

*Celebration of Life for
John Lewis Rakow*

December 17, 1943 — March 20, 2026



St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church Wausau, WI
Thursday, March 26, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Reverend Maggie Westaby, *Presiding*
Linda Graveen, *Organist*

P: Pastor; C: Congregation; A: All

PROCESSIONAL

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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BELLS – 3 rings

WELCOME

GREETING

P: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. God comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

C: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today, John, our brother in Christ. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your unlimited compassion, console us who mourn. Help us so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, and guide us so that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us. This we pray through your son, Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

A: Amen.

READING: Psalm 23 Read by Terry Kohlwey

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures: he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies: you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

READING: 2nd Timothy 4:6-8 Read by Wally Binder

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EULOGY

SPECIAL MUSIC

Be Still, My Soul

GOSPEL: John 14:1-6

P: The Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

P: God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

A: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and earth your light and your peace. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with him to our joyful resurrection. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they 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 they love. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of life everlasting. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: Grant us grace to entrust John to your never-failing love that sustained him in this life. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, and remember him according to the favor you bear for your people. God of grace.

C: *Hear our prayer.*

P: 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 Jesus 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.

A: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence the prayer our Lord has given us.

A: 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

P: Let us commend John Lewis Rakow to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. We release him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

A: Amen.

BELLS – 3 rings

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May you be filled with peace, knowing John is in God's embrace.

May you be filled with hope, knowing in Christ, resurrection is birthed.

And may you be filled with love, love flowing from the Holy Spirit.

In the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

We Plow the Fields and Scatter



- 1 We plow the fields and scat - ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way - side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed - time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts,



the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure—our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain



All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove.



We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

An Invitation is extended to you by the family for a luncheon at St. John Immanuel.

Our Deepest Sympathy. The members of St. John Immanuel want to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of John Lewis Rakow. May the good news, that Christ was victorious over death, preparing a place for all who believe in him, comfort and reassure you. Through faith we know that our brother, John lives now and forever with our Lord and that one day we will be united with all our loved ones who have died and are now with our Lord.