

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Solus Christus

Christ Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Steve Simpson

In Celebration of the Life of
Steve Simpson
12/29/1952 - 06/20/2023
June 24, 2023, 11:00 am
Christ Lutheran Church

INVOCATION

Pastor: We begin this celebration of the life of Steve Simpson in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: This is the day which the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

OPENING HYMN

461 My Redeemer Lives

1 I know that my Redeemer lives;
what comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my everliving Head.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

5 He lives to silence all my fears,
He lives to wipe away my tears,
He lives to calm my troubled heart,
He lives all blessings to impart.

Text: Samuel Medley 1738-99 abr. Tune: Attr John C. Hatton, d. 1793; setting *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

POEM READING

En Paz Poem by Amado Nervo

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Pastor: In the Church, through the administration of Holy Baptism, God makes for Himself a new people with new life. As time passes, this new person is nourished through Word and Sacrament - nourished for faith and for new purpose in life. As the years pass, Christian maturity occurs and the traits of the maturing Christian become apparent: wisdom and understanding, coupled with compassion and servanthood. The new person becomes Christ-like, not in perfection but in service. The work of the Church is to build for God a new people in Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord be with You!

People: **And also with you!**

Pastor: Let us pray - O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today our brother, Steve. We thank You for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In Your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us Your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT

Psalms 27:1-4

The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me to devour me,
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

EPISTLE

Romans 8:31–39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:11-24

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

SERMON HYMN

In Christ Alone

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|--|---|
| 1 In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought & storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand | 3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ |
| 2 In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live | 4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand |

MESSAGE

Pastor Eric Clausen

PRAYERS *(spoken responsively)*

Pastor: Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." Lord, draw near to those of us who mourn Steve and dry the tears of those who weep:

People: Hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in Your fatherly care, that, casting all our sorrow on You, we may know the consolation of Your love.

People: Hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that we may have strength to meet the days ahead, in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love.

People: Hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: Help us, we pray, 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.

People: Hear us, O Lord.

Pastor: God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks because by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall be able to separate us from Your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

COMMENDATION

Pastor: Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant, Steve Simpson. Acknowledge, we humbly ask, 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 all the saints in light.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Special Music

Hymn of Heaven

Recorded Medley

People: **“Holy, Holy, Holy!”**

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art, and evermore shall be!

POSTLUDE

Reflections on a Redeemed Life

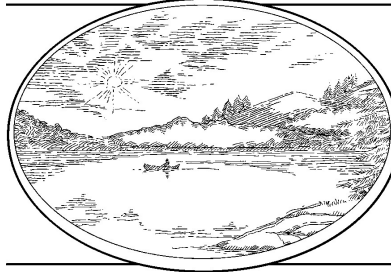
Stephen Michael Simpson was born December 29, 1952 and baptized in Tacloban City, Philippines to Mary Chapman and Robert Martin. Looking for a better life for her family, Mary bravely left her 2 children in her mother's care and moved to Los Angeles where she played piano in a swanky lounge. James Simpson heard her play and married her in 1958. When Steve stepped off the plane at the age of 5, he met the man he would call Dad the rest of his life. His own adoption would later have a profound impact on his understanding of God and willingness to become a father to his young stepchildren. The new family moved to Whittier, where Steve later graduated from Lowell High School in 1970.

Steve attended the new campus at UC Irvine, but left to learn on his own. In his "hippie days", he hitchhiked up the coast to Washington state, but ultimately decided it was too rainy, and headed south looking for the Truth. He worked every job imaginable; from trash collector, preschool teacher, hay buckler, roofer to maker of apple wine in Morro Bay. His parents urged him to return to college. At CalState Fullerton, he studied World Religions, interested in Buddhism. Steve used to love arguing the Scriptures with Christians. Challenged by a hippie friend to pray to Jesus to reveal himself, he described his conversion as simply "not believing one moment and believing the next". At the Vine Church in Brea, Steve met Wendy Peters, a single mother with a baby boy. Married in 1982, Steve joyfully became a father to Eric. Two years later, Hallie was born. Steve became a corrugated box designer. He talked his way into a sales position where he excelled. Single again, Steve took a 6-month hiatus to study theology before starting a new job at Monarch Litho where he sold printing for 29 years. In 6th grade, Hallie came to live with Steve full-time. He loved to debate theology, listen to live bluegrass bands, horseback ride in Colorado, and drive his Mustang convertible up and down PCH.

At Single-Parent Fellowship at EV Free, it was love the moment Steve looked into Julie's blue eyes. Learning that Julie was a newly single mother of a baby and a toddler didn't deter him. They were married on Aug 7, 1999 and started their blended family with Eric 18, Hallie 14, Daniel 3, and Angela 23 months. Steve loved talking about the sufficiency of Christ and made sure his children understood Grace and humility. He loved vacations to beautiful places like the beaches of Hawaii, waterfalls up the Pacific coast, Hallie's graduation in New York, Niagara Falls, dude ranches in Colorado, and the Grand Tetons pictured on the bulletin cover.

His love of spending time in the beautiful outdoors was surpassed the moment Willa Joy Brown was born to Hallie and Robert. The Colorado mountains were a breathtaking backdrop for seeing Willa. He made trips to Texas for Daniel's graduations and Azusa for Angela's graduation. Steve's crowning accomplishment was raising his children to be loved, independent adults. The year of 2017 began a series of health crises which only honed his interest in spending time with his wife and kids. In February of 2023, he was diagnosed with leukemia, but he was overjoyed to dance with Hallie at her wedding in May. An overwhelming infection took him suddenly on June 20, 2023.

IN LOVING



MEMORY

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