

A Service in Memory of

## **MILTON WILLIAM JOHNS**

September 23, 1930 – June 14, 2021

### **CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Thursday June 17, 2021

11am

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **GREETING AND PRAYER** (Pastor)

#### **HYMN:**                      **THE OLD RUGGED CROSS**

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

**REFRAIN:** So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me; For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above To bear it to dark Calvary. **REFRAIN**

3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died To pardon and sanctify me. **REFRAIN**

4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true, Its shame and reproach gladly bear; Then he'll call me someday to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share. **REFRAIN** Amen.

#### **A REVIEW OF GOD'S GRACE TO MILTON WILLIAM JOHNS**

#### **THE SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Job 14:1-2; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:22-23; 1 John 1:8; Psalm 130:1-5; Psalm 51:1-3,5; Titus 3:4-5; John 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:19,21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1-2, 10; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20-21; John 14:18-19, 27; John 5:24; Psalm 23.

On Saturday July 16 1966, Milton married Patricia Lois Priebe Roy at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Green Garden, by then Pastor Bertram J. Naumann. God blessed Milt and Pat with three children; David, Mary, and Cynthia.

Milton became a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where he served on the church council and as President. When it became necessary because of conscience to remove their membership from St. Paul's Lutheran, Milton served in a leadership role as President of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd became part of Calvary Lutheran Church, where Milton continued to serve in a number of different roles.

**“But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior...”**  
-- Isaiah 43:1–3a (NKJV)

The Savior Jesus strengthened Milton's faith through Word and Sacrament received joyfully at Calvary Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. Milton also served the community as a Volunteer Fireman, serving as Fire Chief for many years until his retirement. When Milton wasn't involved in helping others, home renovation or car maintenance, he spent his time traveling by way of airplane, ship or RV; he's visited Japan, cruised the Caribbean, and driven his RV to Washington DC, Florida, New Mexico, California, and all states in between. When back home in the UP, you would find him either camping, playing cribbage, bowling or working on crossword puzzles. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The earthly life of a child of God is never easy this side of heaven, and Milton was not immune from sickness and sorrow. For a number of years, he underwent treatment for a form of cancer. He kept an upbeat spirit during the COVID-19 pandemic, attending worship when possible. Milton received hospice care from Lake Superior Hospice.

**“In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**  
-- John 14:2–3 (NKJV)

On the morning of Monday June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Lord Jesus kept this promise to Milton as he has every other believer in Christ. He sent his angels to receive his soul from his body to his heavenly home. Milton's remains will be laid to rest at Northland Chapel Gardens to await the glorious return of the Lord Jesus, when his body will be raised and glorified and reunited with his soul, perfectly prepared for life in the New Heavens and the New Earth.

Milton William Johns lived a life full of blessings on this earth for 90 years, 8 months and 21 days. He awaits the glorious reappearing of the Savior Jesus when by God's grace through faith in Christ, he will enter eternal life in both soul and body.

Milton is preceded in death by his parents, William and Florence Johns; a sister, June Adelaide Johns Depetro and brother Paul Leonard Johns (Jean); as well as other friends and acquaintances.

**“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies.”**  
-- Psalm 103:1-4 (NKJV)

We have gathered here today to thank God for the many blessings that he showered upon Milton Johns. While we sorrow in saying goodbye, we will remember the mints and suckers that he shared with us and know that this separation is temporary.

For more than any other earthly blessing or ability, our gracious God blessed Milton with a faith in Jesus Christ, in His sinless life, sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. He counted it his guarantee of life eternal.

Those who remain in their time of grace to taste and see that the Lord is good include: His wife, Patricia Lois Johns; His children, David (Rieko) Johns of Tokyo, Japan; Mary (Michael) Horvath of Gwinn; Cynthia Sobczak of Harvey, MI; His siblings, Shirley (Budd) Labine; Dorothy (Ken) Fortin of Marquette; His sisters and brothers in law; seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, as well as many friends and acquaintances.

**[Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of the grave and of Death.”** -- Revelation 1:17-18 (NKJV)

## MILTON WILLIAM JOHNS

September 23, 1930 – June 14, 2021

**“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well...Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.”**  
-- Psalm 139:13–14 (NKJV)

On Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1930, God blessed William John Johns and his wife Florence Dagmar (Olson) Johns with the gift of a baby boy, Milton William. Milton was born in Houghton, Michigan, the third child and first son with which God blessed William and Florence. Milton’s other siblings include June, Shirley, Paul and Dorothy. After Milton was born, the family moved to Ramsey, Michigan and then to Michigamme, where he grew up. He attended the Bethlehem Swedish Lutheran Church in Michigamme.

The LORD Jesus in mercy washed away Milton’s sins and made him a child of God and heir with Christ when he was baptized by Pastor E.F. Brandt in Houghton Michigan on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1931.

***“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior...”***

-- Isaiah 43:1b-3 (NKJV)

Milton grew up in Michigamme, Michigan where he would graduate in 1948. After graduating from Michigamme High School, Milton moved to the Detroit Area where he worked briefly for a Lathing Company before being drafted into the Army to serve during the Korean Conflict. After serving his country for 1 ½ years, Milton was honorably discharged in California and made his way back home to Michigamme.

Milton took a job in St. Paul Minnesota putting up storefronts for two to three years before returning to the UP, to Marquette, where he was employed by Cliff Dow for 14 years. After working for Cliff Dow, Milton worked for Cleveland Cliffs Incorporated in the Eagle Mills, Mather B. and Empire Mine. He retired while working at the Empire Mine.

***“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.”***

-- Proverbs 31:10–12 (NKJV)

## HYMN:

## THE LORD MY SHEPHERD IS

1. The Lord my Shepherd is, I shall be well supplied. Since He is mine and I am His, What can I want beside?
2. He leads me to the place Where heav'nly pasture grows, Where living waters gently pass And full salvation flows.
3. If e'er I go astray, He doth my soul reclaim And guides me in His own right way For His most holy name.
4. While He affords His aid, I cannot yield to fear; Though I should walk through death's dark shade, My Shepherd's with me there.
5. Amid surrounding foes Thou dost my table spread; My cup with blessing overflows, And joy exults my head.
6. The bounties of Thy love Shall crown my following days, Nor from Thy house will I remove Nor cease to speak Thy praise. Amen.

## SERMON:

## PSALM 119:103-104

<sup>103</sup> How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

## SWEETER EVEN THAN MINTS AND SUCKERS

## HYMN:

## AMAZING GRACE

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.
2. The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing Gold's praise Than when we'd first begun. Amen.

## PRAYER

### THE 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.

### THE BENEDICTION

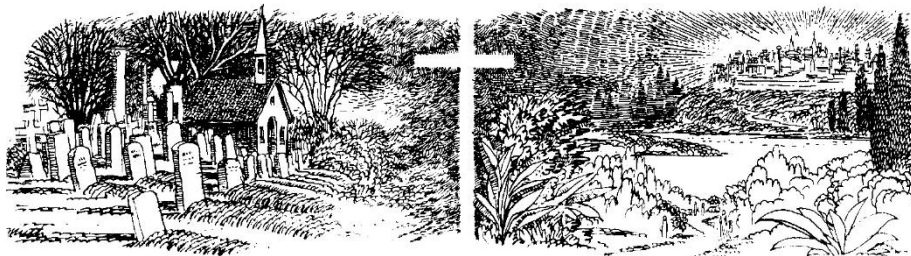
#### CLOSING HYMN: GO MY CHILDREN WITH MY BLESSING

1. Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever. Go, My children, with My blessing – You are my own.

2. Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory. Go, My children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

3. Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me; Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free. Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you. Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

4. I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace; I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace: I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother. Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace. Amen.



## WORSHIP LEADERS:

Pastor: Andrew Schaller

Organist: Mr. Walter Priebe

**PALL BEARERS:** The Grandchildren and Godchildren of Milton Johns

The earthly remains of Milton Johns will be laid to rest at Northland Chapel Gardens immediately following the service today. The Ladies of Calvary will serve a light lunch to those who do not wish to attend the graveside service and to those returning after the graveside service. All are invited to gather to remember and rejoice in God's blessings and gifts to Milton Johns.