

✠ **Luetta A. Mercier** ✠

June 30, 1935 – July 3, 2024

✠ **George E. Mercier** ✠

July 6, 1934 – September 5, 2024

*...he will  
swallow up  
death  
forever.*

*Isaiah 25:8*

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Saturday, September 7, 2024

11:00am

Pastor Eric Edwards, preacher ✠ Pastor Chris Beck, liturgist  
Dr. Brian McNulty, organist ✠ Dr. Fan-Fen Tai, harpist

Faith Lutheran Church ✠ 2200 S. High Street, Bloomington, IN  
812-332-1668 ✠ [office@faithbtown.org](mailto:office@faithbtown.org)

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** – *First Arabesque* (Claude Debussy)  
*Sheep May Safely Graze* (J. S. Bach)  
*Just As I Am* (arr. S. McDonald and R. Ederveen)

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN – LSB 570 – Just As I Am**

**INVOCATION**

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- 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 George and Lu were clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all their 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 – Psalm 65:1-4; antiphon: Liturgical text**

- P** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.  
**C** **Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed.**  
**P** O you who hears prayer, to you shall all flesh come.  
**C** **When iniquities prevail against me, you atone for our transgressions.**  
**P** Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!  
**C** **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.**  
**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them.**

**KYRIE – Lord, Have Mercy**

- 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... through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT READING – PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup> Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup> He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup> He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

<sup>14</sup> For he knows our frame;  
he remembers that we are dust.

<sup>15</sup> As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;

<sup>16</sup> for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup> But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,

<sup>18</sup> to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.  
<sup>19</sup> The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
<sup>20</sup> Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his word,  
obeying the voice of his word!  
<sup>21</sup> Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers, who do his will!  
<sup>22</sup> Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM 98 (NIV) (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things;  
**his right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.**  
<sup>2</sup> The Lord has made his salvation known  
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.  
<sup>3</sup> **He has remembered his love  
and his faithfulness to Israel;**  
all the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.  
<sup>4</sup> **Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,  
burst into jubilant song with music;**  
<sup>5</sup> make music to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the sound of singing,  
<sup>6</sup> **with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—  
shout for joy before the Lord, the King.**  
<sup>7</sup> Let the sea resound, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it.  
<sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers clap their hands,  
let the mountains sing together for joy;**  
<sup>9</sup> let them sing before the Lord,  
for he comes to judge the earth.  
**He will judge the world in righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

## SECOND READING – Romans 12:1-21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

**A** If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with Him;

**C** if we are faithful to the end, we shall reign with Him.

## HOLY GOSPEL – John 20:11-18

**A** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

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

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup> Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that

it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

**A** 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.**

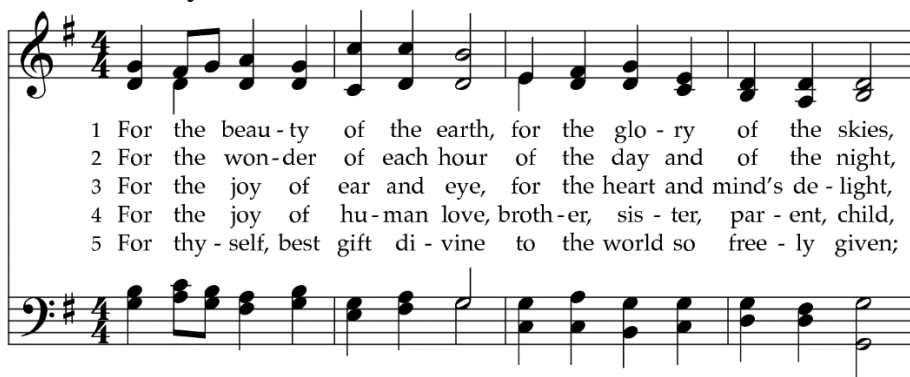
**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God 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.**

