

*THE GOSPEL IS READ John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE
Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

HOMILY

WITNESS Family and friends may briefly voice their thankfulness to God for the grace they have received in the life of Chris.

HYMN ‘In the Garden’ No. 314

COMMENDATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Romans 8:35, 37-39 No. 887

HYMN ‘Hymn of Promise’ No. 707

CLOSING PRAYER

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: Christ went before us in death, as has Chris.
People: **We celebrate the good life we have shared with Chris.**
Pastor: God has given. God has received that which was loaned to us.
People: **We are thankful for the good days we shared.**
Pastor: May God, our Creator, and Jesus, our Christ, fortify in us every good deed and word.
People: **The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**
Pastor: Amen.
People: **Amen.**

*HYMN “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” No. 673, vs. 1 & 4

+POSTLUDE “O Jesus, I Have Promised” Don Phillips
(During the Postlude you are invited to bring God’s tithes and offerings forward.)



**A SERVICE IN WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST
AND THROUGH HIM, HIS SERVANT**

Christopher Koesel



May 29, 2022

PRELUDE	“Brother James’ Air”	Penny Rodgriguiz	HYMN	“On Eagle’s Wings”	No. 143
REMEMBRANCE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES				<i>And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and Hold you in the palm of God’s hand.</i>	
OPENING WORDS					
THE WORD OF GRACE					
HYMN	“Surely the Presence of the Lord” <i>Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels’ wings, I see glory on each face; surely the the presence of the Lord is in this place.</i>	No. 328 (two times)	RESPONSIVE READING		Cry of the Heart
CALL TO WORSHIP				O God, the pain is more than I can bear. The Lord is my shepherd. My cry echoes through a great cavern of emptiness within. I shall not want. The anguish and violence of the world overwhelm me. He leads me beside still waters. I am broken, bruised, fragile and weak. He restores my soul. The future is confusing, frightening, and unclear. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. There are enemies all around and within and tension mounts. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me. Incompleteness and weakness continue to plague my life. Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. All seems lost and I hunger for hope and help. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Can anyone heal this brokenness and emptiness? Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over. Now I remember, I am not alone. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. I am companioned by the living God. And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	
	Pastor: Friends, we have gathered here to praise God and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of Christopher Koesel. People: We come together in grief, acknowledging our human loss, with eyes overflowing with tears and sorrows too much to bear. Pastor: We come with our minds awash with memories of Chris, People: with an empty place that longs to be filled, with our world violently turned upside down. Pastor: But we come here also accompanied by our God, and armed with our faith. People: A faith that gives us strength for the day; Pastor: A faith from which fear flees; People: A faith that assures us that death is not our end, but our glorious new beginning. Pastor: Our God heals our broken hearts. People: Our God wipes away every tear from our eyes and turns our mourning into dancing. Pastor: The Lord of Life, the God of the Resurrection, whispers in our ears, “Fear not, for he is with me this day In Paradise!” All: May God grant us grace, that in pain we may find comfort, in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.				
OPENING PRAYER			HYMN	“Shepherd Me, O God”	TFWS #2058
	Gracious and loving God, you are the giver of life; we come from you, and in death we return to you. Be with us now as we bring to you our grief and loss. Chris was an important part of our lives, we loved him and now we grieve our loss. We bring to you our thanks for the gift of Chris and for all that he meant to us, all that he shared with us. We bring to you our relief, that for Chris there is nothing left to fear, no more suffering, no more pain, no more tears. He is with you and at peace. Come into the turmoil of our emotions, renew our faith and grant us the peace that only you can give as we come now to worship you. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.			<i>Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.</i>	
			SECOND READING		Revelation 21:1-7
			Pastor:	This is the Word of the Lord	
			People:	Thanks be to God.	
			*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	“Alleluia”	No. 186
			*GOSPEL LESSON	(As you are able, please stand while the Gospel is read)	
			Pastor:	The Lord be with you.	
			People:	And also with you.	
			Pastor:	A reading from the Gospel of St. John.	
			People:	Glory to you, O Lord.	
	PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE				
FIRST READING		Isaiah 40:28-31			
Pastor:	This is the Word of the Lord				
People:	Thanks be to God.				