



Christian Funeral of Comfort for those who Mourn the Loss of

William (Bill) Ross



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In the name of the Father and of the **+** Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

In Holy Baptism, [name) was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all *his* sin. St. Paul affirms, "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

The apostle also writes, "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!

God's Comfort

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

The wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ, who is our life, appears,
then we also will appear with him in glory.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn the loss of [name], and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts; dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing [name] to faith and giving *him* the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word and sacraments, and keep us in the saving faith until we are united with you and all the saints where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

379 Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

Reading

Revelation 7:9–17

⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’

‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 10:1–10

¹“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

256 How Great Thou Art

CW 612



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der
3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing,
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!



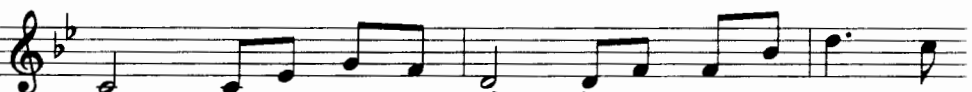
I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der,
when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur
that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly bear - ing
Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o - ra - tion



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



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: Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

Tune: Swedish

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Message of Comfort: The Lord is Bill's Shepherd

Reading

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Song: Soon and Very Soon

Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Sung by Soloist

**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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Christian Funeral from Christian Worship

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A photograph of a large flock of sheep, mostly white with some black, grazing in a grassy field. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a soft, hazy sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

"The Lord
IS MY SHEPHERD;
I shall not want."

Psalm 23:1

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Obituary:

God saw the road was getting rough, the hills were hard to climb, he gently closed those loving eyes and whispered, "peace be thine." The weary hours the days of pain, the sleepless nights are past; the ever-patient enduring frame has found sweet rest at last. On the evening of August 28, 2026, the Lord called his humble servant home at the Hospice facility as he sealed the lips of our faithful father, husband, brother and friend William (Bill) Ross.

His life was a reflection of his soul and his soul was a reflection of God's goodness and grace as he inspired family, friends, and neighbors with his strong wit, commitment to family, and love of God.

William (Bill) Ross was born to the late Y.H. Ross and Sallie Mae Christian Ross on June 12, 1941, in Port Gibson Mississippi. William attended Claiborne County Training school and graduated in 1960. Shortly after graduating he migrated north to Milwaukee WI.

On January 16, 1969, he was united in holy matrimony to his loving wife Bennie N Bufkin Ross. To this union three children were born: Dwayne Ross, Darrent Ross, Michael Ross.

William was employed by Pabst Brewing Company in October 1968 until he retired October 1996 where he worked as a line man making sure the beers going out were safe for consumption by the public. When he retired in October 1996 Bill told us, him and work fell out on that day. In retirement he also worked as a server for the Sheraton Hotel in Brown Deer WI.

He was a member of Siloah Lutheran Church here in Milwaukee, WI. He served as an usher for many years. All three of his sons attended grade school at Siloah, as well as his oldest grandson.

In his spare time, he enjoyed taking care of the lawn, his classic car 1985 Buick Riviera, spending time with family and friends and his old coworkers. Bill liked to visit friends & socialize at 'Monks' barbershop run by his best friend, the now deceased William (Monk) Campbell. He also enjoyed watching sports all the local teams were his favorites, the packers, badgers, brewers & the bucks. He also enjoyed listening to smooth jazz and watching television. Bill's favorite food was fish and shrimp, and he loved a good, sweet watermelon in the summer months. His favorite restaurant was Red Lobster.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Samuel Ross, and his oldest son Dwayne Ross.

To cherish his memory, William leaves behind his loving wife of 57 years Bennie N Ross, two sons: Darrent Ross & Michael Ross, both of Milwaukee WI. His two loving sisters Carrie Lee Ross of Port Gibson, MS and Elizabeth Samuel (Bernard) of Alexandria VA. Daughter in Law Nakia Ross of Huntsville AL. Three Nieces: Natalie Shepherd, Sharon Thompson-Harvey, Cherlene Woods. Five Grandchildren: Dontrael, Dejah, Alaina, Alyssa, Arianna, Four Great Grandchildren: Cartier, Cameren, Gavin & Zylie Ross. A host of friends & acquaintances made over the years.