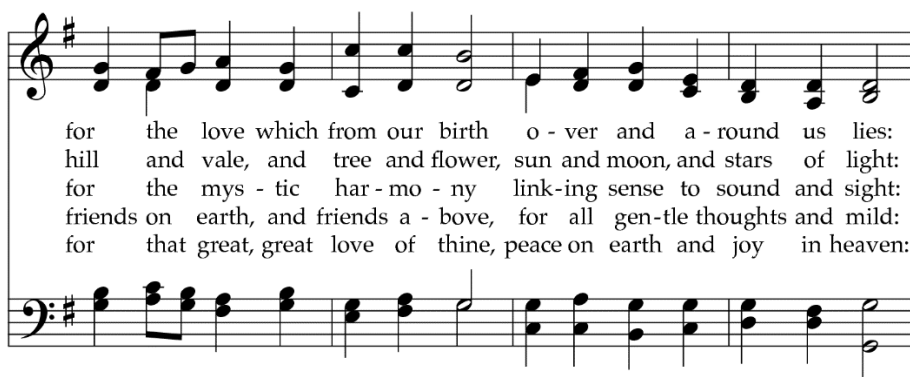
### HYMN – LSB 801 – How Great Thou Art

### SERMON

## HYMN – For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

### Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

TEXT: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.

MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX

7.7.7.7.7.7

## 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.

**P** ... one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting in 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 – Song of Simeon

**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.**

**Glorify 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...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.**

**P** The God of peace -- who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep -- keep, comfort, and bless your souls.

**C** **Amen.**

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

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

## HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 461 – I Know That My Redeemer Lives

## POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (arr. Daniel Burton)



Military Honors will follow.

The family thanks you for your prayers  
and your attendance here today.

✠ **Luetta “Lu” Ardu (Fuhrman) Mercier** fell asleep peacefully in the Lord on July 3, 2024 at IU Health Hospice House in Bloomington. She was born in Dubois County near Jasper, IN on June 30, 1935. She grew up on a farm in a German-speaking family of seven and started her education in a one-room school. Her Dubois High School home economics teacher influenced her to go to college and she was the first in her family to do so. She graduated from Indiana State Teachers College (Indiana State University) in 1957 and was the winner of the Home Economics honorary award. During her senior year, she was married on April 28, 1957 to the love of her life, her husband George, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Haysville, IN. Upon graduation she joined her husband in Anchorage, Alaska where she taught her first year at Anchorage High School. Statehood was granted to Alaska in 1958 during their stay.

When George returned to Indiana University to complete his physics degree, Lu began teaching in the area and Bloomington became their home. Here they raised two children, Tim and Michelle, while Lu continued her career teaching middle school and high school. She was a dedicated and compassionate educator, and a lifelong learner. She earned Masters and Post-Masters degrees, along with dual licenses in Family and Consumer Science and Chemistry-Physical Science. She also taught and published for IU Continued Studies high school correspondence courses. She taught for 30 years, retiring in 1997, joyfully touching the lives of thousands of young people. The opportunities Lu had to engage in professional experiences and organizations were endless and she delighted in these activities. She was a member of many professional and philanthropic organizations, including Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, Delta Kappa Gamma, the Indiana Retired Teachers Association, Monroe County Teachers Association, and the Family and Consumer Sciences Association.

Lu found her spiritual home at Faith Lutheran Church in Bloomington. As a founding and devoted charter member, Lu was actively involved as a Sunday School teacher and numerous church activities and committees. Lu lived an active and vibrant life: she enjoyed travelling with her family and friends, exploring all over the globe and all 50 states. She learned to snow ski in her forties and delighted in many adventures while cruising. Lu is remembered for her talents with culinary and baking skills. She was an avid gardener, with a special knack for growing and sharing a wide range of flowers. Together with George, she volunteered her time and talents to many organizations in the Bloomington community, as a way to acknowledge that all people should be treated with dignity and respect. She shared all of her special gifts generously and graciously, always with a smile on her face and a kind word for each friend she made.

