† Ralph John Heiden †



August 27, 1948 — November 9, 2026

☩ Funeral Service ☩

Ralph John Heiden | November 21, 2026

Ringing of the Bell ✠ *78 rings to remember Ralph's 78 years of life*

Invocation

We gather in the name of our Creator who has defeated death and rescued his people from the grave—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ✝ **Amen.**

Litany of Humility

Today, we are face to face with death. ✦ **What good are all our ambitions?**
What good is all our wealth? ✦ **What good is all our beauty?**
What good are the opinions of the crowd? ✦ **All is dust, all is ashes, all is shadow.**
When the dust of death settles, ✦ **Lord, you alone are left standing.**

Baptismal Remembrance

When we are baptized into Jesus, we are baptized into his death. Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, so that as Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Jesus in a death like his, then we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Our brother, Ralph, when he was washed in the waters of baptism was baptized into Jesus's death. Therefore, having shared in the death of Jesus, Ralph is promised to share in the resurrection of Jesus, being raised from the dead with a new and imperishable body.

Psalm 116

I love the Lord and he hears me, ✦ **therefore I will call upon him as long as I live.**
Death has surrounded me ✦ **and the terrors of the grave have come upon me.**
So I will call upon the name of the Lord, ✦ **for he is gracious and compassionate.**
The Lord preserves the humble ✦ **and will rescue me from death.**
I will walk with the Lord in the land of the living, ✦ **I will give my allegiance to him.**
Precious in the sight of the Lord ✦ **is the death of his faithful people.**
O Lord, surely I am your servant, ✦ **for you have rescued me from slavery to death.**

Time of Remembrance

Song — *"Go Rest High on That Mountain" by Vince Gill*

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. ✦ **And also with you.** ✦ Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, today we remember our brother, Ralph. We thank you for giving him to us as a companion on our journey through life. In your boundless compassion, comfort us as we grieve. Help us, O Lord, so we may cling to the promise of bodily resurrection and realize that death is no longer our enemy. Give us confidence that all things will be brought to restoration and that Ralph is in your loving hands. ✝ **Amen.**

† The Word of God †

Scripture Reading — 2 Timothy 4:1-8

The reading comes from 2 Timothy 4. ✦ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the word of our Creator. ✦ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Scripture Reading — 2 Corinthians 4:5-18

The reading comes from 2 Corinthians 4. ✦ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the word of our Creator. ✦ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Gospel Reading — Luke 6:27-36

The holy Gospel comes from Luke 6. ✦ **We listen with open hearts.**
This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. ✦ **Thank you, Lord, for speaking to us.**

Message

Choir — *"It Is Well With My Soul" by Foster*

Prayers & Intercessions

Heavenly Father, come to us in this moment with your comfort, hope, and peace. Grant all who grieve a sure confidence in your loving care, that we may cast all our sorrow on you. Lord in your mercy, ✦ **hear our prayer.**

Father, you have given your church the Keys of the Kingdom and the authority to forgive sins. You promise that what we forgive on earth will be forgiven in heaven. We trust that as we have regularly forgiven Ralph for all of his sins and have bound him to the church as our faithful brother in Christ, so you will do likewise. Lord in your mercy, ✦ **hear our prayer.**

Father, you teach us that all human works, ambitions, wealth, and reputation are empty and fleeting vanities. Death brings them to nothing. But you promise that your works of love and mercy which you do through us will endure eternally. We thereby trust that you will preserve all the loving and Christ-like works you accomplished through your child Ralph into the age to come. Lord, in your mercy, ✦ **hear our prayer.**

Father, grant courage and faith to all who are grieving, that we may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope. We trust that you have both the power and love to make all things right through the resurrection of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy, ✦ **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory—forever and forever. ✝ Amen.

† The Committal †

The Commendation

Father, into your hands we commend our brother, Ralph. We reverently commit his body to ashes, for we were made from dust and to dust we will return. We are confident, Father, that you will raise up the body of all your faithful children like you did the body of Jesus. So we commend Ralph to you—the judge of the living and the dead—in the hope that you will resurrect Ralph on the last day. ✝ **Amen.**

Prayer of Committal

Heavenly Father, from whom all life proceeds and by whose hand the dead are raised again: Accept the prayers we offer in sadness for your child Ralph and receive him into your loving hands. Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you sanctified the graves of all who are faithful to you and therefore transformed the terror of the grave into a sign of resurrection hope. Grant that our brother, Ralph, may sleep in peace until you awaken his body for the final resurrection and judgment. In your name we pray, ✝ **Amen.**

Closing Response

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, ✦ **blessed be the name of the Lord.**
I know that my Redeemer lives, ✦ **his voice will call me forth from death.**
This hope I cherish in my heart: ✦ **to stand on the earth, my body restored,**
and to look upon my Lord ✦ **with my own two eyes.**
None of us lives to himself alone ✦ **and none of us dies to himself alone.**
If we live, we live for the Lord, ✦ **and if we die, we die for the Lord.**
So whether we live or die, ✦ **we belong to the Lord.**

Song — ***LSB 677 "For All the Saints"***

♬ ***For all the saints, who from their labors rest,who you by faith before the world confessed. Your name oh Jesus, be forever bless'd. Alleluia, Alleluia!*** ♬

♬ ***You were their rock, their fortress, and their might. You Lord, their captain in the loving fight. You in the darkness were their one true light. Alleluia, Alleluia!*** ♬

♬ ***Oh may we now be faithful, true, and bold, and walk as the saints who followed of old, and live with them now in your loving hold! Alleluia, Alleluia!*** ♬

♬ ***And when the pain is fierce, the waiting long. Send then to us your loving hopeful song. Then hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!*** ♬

♬ ***Always to faithful foll'wers comes your rest. Sweet is the calm of paradise the bless'd. We wait on you to save us from the test. Alleluia, Alleluia!*** ♬

♬ ***Still then there breaks a far more glorious day. Your faithful saints do rise again from clay. Our Savior Jesus leads us on his Way. Alleluia, Alleluia!*** ♬

Benediction

May the Lord bless you as you grieve and wait for him to set all things right. May he turn tears to joy. May he turn suffering to comfort. May he turn death to life. May he make all things new through his Son, Jesus, our Lord. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ✝ **Amen.**