

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

LC-MS Tell City, Indiana Rev. Nathan J. Rusert, Pastor

April 27, 2024

10:00 a.m.

**The Funeral Service of
William "Rod" Elmer "Bill" Held
November 15, 1951 — April 21, 2024**



PRELUDE

INVOCATION

LSB Page 278

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

P: In Holy Baptism Elmer 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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Lift High the Cross"

LSB #837

THE PSALM

Psalms 23

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**Congregation: He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside the still waters.**

P: He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

**C: 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.**

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

ALL: 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.

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 Elmer 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.

FIRST READING Matthew 11:28-30

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL (Psalm 73:23-26; Romans 6:9)

P: Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand.

C: You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

P: Whom have I in heaven but You?

And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.

C: My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

P: Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.

EPISTLE READING Romans 8:28-39

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

P: Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C: to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL John 10:11-18, 27-30



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

HYMN “*Be Still My Soul*”

LSB #752

SERMON “*Set Free*”

John 8:31-32

LORD'S PRAYER

Solo..John Gill

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

C: 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 COLLECTS

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 and BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHORAL BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give † you peace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us go in peace,

C: in the name of the Lord. Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN “*For All the Saints*”

LSB #677 vs. 1, 4, 7, 8

POSTLUDE

Silent Prayer

+ "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." +

2 Timothy 4:7-8

The Funeral Pall covering the casket during the service is a vivid visual symbol of the royal robe of Christ's righteousness bestowed on all the baptized by faith. “*For as many of you were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*” (Galatians 3:27) The large golden cross woven into it is an emblem of the Sabbath rest of saints in the light. “*There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.*” (Hebrews 4:9)

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do
I give to you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

Final Resting Place
HEAVEN

Body laid to rest at St. John’s Lutheran Church Cemetery,
Evanston, Indiana until The Day of Resurrection.

+ "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming ,and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son
of God; and those who hear will live." –John 5:25+

You are invited to St. John’s fellowship hall for a lunch immediately following the
committal.

Pall Bearers

Jonathan Ekong Jaxson Hulsman
John Gill Joshua Gill
Dwight Knepper Bob Ebersberger

Honorary Pall Bearers

Mark Moog Dan Gill
Doug Knepper John Fehrmann
Robin Schulz John Conrad



Committal Service

P: Selected Scripture Verses

P: Blessing of the Grave **C: Amen.**

P: Committal - Scriptures - Prayer

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

P: Almighty God, . . . for He is the Resurrection and the life, Jesus Christ,
our Lord.

C: Amen.

“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. Alleluia!

P: Let us go forth in peace, in the name of the Lord.

C: Amen.

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.

William “Rod” Elmer “Bill” Held

William Elmer Held was given life by his Creator and was born on November 15, 1951 in Evansville, Indiana, the child of the late Elmer and Marie (Harker) Held. He was reborn by God's grace in Christ Jesus through the waters of Holy Baptism on December 9, 1951 at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Evansville, Indiana. The Lord Jesus baptized him through the hands of Rev. E.G. Dobelstein. His baptismal sponsors were Edward L Harker and Ervin Held. Growing in God's Word, grace, and knowledge of Jesus as he attended St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran School through grade school. He as was catechized by Rev. Paul Mroch. On April 11, 1965 Elmer confessed the Holy Apostolic Faith given him in holy baptism and was confirmed at St. Paul's. His confirmation verse was John 8:31,32

Elmer was a graduate of Harrison High School in Evansville, Indiana, and received an A.A. at Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. On October 18, 1975 the Lord united Elmer and Carol Lee Gill in the blessed institution of marriage. They were married at St. Vincent Catholic Church in Seward, NE by Christ through the Rev. Clarence Reisdorf. Diane Gill was the Maid of Honor and Ruben Schmidt was the Best Man. The Lord blessed their marriage with three children and 48 years together to see their “children's children.”

Elmer served Christ as a Christian husband, father, and as an agronomist with Farmland Industries in Nebraska, Illinois, and South Dakota. After moving back to Indiana, he served his neighbors working at Whirlpool and Masterbrand Cabinets and finished his career as a truck driver for Buchta Trucking.

Elmer was a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, serving various churches as Sunday School Teacher, Elder, and on various boards. He loved singing in the choirs and playing handbells. Elmer and Carol transferred their membership to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Tell City, Indiana in November 2013. On Sundays after church service, he could be found in his favorite chair watching his beloved rednecks turning left, ie. Nascar Races.

Left to look forward to the reunion that awaits all Christians on the Last Day in the resurrection of the body and the life of the world to come are his wife Carol (Gill) Held, daughter Linda Ekong and husband Eric of Ireland, Indiana, son Phillip and wife Stacey Held of Newburgh, Indiana and daughter Danielle Hulsman and husband Brad of Ireland, Indiana. He was loved and will be missed by 11 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter, and many friends and family.

In addition to his parents, Elmer was preceded Home to Heaven

through death by his sister, Linda Marie Held.

Memorial contributions may be made to CLEF- Confessional Lutheran Education Foundation.