



Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

*Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.*

*Know that the LORD is God.
It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

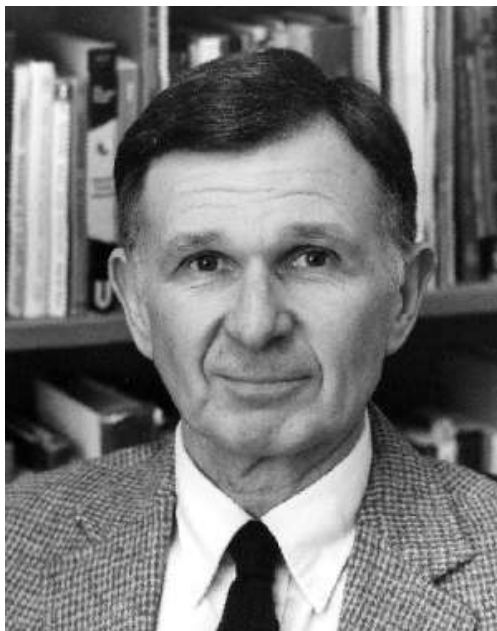
*Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

*For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.*

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF RICHARD L. THULIN

December 8, 2011

Church of the Abiding Presence
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg



RICHARD L. THULIN, Lutheran pastor and theologian, died Saturday, November 19, 2011 following an extended illness. He was 81 years of age and spent four months under the care of the Brethren Home in New Oxford, PA.

Born in 1929 in San Francisco, California, he is survived by his wife, the former Elizabeth Anne Bergendoff, three children and their families.

The Rev. Dr. Thulin received his higher education from the University of California at Berkeley (B.A. in 1951), and Augustana Theological Seminary (M.Div. summa cum laude, 1955). He pursued graduate studies in religion and the arts at the University of Chicago Divinity School, later at Boston University School of Theology (Th.D., 1972).

Ordained in 1957, Thulin served as parish pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowell, MA. (now located at Chelmsford) and Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven, CT. During his parish ministries, he was active in religious broadcasting and a leader in the development of ecumenical relationships among Christian traditions. During the New Haven years, he was active in the civil rights struggles of that period. He also served as Lecturer in Pastoral Theology and in Lutheran History and Polity at Yale Divinity School. From 1968 to 1977, he served as Professor of Pastoral Theology in Communication at Hamma School of Theology, Springfield, Ohio, where he also served as Dean of Students. The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg called him as professor of preaching in 1977 and elected him in 1981 to serve as the John and Susannah Ulrich Professor of the Art of Preaching. Recognized for his academic leadership, he was elected to serve as Dean of Gettysburg Seminary in 1992 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1999.

Widely respected for his preaching and teaching, he was the author of numerous articles and published sermons, and for 15 years served as general editor of the journal "Homiletic" and president of the Academy of Homiletics. Among several books under his authorship are two published by Fortress Press: *The T of the Sermon: Autobiography in the Pulpit* (1989) and an earlier study *Resurrection* (1975).

Thulin and his wife Elizabeth raised three children, Geoffrey Thulin of Cashtown, PA, Leslie Lewczyk of Mill Valley, CA, and Kendra Thulin of Chicago, IL. His family also included daughter-in-law Julie Aha, sons-in-law Steven Lewczyk and Jeremy Kazan, and sister-in-law Beatrice Wilson of Cedarburg, WI. His family also included two grandchildren, Peter and Ethan Lewczyk, and eight nieces and nephews.

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF RICHARD L. THULIN

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

The Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Folkemer

WELCOME AND REMARKS

The Rev. Dr. Michael L. Cooper-White

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All Creatures of Our God and King*

1. All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice with us and sing:
2. O ev' - ry - one of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take your part,
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gol - den beam
Oh, praise him! Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor - row bear,
and sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam: Oh, praise him! Oh, —
praise God and lay on him your care. Oh, praise him! Oh, —
praise him! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
praise him! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

3. And, you, most kind and gentle death,
waiting to hush our final breath,
oh, praise him! Alleluia!
You lead to heaven the child of God,
where Christ our Lord the way has trod.
Oh, praise him! Oh praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

4. Let all things their Creator bless
and worship God in humbleness.
Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One.
Oh, praise him! Oh praise him!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

* INVOCATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH

The Rev. Karl Mattson

* BAPTISMAL AFFIRMATIONS

The Rev. Karl Mattson

* Those who are able may stand

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Rev. Karl Mattson

REMARKS

Mr. Geoffrey Thulin
Ms. Leslie Lewczyk
Ms. Kendra Thulin

FIRST READING

Psalm 46:1-7

The Rev. Eric Shafer

*** PSALM 23** (paraphrased)

The Lord's My Shepherd

ELW #778

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

The Rev. Eric Shafer

TRIBUTES

The Rev. John M. Smaligo
Dr. Walter L. Powell

*** HYMN**

For All the Saints

ELW #422

*** GOSPEL READING**

John 14:1-7

The Rev. Dr. Gerald Christianson

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gerald Christianson

*** CANTICLE**

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now let-test thou thy ser - vant de - part in peace: ac-cord-ing to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy sal - va - tion: which thou hast pre - pared
be-fore the face of all — peo-ple; A light to light - en the Gen-tiles:
and the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost:
 As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
 ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

*** PRAYERS**

The Rev. Karl Mattson

*** 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.**

*** COMMENDATION AND BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Karl Mattson

P Rest eternal grant him, O Lord.

C And let light perpetual shine upon him.

P 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.

C Amen.

*** HYMN**

Now Thank We All Our God

ELW #840

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

S. Karg Elert

*Please join the Thulins for a reception at the Refectory,
immediately across the street,
following this service.*

**Found in one of the many journals Dick kept and referred to as
“Scribblings”:**

[In the sea there is] a different set of rules, an alien pulse of life, [but with an] intense power and infinite beauty ... the freedom from land is euphoric.

It's so eloquently simple beyond the horizon – there is only the sea and the sky.

-- Marie De Santis

Exultation is the going
Of an inland soul to sea,
Past the houses – past the headlands –
Into deep Eternity

-- Emily Dickinson