

# The Christian Funeral of William “Bill” John Loomis



Given the gift of life on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1951  
Given the gift of Eternal Life on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.*  
Revelation 2:10

OPENING HYMN

Sweet By and By

F B $\flat$  F

1 There's a land that is fair - er than day, and by faith we can see it a -  
 2 We shall sing on that beau - ti - ful shore the me - lo - di - ous songs of the  
 3 To our boun - ti - ful Fa - ther a - bove we will of - fer our trib - ute of

C F B $\flat$  F

far; for the Fa - ther waits o - ver the way to pre -  
 blest; and our spir - its shall sor - row no more, not a  
 praise, for the glo - ri - ous gift of his love and the

B $\flat$  C F *Refrain*

pare us a dwell - ing place there. In the sweet by and  
 sigh for the bless - ing of rest. In the sweet  
 bless - ings that hal - low our days. In the sweet

C F

by, we shall meet on that beau - ti - ful shore. In the  
 by and by, by and by.

B $\flat$  F C7 F

sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beau - ti - ful shore.  
 In the sweet by and by,

WORDS: Sanford E Bennett (1836-1898)  
 MUSIC: Joseph P. Webster (1819-1875)

SWEET BY AND BY  
 9.9.9.Ref.

## GREETING AND PRAYER

**[M]** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, *"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."*

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 for Bill and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought him to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

## PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even 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 overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

## RESURRECTION COMFORT

**M** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: *“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Jesus gives us this comfort: *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”*

**M** Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

**C** He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**M** When Christ, who is our life, appears,

**C** Then we also will appear with him in glory.

**M** We will be before the throne of God

**C** And serve him day and night in his temple.

**M** Never again will we hunger;

**C** Never again will we thirst.

**M** For the lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

**C** And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

**M** Let us pray.

God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise 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.

**C** Amen.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## FIRST LESSON

Psalm 27:1, 4-6

*Our confidence is in the Lord who delivers and shelters us from trouble.*

<sup>1</sup>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?

<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask from the Lord. This is what I seek:  
that I live 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.

<sup>5</sup>Yes, he will hide me in his shelter on the day of trouble.  
He will hide me in his tent.  
He will set me high on a rock.

<sup>6</sup>Then my head will be lifted up above the enemies who surround me.  
I will offer sacrifices at his tent with a joyful shout.  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

## SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 41:10, 13

*Do not fear! The Lord is with you!*

<sup>10</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you.  
Do not be overwhelmed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you.  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

<sup>13</sup>For I am the Lord your God.

I am the one who is holding on to your right hand.

I am the one who says to you, “Do not fear. I myself am helping you.”

## VERSE OF COMFORT

1 Peter 5:7

**M** Cast all your anxiety on him,

**C** because he cares for you.

## THIRD LESSON

Romans 8:28-39

*In life or in death our confidence in Christ’s resurrection!*

<sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose, <sup>29</sup>because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then will we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

<sup>32</sup>Indeed, he who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also graciously give us all things along with him?

<sup>33</sup>Who will bring an accusation against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies! <sup>34</sup>Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God’s right hand and who is also interceding for us! <sup>35</sup>What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>Just as it is written:

For your sake we are being put to death all day long. We are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

JUSTIFICATION

# 379 Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound



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



That saved a wretch like me! I  
 His Word my hope se - cures. He  
 I have al - read - y come; 'Tis  
 Bright shin - ing as the sun, We've



once was lost but now am found,  
 will my shield and por - tion be  
 grace has brought me safe thus far,  
 no less days to sing God's praise



Was blind but now I see.  
 As long as life en - dures.  
 And grace will lead me home.  
 Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4.

Tune: NEW BRITAIN (CM) *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

## 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.

## PRAYERS

**[M]** Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Bill, whom you redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving him to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

**[C]** Hear our prayer.

**[M]** We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**[C]** Hear our prayer.

**[M]** You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

**[C]** Hear our prayer.

**[M]** Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:



## 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.

## BLESSING

**M** 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.

**C** Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN

## *Jerusalem the Golden*



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With  
 2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The  
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -  
 home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed  
 day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



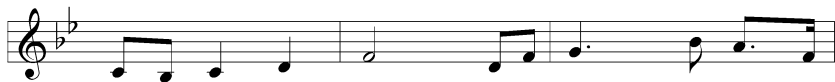
fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I  
 coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where  
 bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There



know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us  
 they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the  
 is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What  
 fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are  
 leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The



bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -  
 clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy  
 song of them that feast. To God en - throned in



end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -  
 bring us To that dear land of rest Where  
 glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The



midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.  
 sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.  
 Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.



## **ZOOM INVITATION**

Immediately following the service today the family will take time to share their favorite memories of Bill and the many blessings his life brought to their lives. Please join them in remembering and rejoicing in Bill's life!

## **WILLIAM JOHN LOOMIS**

William “Bill” John Loomis, 70, of Mount Holly, North Carolina passed away on July 30, 2021 following a courageous fight with COVID-19.

Bill is survived by his wife Catherine (Cantrell) Loomis, and his children by his former wife, Christine (Wolf) Loomis: John Loomis and wife Erika of Eugene OR, and Renate Loomis of Seattle WA. Bill is also survived by his brothers and sister: Donald Loomis and fiancée Diane Michlig of San Jose CA, James Loomis and wife Hsing-Mei of Las Vegas NV, Garry Loomis and fiancée Rosa Ochoa of Lansing MI, David Loomis of Okemos MI, and Jean Smith and husband Ronald of Westborough MA, as well as many other relatives. Bill shared a special bond with Gus, the family service dog.

Born in Jackson MI, Bill was the son of the late Robert M. Loomis and Lucille (North) Loomis. Bill grew up in Michigan and Missouri. He graduated from Wasatch Academy in Utah, and then served in the 4th infantry Division, the Ivy, in Special Services in the U.S. Army. Bill exemplified their motto to remain “Steadfast and Loyal.”

Bill was a licensed private pilot and a 1st lieutenant in Civil Air Patrol, where his children were active. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for several years. Bill worked as an AMT (Area Maintenance Technician) specializing in HVAC at the U.S. Postal Service until his retirement.

Bill was mechanically talented and enjoyed “hands on” projects. He was a motorcycle and classic car enthusiast, customizing and reconditioning them. He loved the outdoors, especially family visits to Wisconsin and the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Bill had many friends and never met a person he didn’t like. He was a gentle giant, kind beyond measure and always helpful.

His family would like to thank the medical staff and chaplains at Atrium Health Lincoln, Lincolnton NC for the care and comfort Bill received in his final days.