

The Funeral of
Royce Wilken
Grace Lutheran Church
Champaign, Illinois

February 21, 2025

Welcome!

We are glad that you have joined us as we gather in the presence of God, to be encountered by God in Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament as we commend Royce Wilken into God's eternal care.

We believe that God is truly at work here today in this worship service to both create and sustain our faith in God's promises of life for Jesus' sake, so that we may be comforted in our sorrow and empowered to be agents of God's grace in the world around us.

This stands at the center of all we do as a community of faith.

Music and text of the liturgies are reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, © 2006, and from *Sundays and Seasons*, © 2021, by permission of Augsburg Fortress Press and ONE LICENSE, License #A-725811

Key to the order of service:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

Bold type: spoken by the people

Small Italics: liturgical directions

✝ indicates that the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

The ministers process to the font with the family.

The presiding minister welcomes the assembly.

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 Royce.

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.

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.

The ministers process with the family as the hymn is sung.

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



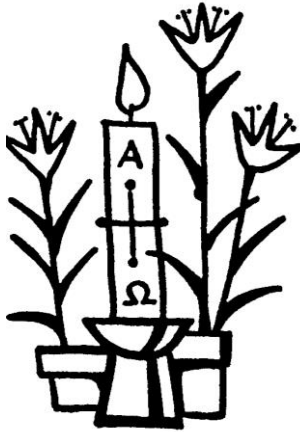
thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou
art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!





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 Royce. 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.

The assembly is seated.

Word

Psalmody

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

First Reading

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

A reading from Romans.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with
him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is
God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was
raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate
us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or
nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-6

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

[Jesus said] “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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp



The assembly stands.

Hymn *Amazing Grace*

ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of the whole church, the faith in which we are baptized.

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

The assisting minister leads the prayers. Each petition concludes:

... God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

God of all grace, ... now and forever.
Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

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

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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Sending

Commendation

The presiding minister leads the commendation.

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

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Royce.

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.

The ministers lead a procession out of the sanctuary during the final hymn.

Hymn *Blessed Assurance*

ELW 638



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



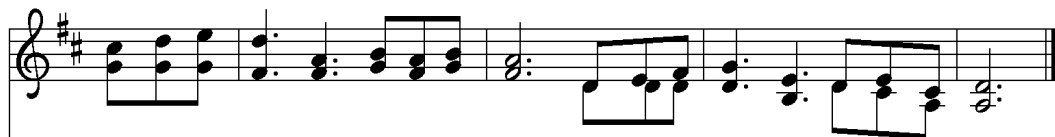
Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



Postlude

*All are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall,
down the long hallway to the left of the main entrance.*

Worship Support

The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.

Presiding Minister

Pastor Chris Repp

Assisting Minister

Claire Vail

Ushers

Dave and Carol Larson

Organist:

Dana Robinson

Sound Technician:

Kevin Vail

Live-streaming Technician:

Kevin Vail

Office Assistant:

Karen Maher



Royce Wilken

Royce Wilken passed away on February 11th, 2025. Royce was born July 10th, 1953 to Delmar and Phyllis Wilken. He grew up in Champaign and graduated from Centennial High School in 1971. He continued on to the University of Illinois and graduated with a degree in Agricultural Economics. His 38-year career at Archer Daniels Midland started as a grain merchandiser in Peoria, IL and ended as president of the American River Transportation Company. Royce also served as Chairman of the American Waterways Operators and the Inland Waterways Users Board.

His professional path took him to many destinations where he created lasting memories. He married his wife of 41 years in Fremont, NE; he had his first son in Auburn, NY and his second son in Des Moines, IA; before, eventually, returning with his family to his hometown of Champaign, IL. Royce was always looking for golf courses to explore. He enjoyed following U of I Sports and St. Louis Cardinals baseball. In retirement, he dedicated his time to Grace Lutheran's food pantry and served on their board. He's survived by his wife Lois; their two sons Tyler (Tina Marie) of Tucson, AZ and Zachary (Grace) of Urbana, IL; and two sisters Lyndell Wilken of Eugene, OR and Mylla Hunter of Santa Fe, NM.

When Royce retired, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the maritime industry from the Seaman's Church Institute. His final honor was the christening of the MV Royce Wilken line boat, which can be seen navigating the waters of the Mississippi River!

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to the Grace Lutheran Church Food Pantry and the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge in St. Louis, MO.



Grace Lutheran Church
Champaign, Illinois