

## Dad Funeral

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Grace, mercy, peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord is risen!  
He is risen indeed!

I say it again, The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Throughout the 58 years of his earthly ministry, I have many memories of my father, with his booming voice, declaring those words on Easter morning.

Are those words still true?  
Do you believe them?

**John 11:** Jesus said to Martha, “Your brother will rise again.”

24Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

Do you believe this?”

27She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” (ESV)

At funeral and at the graveside of the one that we love ...  
is Jesus still the resurrection and the life?

Will Rev. Warren Bruce Arndt ...

your husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, pastor, ... rise again?  
and what about those whom you love, who have fallen asleep in Christ,  
will they rise again?

Do you believe this?"

27She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." (ESV)

Like the disciples, we say, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:69

**In life (and especially during times of suffering) there are Two Big Questions**

Is God with us? Is God for us?

In the Church year, we are in a transition time.

We're moving from the Christmas/Epiphany season into the time of pre-Lent, or Lent.

Christmas/Epiphany answer the question is God with us?

Xmas: Jn. 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling (tabernacled) among us!

Epiphany: In the shining of the star at Bethlehem, His Baptism, His miracle at the wedding of Cana, His Transfiguration ... God in the flesh is made manifest.

God is with us!

But is He for us?

If so, in what way? How is He for us?

Is it in health and wealth? Positions of power? Physical kings and kingdoms?

Or is it seen ... in his suffering, his crucifixion, the wearing of a crown of thorns, last words from the cross, his death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins?

Jesus is ...

#1 The Word made flesh, who **understands** and sympathizes with our weaknesses.

#2 The Spotless Lamb of God who is born **under** the Law and **under** the wrath of God for us.

#3 The Promised One who crushes Satan's head and puts all of our enemies **under** His feet and #4 the Ascended Lord who rules and reigns and has all authority, all things **under** His control.

#5 The Ever Present Word of Life who comes to His Church **in, with, and under** ordinary means and continually gives to us the forgiveness of sins through ...

the water, the bread and wine, the Word proclaimed

In 1967, my father walked across the chancel at the seminary call service.

His name was spoken ... Warren Bruce Arndt

His divine call was made known ... Missionary, Papua New Guinea.

He, his bride, and young family left the United States for the Highlands of the Pogera in PNG

They took Jesus at His Word ...

Matthew 28:18-20: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

They went. He baptized. He taught.

They trusted that the Lord was with them.

And where there was trust in the spirit world, in idols, in other gods ... the Triune God created faith.

One evening, under the cover of darkness, the village elders brought to my father the community idol.

It was a “little man” made of human hair and twine.

He had eyes (stitched shut) – so that he couldn’t see what they were doing.  
He had ears, a nose, an open mouth for the reception of pig grease.  
He had hands and feet.

Just like Psalm 115 ... The Psalmist mocks the idols made by the hands of men ...

Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands.

5 They have mouths, but they don’t speak.

They have eyes, but they don’t see.

6 They have ears, but they don’t hear.

They have noses, but they don’t smell.

7 They have hands, but they don’t feel.

They have feet, but they don’t walk,  
neither do they speak through their throat.

8 Those who make them will be like them;  
yes, everyone who trusts in them.

The village elders brought this idol to my father and said, “we want you to have this, we don’t need or want it anymore, we believe that the One you told us about is the Only and True God!”

Side Note: They had kept this idol hidden for a year in a hut on the mountain ... just in case, Jesus was not True to His promises.

What about you ...

do you have any idols (little men) hidden away?  
any other “gods” just in case

The Triune God does not want to be first.  
He wants to be Only! No other “gods” before me!

Suffering does a sacred work and it brings a sacred gift.

Suffering reveals your god (s).

What you fear, love and trust in above all things.

If it is not the Triune God, your little gods will fail you.

You will find them blind, deaf and mute ... cold, lifeless, powerless to help.

Suffering REVEALS the One True and Only God ... specifically in Jesus.

Our Brother in the flesh, our Mediator, the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin of the world, our Great High Priest, the Good Shepherd

Let me ask you ...

Does the Word made flesh have eyes to see?

Does He have ears to hear?

Does He have a mouth that speaks?

Does He have hands that feel?

Does He have feet that walks with us.

I have in this binder, a sermon that I preached at my son Jacob's wedding (1/11)

I have the one, that I now share at a funeral. (2/15)

#1 Is He the Word made flesh, who **understands** and sympathizes with our weaknesses?

Why did He take on human flesh?

Galatians 4:4-7: But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law, that we might receive the full rights of sons."

#2 The Spotless Lamb of God was born **under** the Law (lived a perfect, sinless life) To redeem us who were under the Law (who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God)

The One who knew no sin became sin for us (put **under** God's wrath for us)  
So that we might become the children of God. 1 Corinthians 5

Why did Warren Arndt die? Did his heart just fail? Is that the cause?  
Why do those that you love die?  
Why did Jesus die?

Genesis ... “the day you eat of it you shall surely die”

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as sin entered into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death passed to all men because all sinned.

Romans 6:23: The wages of sin is death ...

Call to repentance.  
Agree with the Triune God about your sin.

