

St. Anthony Park Lutheran

BELOVED • INTERGENERATIONAL • BOLD



2323 Como Ave, St Paul, MN, 55108 - 651-645-0371 - www.sapl.org

A Celebration of the Life of

Kent Emmet Eklund

4/17/1946 – 9/22/26

October 9th, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.



Prelude

Welcome

Pastor Daniel Tallon Ruen

Nathan Eklund

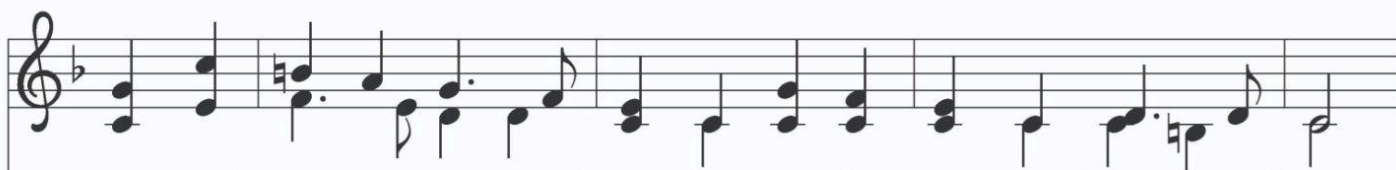
Gathering Hymn

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

(Red Book) ELW #678



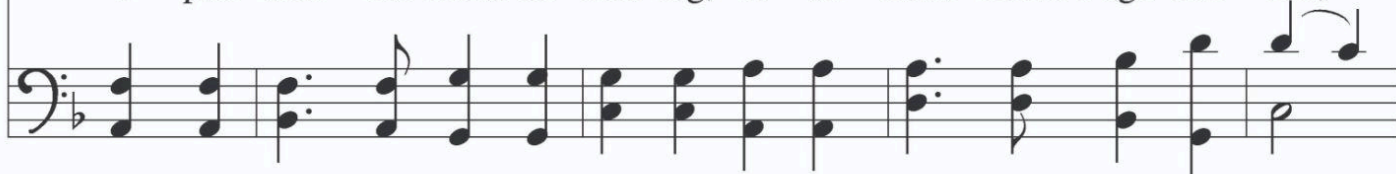
1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.



Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

sit

Scripture Readings

Romans 12:3-18

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. ⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

I Corinthians 12:4-11

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, ⁵ and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

Sermon

Pastor Jill Rode

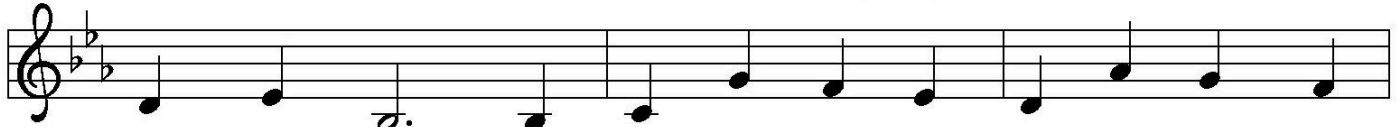
Hymn of the Day

Give Thanks For Saints

(Red Book) ELW #428



1 Give thanks for those whose faith is firm when all a -
 2 Give thanks for those whose hope is clear, be - yond mere
 3 Give thanks for those whose love is pure, a spar - kling
 4 Give thanks for saints of a - ges past and saints a -



round seems bleak: on God's good prom - ise they re - ly, so
 mor - tal sight: who seek the cit - y God has planned, the
 pre - cious stone: they show by what they say and do an
 live to - day: though of - ten by this world de - spised, their



while they live and when they die how force - ful -
 true, e - ter - nal prom - ised land, and steer on
 in - ward beau - ty, warm and true, for God's con -
 hearts by God are rich - ly prized. Give thanks that



ly they speak— the strong, who once were weak!
 toward that light, a bea - con ev - er bright.
 cerns they own— God's love through them is known.
 we may say we share their pil - grim way.

Prayers of the Church

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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 and Benediction

Let us commit Kent Emmet Eklund to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Kent. 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. **Amen**

Hymn

O God beyond All Praising

(Red Book) ELW #880



1. O__ God be - yond all prais - ing we wor - ship you to - day and__
2. The__ flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time mus sure - ly die, its__
3. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring, that__



sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay; for__ we can on - ly
frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most High; but__ hid - den from all
we who know your fav - vor may serve you as our King; and wheth - er our to -



won - der at__ ev - 'ry gift you send at__ bless - ings with - out num - ber and
na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to
- mor - rows be__ filled with good or ill, we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and



mer - cies with - out end: we__ lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your
heav - en's gard - en grown: for__ Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us
rise to bless you still: to__ mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your



word we__ hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
free, and__ we through him are giv - en the fin - al vic - to - ry.
ways, and__ make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Committal

The family will join the pastors in the Columbarium for the interment of Kent's ashes. The congregation may remain seated.

