

## Celebration of Life



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**Richard “Sluggo” Joseph Thiem Jr.  
December 18, 1940 – November 27, 2025**

## **Gathering**

*The assembly stands as able.*

Pastor      Blessed be the God and Father  
              of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
              the source of all mercy  
              and the God of all consolation,  
              who comforts us in all our sorrows  
              so that we can comfort others in their sorrows  
              with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Pastor      When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,  
              we were baptized into his death.  
              We were buried therefore with him  
              by baptism into death,  
              so that as Christ was raised from the dead  
              by the glory of the Father,  
              we too might live a new 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.

**Gathering Hymn**      Amazing Grace      ELW 779

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### Greeting

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother Sluggo. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-13**

3 For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

<sup>2</sup>a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup>a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup>a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup>a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

### **The God-Given Task**

<sup>9</sup>What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup>I

know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup> moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Leader Word of God. Word of Life.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 126 (Please join in reading the bold verses)**

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dreamed.

<sup>2</sup>**Our mouths were filled with laughter,  
our tongues with songs of joy.**

**Then it was said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are filled with joy.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, Lord,  
like streams in the Negev.**

<sup>5</sup>Those who sow with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping,  
carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy,  
carrying sheaves with them.**

**Philippians 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Leader Word of God. Word of Life.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able to receive the Holy Gospel.*

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 15:9-11**

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.  
**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*The assembly stands as able.*

**Hymn of the Day** You Have Down to the Lake Shore ELW

# You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

## *Tú has venido a la orilla*



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther  
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing  
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my  
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's  
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
 fish and will for work - ing.  
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
 Friend, you have come to call me.

### Refrain / Estribillo



Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,  
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi  
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

2 Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:  
 en mi barca no hay oro no espadas;  
 tan sólo redes y mi trabajo.  
 Estribillo

3 Tú necesitas mis manos,  
 mi cansancio que a otros descanse,  
 amor que quiera seguir amando.  
 Estribillo

4 Tú, Pescador de otros mares;  
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan.  
 Amigo bueno, que así me llamas.  
 Estribillo

## **Creed**

Pastor Let us affirm the Christian faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the ✝ life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Pastor Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

Pastor Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

Pastor Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

Pastor Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

Pastor Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

Pastor Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,

**All hear our prayer.**

Pastor God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

### **Commendation**

Pastor      Let us commend Sluggo to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant,  
Richard "Sluggo" Joseph Thiem Jr.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

**All            Amen.**

Pastor            Let us go forth in God's peace,  
**All                in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Sending Song            How Great Thou Art            ELW 856**

## How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

### *Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

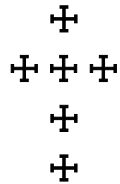
Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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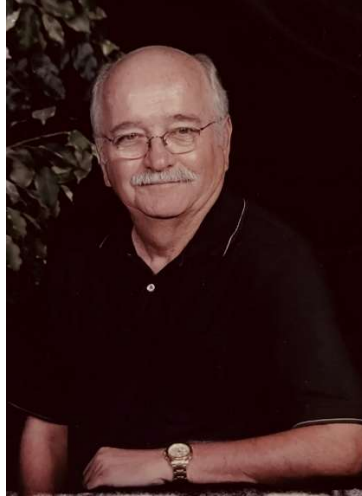
*The worship will continue at the graveside in Caldwell, Texas*



**Welcome to this worship service.** *The Lutheran funeral service is a celebration of the promise of Christ given in holy baptism. In holy baptism God yokes us to Jesus Christ's death and resurrection giving the promise of the forgiveness of sin and eternal life to the baptized. The funeral service is thus a celebration and remembrance of baptism. Trusting in the promise God made in baptism, the church gathers to commend the deceased to God's eternal care. The service includes scripture readings that lift up the promise of eternal life as well as a thanksgiving for baptism and prayers of thanksgiving and for comfort. Worship as you are able and listen for the proclamation of the Good News given through Jesus Christ.*

**Serving today:**

Presiding Minister	The Reverend Richard A. Rhoades, Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Galveston, TX
Organist	Mr. Don Hermanson
Crucifer	Mr. Adam Palmer
Pallbearers	Nate King            Kevin Hayes Jasmine Zaro        James Stockton Jr. Josh Ahmed         Corey Hayes.
Honorary Pallbearer	James Stockton Sr.



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Richard "Sluggo" Joseph Thiem Jr., who left us on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2025. He passed peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family. Born on December 18, 1940, in Galveston to Richard J. Thiem Sr. and Dolly I. Thiem, Sluggo lived a life rooted in loyalty, service, and humor.

After graduating from Lamar University, he began his career with American National Insurance Company in 1964, retiring after an admirable 40-year tenure in 2004. He entered the field at the dawn of modern computer programming and rose through the ranks to upper management within the IT division. Sluggo was admired by colleagues and treasured by friends, forming lifelong bonds through his leadership, kindness, and quick wit.

A devoted lifelong member of First Lutheran Church, Sluggo took great pride in helping the congregation transition to an automated financial system. He cherished volunteering at the church's annual Oktoberfest and joyfully served as a volunteer accountant for many years. After Hurricane Ike, he played a vital role in securing financial assistance for the church. In recognition of his dedication, he was honored as a Pillar of the Church in 2014.

Sluggo was an avid golfer and an enthusiastic fisherman. He and his beloved wife, Dodie, spent much of their retirement exploring the world together - though no matter where they traveled, he was always happiest returning home to the island he loved, Galveston. Above all, he treasured time spent with family, and he will be fondly remembered for his unmistakable, wicked sense of humor.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Dr. Dolly I. Thiem; and many cherished aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Left to honor his memory are his wife of 40 years, Dodie; his children, Traci Hayes, Ronda King, and James Stockton Sr.; and his grandchildren, Jasmine Zaro, James Stockton Jr., Josh Ahmed, and Corey Hayes.

Sluggo's family will receive visitors from 5:00 until 7:00 pm, Thursday, December 4, at Malloy & Son Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 10:00 am, Friday, December 5, at First Lutheran Church, 2415 Winnie, in Galveston, with burial following at Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Bristol Hospice, Johnetta Thomas, and the many friends and loved ones who have offered support during this difficult time.

Memorials may be given in Sluggo's memory to the Endowment Fund of First Lutheran Church, 2415 Winnie, Galveston, Texas 77550.