

St. James Lutheran Church

*God calls us to follow Christ, make  
disciples, and live the Gospel.*

**A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving to God**

**Wolfram Kollacks**

**September 28, 1936 – November 14, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

*Jesu, Priceless Treasure  
He Leadeth Me*

Arr. Gilbert M. Martin  
Arr. Terry Kirkland

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**INTRODUCTION**

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

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.  
In his baptism, Wolfram was clothed with Christ.  
On the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

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.

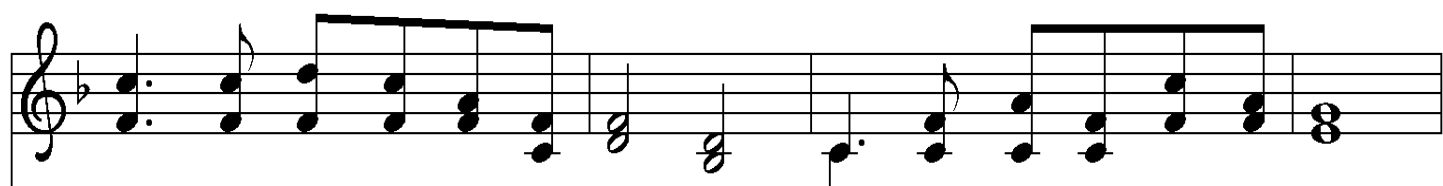
**We praise you.**

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.**




1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav-y - lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?  
Do your friends de-spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.



## 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 Wolfram.

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 be seated)*

## READING 2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now  
on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous  
judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for  
his appearing.

## ELW Psalm 46 *(sung responsively)*

**1 God is our ref- | uge and strength,  
a very present | help in trouble.**

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,  
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

**3 though its waters | rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.**

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,  
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

**5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;  
God shall help it at the | break of day.**

**6 The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;  
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

**7 The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**

**8 Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,  
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

**9 behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;  
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.**

**10 “Be still, then, and know that | I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

**11 The LORD of | hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 11:28-30

# The holy gospel according to Matthew.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*(be seated)*

# SERMON

Rev. Amy Gillespie

## REFLECTIONS AND TRIBUTES

*(please stand as you are able)*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

(ELW 504)

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
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## **APOSTLES CREED**

**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.**

## **PRAYER**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.**

*(please be seated)*

## SONG

*'Passing of a Friend'*

Author Tom Meyer  
arranged by Hall/Jarvi/Meyer

*It's a new beginning in the passing of a friend. A life can change in the flash of an instant. An earthly soul becomes heaven bound. A dear husband, father, a friend and servant now serves the Lord in glory all around. But I know in my heart that this is not the end. It's a new beginning in the passing of a friend. Now there's a hole in many hearts that are aching; many prayers being prayed; many eyes shedding tears; and there are many regrets over lost conversations; and many more questions over many lost years. But I know in my heart that this is not the end. It's a new beginning in the passing of a friend. On the pathway to heaven it's all those left behind, who grieve the deepest, who feel the hurt and the pain. But know that our friend is with the Lord Almighty, and know that our loss is surely Heaven's gain. And I know in my heart that this is not the end. It's a new beginning, in the passing of a friend.*

*(please stand as you are able)*

## COMMENDATION

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

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

## HYMN

*Now Thank We All Our God*

(ELW 840)

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts, and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,  
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
and free us from all harm, and in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

**Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878**  
**Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

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

## *The Man I Love*

*So young we were when we first met,  
A shy fifteen was I, so out of step.  
An impoverished girl, a dysfunctional family,  
Broken lives blending to create a new reality.*

*He taught me much about his world and history,  
My listening ear did catch a mystery.  
I needed to hear; he needed to share,  
A different perspective for which I did care.*

*Painful the life of a German immigrant,  
Awkward, defensive was his fingerprint.  
In 1949, an enemy he was seen to be,  
Unwelcome, confused and lonely was he.*

*Hunger still fresh a memory,  
The scars of war he hoped to flee.  
Leaving his country, with parents beside,  
They lost their country, they lost their pride.*

*America, land of the free, home of the brave,  
A sentiment so poignant the displaced crave.  
Many have come inspired by this tale,  
Hoping to find such truth would prevail.*

*And so it did for many, and yet...  
What others receive, we don't always get.  
Scary police visits came his way,  
World War II culture, the order of the day.*



*Wounds such as these did open the door,  
Affecting his spirit, down to the core.  
Try as he would with Christian faith his base.  
Bitterness and cynicism he could not erase.*

*Who was this man that I would marry,  
Full of love for me, and yet so angry?  
Marriage, three children, our life was good,  
But, those closet skeletons always stood.*

*Often within the walls of the church,  
Isolation he felt, but continued to search.  
Why, oh why, did he fail to find,  
That ever elusive peace of mind?*

*Simply, we think God will work things out,  
Leave it to Him, sermons all but shout.  
Thankfully, we know Jesus Christ passed the test,  
In Him is God's grace and eternal rest.*

*What we cannot do, our Lord has done,  
And my dear, sweet husband knows the Son.  
In Him he is valued with all of the Saints,  
Accepted and loved without restraint.*

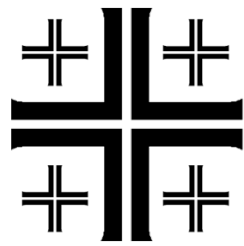
*Written by Linda Kollacks*

*On the occasion of her husband, Wolfram's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday, September 28, 2017.*



**Wolfram Kollacks**

**September 28, 1936 – November 14, 2023**



St. James Lutheran Church  
Lake Forest, Illinois

## **Service**

St. James Lutheran Church  
Monday, November 27, 2023

11:00 am Visitation  
12:00 pm Memorial Service

## **Clergy**

Pastor Amy Gillespie

## **Readers**

Diana Wilson

Lisa Hanagan

## **Music**

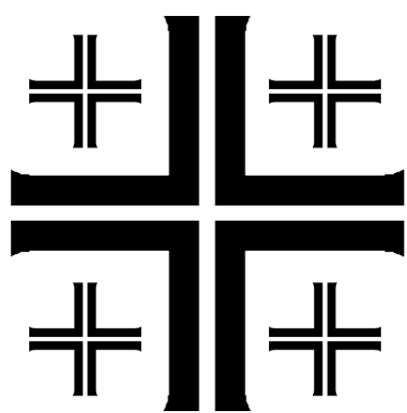
Organist Marilyn Koepke

Cantor Annie Moss

Duet - Thomas Meyer / Melinda Voelcker

## **Ushers**

Ann and Tim Anderson



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**Lake Forest, Illinois**