Jim Vollendroff); seven nieces and nephews Paige Sanks (Alex), Kelsey Radmilovic (Jason), Jessica Radmilovic, Alex Schoknecht (Kate), Jake Radmilovic (Lina), Danny Schoknecht (Kim), and Dylan Silver; several great nieces and nephews; and many beloved dogs.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents Bruce and Shirley Fisher in 2013, mother-in-law Sylvia Pflugrath-Knighton in 2023, and nephew Austin Silver in 2014.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Orondo Community Scholarship, P.O. Box 312, Orondo, WA 98843.

Ode to Teachers

By Pat Mora

I remember
the first day,
how I looked down,
hoping you wouldn't see
me,
and when I glanced up,
I saw your smile
shining like a soft light
from deep inside you.

"I'm listening," you encourage us.
"Come on!
Join our conversation,
let us hear your neon certainties,
thorny doubts, tangled angers,"
but for weeks I hid inside.

I read and reread your notes
praising
my writing,
and you whispered,
"We need you
and your stories
and questions
that like a fresh path
will take us to new vistas."

Slowly, your faith grew
into my courage
and for you—
instead of handing you
a note or apple or flowers—
I raised my hand.

I carry your smile
and faith inside like I carry
my dog's face,
my sister's laugh,
creamy melodies,
the softness of sunrise,
steady blessings of stars,
autumn smell of gingerbread,
the security of a sweater on a chilly day.

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