Dismissal

II Corinthians 13:11-13, II Thessalonians 3:16

Let us go forth in peace. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

Postlude

Prelude in Classic Style

Gordon Young

Memorials may be given to Saint Anthony Park Lutheran Church, the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, or the Ebenezer Society Foundation.

Kent Emmet Eklund

4/17/1946 – 9/22/26

Kent Eklund was born in Lindsborg, Kansas to Emmet and Marion Eklund. The son of a Lutheran pastor, Kent chose a different path but held fast to the heart of that calling: a lifelong commitment to serving others and his community.

In the fall of 1964, Kent arrived at Augustana College in Illinois, where he soon met Katherine. It was the start of a 62-year partnership built on devotion, purpose, and steady love.

Kent earned his PhD in political science and urban planning at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1971, he, Katherine, and their toddler son returned from Thanksgiving to find their apartment building in flames, taking his research and completed doctoral drafts with it. In only the way he could, Kent started over and finished.

That resilience defined his life and career. In 1972, he joined the political science faculty at St. Olaf College, becoming department chair at 29. At 32, he was elected Mayor of Northfield—running unopposed, save for a write-in campaign for Mickey Mouse organized by Carleton students. At 34, Governor Al Quie recruited him to lead the Minnesota Department of Economic Development and State Planning.

Over the decades, Kent influenced civic life across Minnesota. He held executive roles at Lutheran Brotherhood, Parkside Senior Services, Ebenezer Society, Fairview Senior Services, and the Fairview Foundation. As founder of Cincinnatus consulting practice, he guided organizations through change and towards clarity. Kent spent many years teaching in Hamline University's Master's of Public Administration program, mentoring students who went on to key roles in political and civic leadership.

He also chaired the boards of Courage Center, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, the Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, Citizens League, and the MnSCU Trustee Candidate Advisory Council.

Yet for all his titles, Kent's real impact was with all of the people who came to trust him as a friend, mentor, and strategist. Countless people knew him best from his regular table at the Nicollet Island Inn, where a cup of coffee and his generous listening helped launch careers and provide wisdom in times of need. He was, simply put, a wonderful human who helped others be better humans.

He was also a devoted fan of the Boston Celtics, all Minnesota sports, left-handed golf, classical music, and handball (winning a state championship in the 1980s). He rarely missed any opportunity to see his grandchildren compete in sports or perform on stage.

Throughout his beautiful life, he faced each chapter with determination, humor, and unwavering optimism. Even through his 15-year journey with Parkinson's, he lived fully within whatever limits came his way. The day before he died, his family wheeled him to a window overlooking the State Capitol and the Cathedral of St. Paul. Asked if the excursion had been worth it, Kent gave his last clear word: "ABSOLUTELY!"

Kent is survived by his wife, Katherine; sons Andrew (Allison) and Nathan (Erika); grandchildren Jonas, Loren, Sam, and Peter; sister Joan (Jonathan); and a wide circle of extended family and friends.

Go forth ABSOLUTELY.

Written by Kent's sons with deep love and respect

Worship Leaders

Pastor Daniel Tallon Ruen: Presiding

Pastor Jill Rode: Preaching

Jonathan Orwig: Director of Music and Worship, organ and piano

Readers: Tim Anderson (brother-in-law) and Bill Telleen (lifelong friend)

Livestream: Bjorn Gangeness

Staff

Pastor: Jill Rode (jill@saplc.org) - Pastor: Daniel Tallon Ruen - (daniel@saplc.org)

Mission & Ministry Manager: Mary Armstrong - (office@saplc.org)

Director of Worship & Music: Jonathan Orwig - (director@saplc.org)

Outreach Coordinator: Anna Jeide-Detweiler (outreach@saplc.org)

Alleluia and Joy Singers: Molly Breen - (molly@saplc.org)

Accompanist: Seolyeong Jeong

Parish Nurse: Jean Bendt (jean@saplc.org) - Sexton: Jude Breen - (jude@saplc.org)

Copyright Acknowledgments

Some printed materials from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS000501. Reprinting of other materials and streaming permissions under OneLicense.net, License A-724190. All Rights Reserved. Additional streaming permissions under CCS License 14580. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved