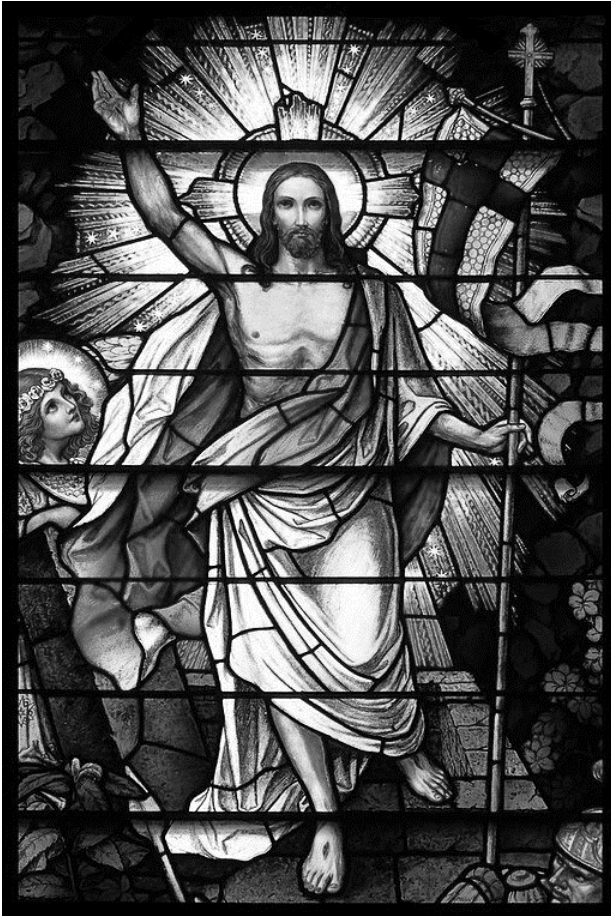


# I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE



**Norman Bernard Abels**

Entered This Life ~ March 9, 1922

† † †

Entered God's Glory ~ February 6, 2024

# ***The Christian Funeral***

**By Laren Shiley**

**Daniel G. Reunig, Editor**

## **Purpose of a Christian Funeral**

- 1 - to hear the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a time of grief and trouble;
- 2 - to proclaim the power of God and grace which redeems and saves His children;
- 3 - to remember Jesus Christ is the First fruits of those who have fallen asleep and thus is our continuing hope;
- 4 - to witness publicly to the joy of our faith in God and to the victory we have through our loving Savior;
- 5 - to receive comfort in the knowledge of a joyful reunion with our loved ones in the resurrection;
- 6 - to face death knowing Jesus Christ has delivered us from sin, from the power of death and the devil, giving eternal salvation to all who believe in Him.
- 7 - to praise God from whom all blessings flow as He our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter has shown us in His eternal Word.

*Stand*

## 433 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
 2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
 3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
 4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!  
 Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!  
 Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!  
 But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting  
 Wafts its praise on high,  
 Angel hosts rejoicing  
 Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
 Swell the mighty flood;  
 Louder still and louder  
 Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.  
 Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804-76  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Remembrance of Baptism

**P** In Holy Baptism Norman was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

**C** We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.

## Introit

- <sup>1</sup>O God, you are my God; earnestly I | seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no | water.  
<sup>2</sup>So I have looked upon you in the sanctu- | ary, \*  
beholding your power and | glory.  
<sup>3</sup>Because your steadfast love is bet- | ter than life, \*  
my lips will | praise you.  
<sup>4</sup>So I will bless you as long | as I live; \*  
in your name I will lift | up my hands.  
<sup>5</sup>My soul will be satisfied as with fat and | rich food, \*  
and my mouth will praise you with | joyful lips,  
<sup>6</sup>when I remember you up- | on my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the watches | of the night;  
<sup>7</sup>for you have | been my help, \*  
and in the shadow of your wings I will | sing for joy.  
<sup>8</sup>My soul | clings to you; \*  
your right hand up- | holds me.

## Kyrie

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**C** **Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**  
**P** Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Norman, and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 46:3–4*

<sup>3</sup>“Listen to me, O house of Jacob,  
all the remnant of the house of Israel,  
who have been borne by me from before your birth,  
carried from the womb;  
<sup>4</sup>even to your old age I am he,  
and to gray hairs I will carry you.  
I have made, and I will bear;  
I will carry and will save.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Zion School Choir - “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

### Epistle

*2 Timothy 4:6–8*

<sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Verse

*LSB 279*

**P** Alleluia, alle | luia\* Jesus Christ is the firstborn | of the dead;  
to Him be glory and power for- | ever.\* Alle | luia.

### Holy Gospel

*John 14:1–6*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

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

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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,

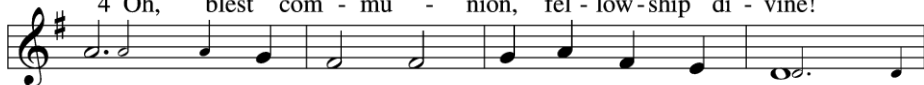
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

*Please be seated*

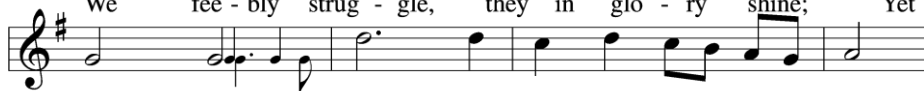
### 677 For All the Saints (vs. 3, 5 & 7 - Soloist Only)



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest,  
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;  
3 Oh, may Thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,  
4 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!



Who Thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, Thy  
Thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;  
Fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old And  
We fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; Yet



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.  
Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.  
win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!  
all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

**5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,  
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:  
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;  
The King of Glory passes on His way.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

△8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt. Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

*The prayers conclude:*

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **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.**

## Nunc Dimittis

**P** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

**C** Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;

Your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which You have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal You to the nations

and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

## Concluding Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction and Dismissal

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us go forth in peace,

**C** in the name of the Lord. Amen.



## 464 The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

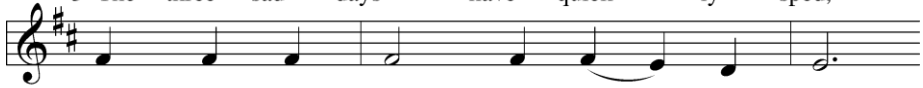
*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done;  
2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst,  
3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped,



Now is the vic - tor's tri - umph won;  
But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed.  
He ris - es glo - rious from the dead.

*The Refrain is repeated after st. 5.*



Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
All glo - ry to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!

- 4 He broke the age-bound chains of hell;  
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell.  
Let hymns of praise His triumph tell.  
Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to Thee.  
Alleluia! Refrain

Text: Symphonia Sirenum Selectarum, 1695, Köln; tr. Francis Pott, 1832-1909, alt. Tune: Giovanni P. da Palestrina, c. 1525-1594, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

Text: Public domain

**The interment service follows at the Kearney Cemetery. You are invited to return to Zion's Fellowship Hall where a luncheon will be served.**

# Committal Service

## Procession to the Grave

### Blessing of the Grave

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by Your three-day rest in the tomb You hallowed the graves of all who believe in You, promising resurrection to our mortal bodies. Bless † this grave that Norman's body may sleep here in peace until You awaken him to glory, when he will see You face to face and know the splendor of the eternal God, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## The Reading

### Committal of the Body

**P** We now commit Norman's body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subdue all things to Himself.

## The Lord's Prayer

### Closing Prayer

#### “Abide With Me”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

**P:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C:** He is risen indeed!

**P:** Let us go forth in peace

**C:** In the name of the Lord.

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** Amen.

### Acknowledgments

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.

## Obituary

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brings life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving the ways the Lord blessed Norman.

Norman was born on the family farm northwest of Amherst, NE in rural Buffalo County to Carl H. and Emma (Berger) Abels. He was baptized on March 30, 1922 at Immanuel Lutheran Church near Amherst and later confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Amherst. He attended District 31 rural school northwest of Amherst and later graduated from Amherst High School in 1939. He farmed with his parents after high school in the Amherst area. He married Dorene Esther Bergt on June 11, 1944 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Norman and Esther farmed together and also operated a dairy northwest of Amherst for many years. They eventually moved to Kearney in 1968 where Norman worked construction. He initially worked for Woody Skeen and later Johnson Imperial Homes before eventually becoming a self-employed contractor. Norman and Esther also worked as custodians at Zion Lutheran Church for 5 ½ years and the Kearney E-Free Church for 9 ½ years. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church where he served in many capacities over the years including as a trustee.

Surviving relatives include his daughters, Gloria Travis of Kearney, NE and Dorothy (Gary) Harmoney of Omaha, NE; son, Arlee (Ann) Abels of Omaha, NE; 16 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; 3 great great grandchildren; numerous other extended family and friends.

Norman was preceded in death by his wife, D. Esther Abels; sisters, Selma Marienau, Mildred Kuebler and Evelyn Reissner.

We give thanks for the many ways the Lord has blessed us through Norman. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord.