



Rudolph Edgar Honsey
September 9, 1918 – May 11, 2017

The Funeral Service of
Rudolph Edgar Honsey
May 25, 2017 10:30AM
Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN



Pre-service Music

Invocation

Opening Prayer *Psalm 130*

Hymn 554: *For All the Saints*

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Hymn 354: *Like the Golden Sun Ascending*

Verses 1, 2, 5, 10

Job 19:25-27 For I know that my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
And after my skin is destroyed, this I know,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

Hymn 351: *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*

Verses 1, 2, 5, 7, 8

John 20:24-29 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand

here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Hymn 473: *For Me to Live Is Jesus*

Verses 1, 2, 6, 7

Sermon Text

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

The Reading of the Obituary

Hymn 226: *By Grace I’m Saved*

Verse 1, 2, 3, 4

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Romans 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn 553: *Behold a Host, Arrayed in White*

Verse 1

Revelation 7:9-17 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!” All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.” Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

Pastors’ Chorus

Hymn 406: *Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart*

Verse 3

Aaronic Benediction

Family and friends of Rudolph Honsey

Address

President John Moldstad

On behalf of Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Address

President Gene Pfeifer

On behalf of Bethany Lutheran College

Hymn 561: *Abide with Me; Fast Falls the Eventide*

Verses 1, 2, 6, 7, 8

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Preacher: Pastor John J. Petersen

Liturgist: Pastor Luke Ulrich

Organist: John Baumann

Pastors' Chorus Director: Joe Abrahamson

Guitarist: Joe Abrahamson

Pall Bearers: Andrew Honsey, Eric Honsey, Gary Honsey,
Ronald Honsey, Jack Barquist, Matthew Wiese, Jordan Haaland

Officiant: Pastor John J. Petersen

The Honsey family extends its thanks to all who have come to be with them today. All guests are invited to gather for a lunch immediately following the service. The interment occurs at 2:30 pm at Woodland Hills Memorial Park following the luncheon.

Rudolph Edgar Honsey

Rudolph Honsey, 98, of Mankato, died Thursday, May 11, 2017 at Pathstone Living in Mankato. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato with the Revs. John Petersen and Luke Ulrich, officiating. Interment will be at Woodland Hills Memorial Park. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24 at Honsey Hall in Bethany Lutheran College and on Thursday, 1 hour prior to the service, at church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Rudolph and Elizabeth Honsey Scholarship Fund at Bethany Lutheran College, Mount Olive Lutheran Church or Ecumen Pathstone Living. Woodland Hills Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

Rudolph Edgar Honsey was born on September 9, 1918 on a farm north of Lake Mills, IA to Oliver and Nelsine (Stene) Honsey. He was baptized in infancy in the Lutheran faith at Lime Creek Lutheran Church, where the Evangelical Lutheran Synod had been recently formed. He graduated from Lake Mills High School and attended Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. He received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in Old Testament from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO in 1945. He also attended several other universities, including the University of Minnesota, where he received an MA in Scandinavian Studies in 1955, and Brandeis University, where he received an MA in Mediterranean Studies in 1966.

Rudolph was a professor at Bethany Lutheran College from 1945 to 1962 and from 1966 to 1996. He taught a variety of classes during those years, including Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German, Norwegian and Religion. For approximately 20 years, he taught summer classes in Biblical Hebrew to prepare students for the seminary. He also taught Old Testament at Bethany Lutheran Seminary. He was known in the faculty lounge for his ability to give the batting average of any number of professional baseball players on any given day.

Professor Honsey loved his students. He injected humor, insight and an occasional pun into the learning experience. In 2010, the academic center at Bethany Lutheran College was named in his honor. He felt humbled and grateful for that honor.

Rudolph was ordained into the ministry and served as pastor of Harvard Street Lutheran Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1962 to 1966. He also served several churches as a vacancy pastor. Rudolph is the author of a commentary on the book of Job in "The People's Bible" series. He was also on a committee for revising William Beck's "An American Translation" of the Bible.

On August 6, 1950, Rudolph married Elizabeth Ann Lillegard at Harvard Street Lutheran Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her father, the Rev. George O. Lillegard, performed the ceremony. Their marriage was blessed with five children, and was centered in faithful service to God and to each other.

Shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary in August of 2000, Rudolph and Elizabeth moved to Mankato Lutheran Home (now Ecumen Pathstone Living). They were grateful for the love and care provided by this wonderful community. In his retirement, Rudolph enjoyed church services, visiting with family and friends, reading, listening to music, and watching news and sports. For several years, Rudolph occasionally conducted chapel services at Pathstone.

Surviving are his five children: Judith (James) Haaland of Frost, MN; Carole Falconer of Bloomington, MN; Philip (Cynthia) Honsey of Grove City, OH; Ellen (Jack) York of Colorado Springs, CO; Ralph (Robyn) Honsey of Centennial, CO.

Also surviving are grandchildren: Jordan (Brandy) Haaland, Marit (Jack) Barquist, Rachel Haaland, Matthew Wiese, Allison (Scott) Albrecht, Laura (Tyler) Kempf, Andrew (Diana) Honsey, Kirstin (Michael) McLendon, Eric Honsey, and 12 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by sisters-in-law Dorothy Honsey, Laura Lillegard, and Alice (Dan) Maxfield, brothers-in-law David (Ione) Lillegard, Norman (Diane) Lillegard, and many nieces and nephews.

Rudolph was preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth on January 10, 2012; his parents; two brothers, Conrad and Joseph Honsey; sisters and spouses Thelma (Bjarne) Dahl, Naomi (Neville) Dakken, and Barbara (Woodrow) Chrz; and his son-in-law, Gary Falconer.

Knowing he was a sinner who was saved by the grace of God through faith in his one and only Savior, Jesus Christ, Rudolph looked forward to eternal life in Heaven.

The family appreciates all who faithfully visited Rudolph during his years at Pathstone and the loving ministry of care given to him by his Pathstone family.

Blessed Be His Memory