Lu is survived by her beloved husband of 67 years, George; her daughter Michelle Mercier-De Shon and son-in-law Freddy De Shon; many cousins, nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her son Tim, her sisters Lavella (Paul) Singer and Ruth (George) Elkins, her brothers Emil (Ellen) Fuhrman and Luther Fuhrman. ✠

† **George Edward Mercier** passed away peacefully at the IU Health Hospice House on September 5, 2024, at age 90. George was born on July 6, 1934, to Octave and Mary (Raynier) Mercier in Linton, IN. George was at the top of his class through elementary and high school years. He graduated from Linton Stockton High School in 1952. George attended Purdue University in 1952-1953 on scholarship in physics. He transferred to Indiana University in 1953 to be closer to his family, because his father was injured in a tragic coal mining accident. He graduated from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics.

George loved music and dancing. In 1956, he and his friend George Elkins traveled from Linton to Jasper, IN one evening because the nearest dancehall, The Rustic, was located there. Here, George Mercier asked a young lady to dance, thereby meeting the love of his life and future wife, Luetta “Lu” Fuhrman. Coincidentally, his friend George Elkins asked Luetta’s sister Ruth Fuhrman to dance that same night, and they also became husband and wife. George and Luetta were married on April 28, 1957, and shared 67 years of loving partnership. They spent their first two years of marriage in Anchorage, Alaska, while he was serving in the U.S. Army. Alaska became a state during their stay there on June 30, 1959, which happened to be Lu’s birthday.

George’s professional life was productive and innovative. Upon graduating from Indiana University in 1960, George joined Westinghouse Electric in Bloomington, Indiana. He worked there for 35 years, becoming a manager for high voltage electrical transmission and distributions. He specialized in high voltage capacitor development. George was awarded numerous U.S. and international patents throughout his career. George is credited with a significant patent for inventing a capacitor fluid that replaced PCB fluid, a development that impacted capacitor use and disposal worldwide. He negotiated rights to technology and patents which involved extensive travel for meetings and conferences to accomplish this. Upon retirement in 1996, he negotiated a joint agreement with Mitsubishi Rayon of Japan to build a plastics film plant in Bloomington named MIRWEC which produced electrical grade polypropylene film. He was plant manager at MIRWEC for six years before his final retirement. Throughout his career, he traveled and work with colleagues from all over the world, many of whom became lifelong personal friends.

Together with Lu, George enjoyed an active and a rich, fulfilling, and meaningful life, filled with travel adventures and service to others. George enjoyed various sports, especially baseball, which he played as a pitcher. He was a Little League baseball and football coach. George and Lu enjoyed bowling in leagues and golfing for many years. George and Lu were avid supporters of IU baseball, basketball, and football. They learned to snow ski in Colorado in their late 40s, with many family Christmases spent enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery that George so loved. George was very fond of fishing and boating on Lake Monroe. He had an affinity for collecting and restoring 1965 Mustangs, preferably red convertibles, and belonged to many car clubs. With his family, he attended many car shows and his cars were featured in many parades, earning the nickname “Mr. Mustang.” George and Lu were faithful charter members and active

in Faith Lutheran Church. They volunteered their time and talents together, in many local organizations, including the Food Pantry. George and Lu were avid travelers and saw the world together. George was a wine connoisseur and enjoyed visiting many wineries in France, particularly those in the Loire and Provence regions. Given his French heritage, he was very interested in family genealogy and traced the family history in great detail.

George was a generous and loving man, living a life devoted to his wife Lu, his son Tim and daughter Michelle. He was preceded in death by his wife Lu, his son Tim, his sister Marceline (Harry Norton), and his brother Henry (Avalene) Mercier. He is survived by his daughter Michelle Mercier-De Shon, Ph.D., his son-in-law Freddy De Shon, as well as many nieces and nephews. †