1 John 1: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Entire life is one of repentance (agreeing with God)

Agree with God about our sin.  
Agree with God about our Savior in Christ Jesus

Romans 6:23: The wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!

We repent.  
We receive.  
We rejoice.  
We repeat.

My father was a pastor.  
Perhaps a better word describe His vocation would be a “soul doctor”.

What does a soul doctor do?

Diagnose the illness ... (who here experienced that?) – preaching directly to you

Since conception you have been infected by sin, corrupted by sin,  
overcome by sin.

You have lost your original righteousness ... don't fear, love, and trust in  
God above all things.

You're sick with sin. The wage is death. Repent!

Give the medicine ... (many who received that) – preaching directly to you

In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You have peace with God.

When you have the forgiveness of sins... you have everything!

#1 The Word made flesh, **understands** and sympathizes with our weaknesses.

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for us.

#3 The Promised Seed of the Woman/the One who crushes Satan's head and puts  
all of our enemies **under** His feet ... AND #4 The Ascended Lord who rules and  
reigns and has all authority, all things **under** His control.

Every morning and every evening, my father and mother would ...

make the sign of the cross

say the Trinitarian invocation ... name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit

say Luther's evening and morning prayer

The Cross ...

#1 The sign of the sacrifice of Christ for them, the Atonement for sin.

Lost and condemned creatures purchased and won ...

not with silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ

the One who knew no sin, became sin for them

Come what, we belong to Jesus!

#2 The way of the Christian is the way of the cross.  
Deny self, take up cross and follow me.

#3 The mark of victory.  
Under the cross is the head of Satan, crushed in authority, not able to  
accuse the saints.  
All enemies under the feet of Jesus and all things under His control.

This is the heartbeat of Romans 8 ...

No condemnation for this in Christ Jesus.  
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.  
And we know ...

Romans 8:28-ff: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31What, then, shall we say in response to this? 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, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



From birth on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 1940 ... to baptism ...  
to falling asleep in Jesus on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

From 8 year old girl praying to marry a missionary ...  
to young woman meeting young man at Concordia, River Forest ...  
to the Highlands of Papua New Guinea ...  
to Troy, Michigan ... and to all of the places in between.

The Lord knew more.

The Lord cared more.

The Lord was doing more than all Warren B. Arndt could ask or imagine in Christ Jesus.

Eph 3:30-21: 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,  
21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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It was my father's pattern to immerse himself in the Scriptures every morning. He would remember and make use of His baptism. He belonged to Christ. Drown the Old Man through repentance and the New Man rise with Christ.

And he would sit and write on a yellow legal pad his intercession for the saints.

He would join two persons of the Godhead (the Holy Spirit and Jesus the Christ) and intercede with them for you. I'm sure, over the years, your names appeared in those journals.

Final words of exhortation ...

Let us give ourselves to the Word (incarnate in Jesus)

Let us give ourselves to the Word (inspired in the Scriptures)

Let us give ourselves to the Word (in the Sacraments – remember and make use of your Baptism, long for and receive the Sacrament of the Altar)

To those gathered here today ...

... support, encourage, come along side those who shepherd you. They are your pastors, given to you as a gift from the Triune God.

The Office of the Public Ministry is a perilous vocation. These men who have been called to care for your souls are under continuous attack from the “unholy trinity” ... the devil, the world, their own sinful flesh

Pray for them. Care for them.

Respect and honor them.

Receive the Word from their lips and Sacraments from their hands with great joy.

These are the Triune God's means. This is how He works.

This is how you receive the medicine for your soul, the Words of Eternal Life.

To my fellow brothers in the ministry ...

... this is a high and lofty calling, beyond our ability to serve with our own strength and gifts

... you, receive first all of the gifts that only the Triune God can give to you

... and then give those gifts to the flock the Lord has given you to serve

You are soul doctors, tend to those under your care with all diligence.

There is much work to be done.

As Martin Luther noted in his preface to the *Small and Large Catechisms*. After his visitations to the local villages and pastorate he wrote:

*“The deplorable, miserable condition which I discovered lately when I, too, was a visitor, has forced and urged me to prepare [publish] this Catechism, or Christian doctrine, in this small, plain, simple form. Mercy! Good God! what manifold misery I beheld! The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach [so much so, that one is ashamed to speak of it].” (Preface to the Small Catechism)*

Encourage you to read the Preface to the Small and Large Catechism.  
Recommit yourself to the core of your calling.

Side note: In the preface, Luther says quite clearly, as only he can ...

*If you don't want to give yourself to this calling, and if you want to remain lazy and not care for the souls of those entrusted to you. Then the common villager should drive you out of town and on the way they are to pelt you with dung. (Preface to the Large Catechism, paragraph 13)*

My brothers, use this day as a reminder that your life's calling is to ...

- Diagnosis the illness of sin
- Deliver the medicine of the Gospel in the forgiveness of sins
- In your coming and going ... make disciples,
- baptize and teach the devil to death

We started with two big questions.

I'll ask them again, and this time you give the answer!

In Christ Jesus ... is God with us?

In Christ Jesus ... is God for us?

The Apostle Paul declares ...

Romans 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? 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, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

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The Lord is risen!  
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Amen!

And now, may the peace of God that surpasses all understanding guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen!