

Funeral Service for Barry Blakley
Augustana Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
March 22nd, 2024 at 1:00pm

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Good afternoon Everyone and welcome to Augustana Lutheran Church. I'm Pastor Kirk and assisting alongside me today is Deacon Alexa. On behalf of Pat and her family, I would like to thank you all for being here to honour Barry's life and memory – whether you managed to cram yourselves into the building, or you are watching from another location.

We know that Barry and Pat have lots of connections at the university and in the sports community as well as here at the church. Thank you for all of the ways you have shown your friendship to the Blakely family over the years – but especially in these last few weeks. We are glad that you could be here.

For those of you who have not been to a funeral here before, we use something called liturgy. It is a guide to important moments like this where we often are at a loss for words. We lean into the wisdom of those who have gone before us and join our voices to those who have given witness to the God who reminds us that death is not the end.

So as we enter into this time, you are invited to turn to page 279 and participate in the words that are spoken, responding in the bold print. Feel free to sing along with the hymns – even if they seem unfamiliar – and pray the prayers as you feel comfortable. Or just be present in this time in a way that is authentic for you.

As we gather, we are mindful and gratefully acknowledge that we do so here on Treaty 6 territory, and the Homeland of the Metis.

GATHERING p. 279

Welcome in the name of Jesus,

Who draws us into the deep love of God.

We are gathered here today to do many things:

- to remember before God – Barry Blakley
- to give thanks for his life,
- to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,
- to commend him to our merciful redeemer,
- and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM **p. 280**

We begin our journey with God in the waters of our baptisms.
It is here that Barry was named and claimed as a child of God;
dearly loved by the God who has never been far off.

So we gather to remember this – even as we mourn the loss of his life.
We give thanks for God's promise that:

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
In his baptism, Barry was clothed with Christ.
In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.
And so we give thanks:

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 honour, 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.

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who
mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM Let My Spirit Always Sing **ACS 1020**

(the choir will sing the first two verses and the congregation is invited to join for the final two verses)

1. Let my spirit always sing,
though my heart be wintering,
though the season of despair
give no sign that you are there,
God to whom my days belong,
let there always be a song.
2. Though my body be confined,
let your word engage my mind,
let the inner eye discern
how much more there is to learn,
see the world becoming whole
through the window of the soul.
3. Let your wisdom grace my years,
choose my words and chase my fears,
give me wit to welcome change,
to accept, and not estrange,
let my joy be full and deep
in the knowledge that I keep.
4. Let my spirit always sing,
to your Spirit answering,
through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust your love, through life and death.

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

John 12:23-26

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *For By Grace* **ACS 1006**

(refrain)

Refrain:

By grace we have been saved
Saved by grace through faith
Not because of what we do
It is the gift of God

1. On the days when you are weak
On the days when you are strong
Rich or poor, young or old
Just listen to the song (refrain)
2. Rest your body, rest your mind
In the stillness you will find
You're a lovely, precious child
Part of the great design (refrain)
3. You don't need to be afraid
You will never be alone
There is mercy, there is hope
And love will take you home
(refrain)

CREED p. 282

**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

Please join the prayer by responding:
hear our prayer.

Let us pray...

Almighty God,

In holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our journey, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, help us to walk in the ways of justice and love for our neighbours. May your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your goodness, light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, 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. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor; you are the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have died, and especially those most dear to us who rest in you.... Give us time in this life to not take things for granted but to live out your calling and purpose for our lives each day. To your name, with the Church on earth and the Church in heaven, we ascribe all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER p. 283

As Jesus once taught his disciples to pray to God for all things as they had need, let us also pray to God in the same way, saying:

**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**

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Barry to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. (*Silence is kept*)

Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant *Barry*. 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*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***ELW 631**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
all Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away our love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver;
let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.
4. Finish then, Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

DISMISSAL

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