

**Celebration of Life for
Bradley Gene Kent
December 19, 2025**

Processional

Invocation

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

Amen.

Matthew 28:19b

Remembrance of Baptism

In Holy Baptism Bradley 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? 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."

Romans 6:3-5

Processional Hymn

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

- ♪ Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn. Through the storm,
Through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.
- ♪ When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone, Hear my cry,
Hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.
- ♪ When the darkness appears And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone, At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 739 -Text & Tune: Thomas A. Dorsey 1899-1993

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The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Bradley 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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Lamentations 3:22–33

²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

²⁴“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

²⁷It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

²⁸Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him;

²⁹let him put his mouth in the dust—
there may yet be hope;

³⁰let him give his cheek to the one who strikes,
and let him be filled with insults.

³¹For the Lord will not cast off forever,

³²for, though he cause grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

³³for he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul. He leads 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 mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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.

Solo

“The Hand of God Shall Hold You”

The Epistle

Romans 8:31–39

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to

come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky”

♪ “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.

All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night.

I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear My light to them Whom shall I send?”

~Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.

♪ “I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people’s pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?” ~Here...

♪ “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?” ~Here....

Here I Am, Lord-Text & Tune:

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Holy Gospel Please Stand

John 3:11–21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No

one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“On Eagles’ Wings”

♪ You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: “My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!”

~And He will raise you up on eagles’ wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

♪ The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.

~And He...

♪ You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you, Near you it shall not come.

~And He...

♪ For to His angels He’s given a command
To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. ~And He....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 727 - Text & Tune: Michael Joncas b. 1951; © OCP Publications;
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Proclamation of the Word

“Oh, the Place You’ll Go!”

John 3:14

Obituary Reading

The Hymn

“I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

♪ I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.

♪ When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk 'til rising sun.

♪ In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.

♪ I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

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Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and give you peace.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

♪ What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Ev’rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit;

Oh, what needless pain we bear—

All because we do not carry

Ev’rything to God in prayer!

♪ Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful

Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

♪ Are we weak and heavy laden,

Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge—

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In His arms He’ll take and shield thee;

Thou wilt find a solace there.

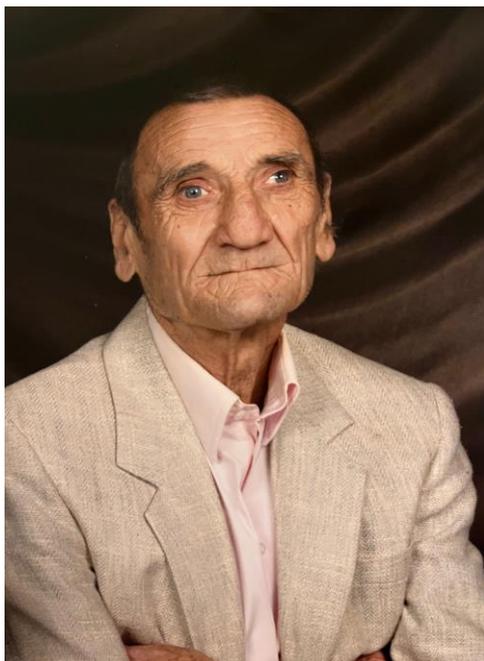
Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 770—Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86; Text: Public domain

Recessional

OFFICIANT..... Rev. Kenneth Bersche

ORGANIST and SOLOLIST..... Cynthia Grigar

Obituary



Bradley Gene Kent of Bellville, Texas passed away peacefully at home at the age of 71 Friday December 12, 2025, after battling cancer.

Bradley was born on July 11, 1954, in Houston, Texas to parents Robert Kent and Helen (Koehne) (Kent) Kluna. He and his family grew up in Houston and eventually made their way to Sealy, Texas.

Bradley was baptized on August 20, 1961, at Broadway Baptist Church in Houston. He was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sealy on November 14, 2004, by Rev. Dale Leland.

Bradley was enrolled at Milby High School and then completed his education by obtaining a GED. Bradley was a simple quiet man that always tried to make everyone laugh, which brought him much joy. He was always trying to repair broken things. He once fixed a washer that caught on fire and lasted a few years.

Brad met the love of his life, Magdalena (Maggie) Smid, in 1978 and married on September 20, 1980, at First Baptist Church in Bellville with Pastor Harold Sellers officiating. Together, Brad and Maggie were blessed with two daughters, Monica and Jennifer. For most of his career, Bradley worked as an over-the-road truck driver.

He is survived by his wife, Maggie Kent, daughter's Monica Louise Knapp and husband Marc of Katy, Jennifer Elaine Millstid and husband Dustin of Mont Belvieu. Brother Robert Kent and wife Debbie, brother Christopher Kent and sister Deanna Ling and husband Neil and grandchildren Briana Kent, Tara Hobbs, Gabe Knapp, Windy Knapp, Caleb Knapp, Danyell Knapp, Tyler Millstid and Avery Millstid.

Bradley was preceded in death by his parents Robert Kent and Helen Kluna, niece Stephanie Marro and nephew Eric Marro.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to:
Trinity Lutheran Preschool
402 Atchison, Sealy, TX 77474

