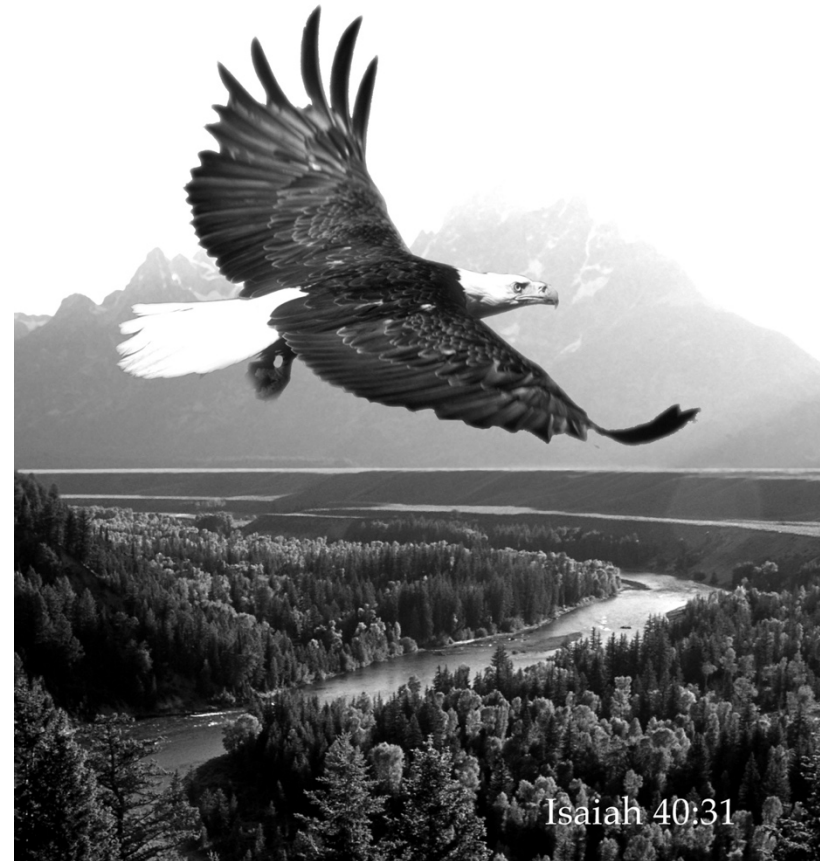


... but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.



The Christian Funeral of
James Blashka
September 20, 2022
Morrison Zion Lutheran Church

Greeting and Prayer

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for James, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought her to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.
He guides 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 love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will 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.

Hymn

I Know that My Redeemer Lives CW 152



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save. He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove. He lives, my hun - gry
guide me with his eye. He lives to com - fort
wipe a - way my tears. He lives to calm my



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend; 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives and loves me to the end. He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives, and while he lives I'll sing; He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King. He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
"I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.
Tune: DUKE STREET (LM) attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793.

Prayer

M: Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, James Blashka, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving him to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Resurrection Comfort

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: Then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: And serve him day and night in his temple.

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: Never again will we thirst.

M: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

M: Let us pray.

God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

Scripture Lessons

Revelation 7:9-10, 13-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

¹⁴ I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ 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 shelter them with his presence. ¹⁶ ‘Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,’ nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” (NIV)

Hymn

On Eagles' Wings CW 440



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a-
2 Snares of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
3 For to his an - gels he's giv - en a com-mand To
bide in his shad-ow for life, Say to the Lord: “My
fam - ine will bring you no fear; Un - der his wings your
guard you in all of your ways; Up - on their hands they will
ref - uge, My rock in whom I trust!”
ref - uge, His faith - ful - ness your shield.
bear you up, Lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Refrain
And he will raise you up on ea - gles' wings, Bear you on the
breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And
hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1951, abr., alt. © 1979 New Dawn Music (admin. OCP Publications). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: ON EAGLES' WINGS (Irregular) Michael Joncas, b. 1951, alt. © 1979 New Dawn Music (admin. OCP Publications). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Sermon

Isaiah 40:28-31

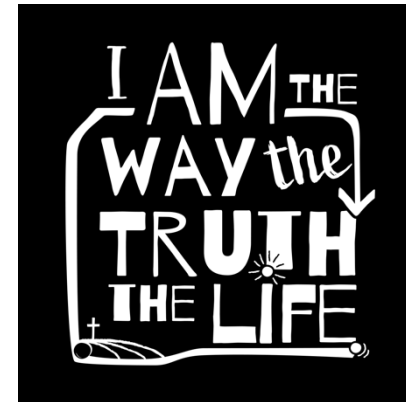
²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
³¹ but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. (NIV)

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**
**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.**

John 14:1-6

¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”
⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”
⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (NIV)



Hymn

What God Ordains Is Always Good CW 429



1 What God or - dains is al - ways good; His
 2 What God or - dains is al - ways good; He
 3 What God or - dains is al - ways good; He
 4 What God or - dains is al - ways good. Though
 5 What God or - dains is al - ways good; This



will is just and ho - ly. As he di - rects my
 nev - er will de - ceive me. He leads me in his
 is my friend and Fa - ther. He will not let me
 I the cup am drink - ing Which sa - vors now of
 truth re - mains un - shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or



life for me, I fol - low meek and low - ly. My
 right - eous way And nev - er will he leave me. I
 suf - fer harm Though man - y storms may gath - er. Now
 bit - ter - ness, I take it with - out shrink - ing. For
 death be mine, I shall not be for - sak - en. I



God in - deed In ev - 'ry need Knows well how he
 take con - tent What he has sent; His hand that sends
 I may know Both joy and woe; Some day I shall
 af - ter grief God grants re - lief, My heart with com -
 fear no harm, For with his arm He will em - brace



will shield me; To him, then, I will yield me.
 me sad - ness Will turn my tears to glad - ness.
 see clear - ly That he has loved me dear - ly.
 fort fill - ing And all my sor - row still - ing.
 and shield me; So to my God I yield me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: WAS GOT T UT (87 87 44 77) Severus Gastorius, 1646–82, alt.

The Condensed Life Story of James Blashka

James Edward Blashka, 64, Greenleaf, passed away on Thursday, September 15, 2022. He was born March 26, 1958, in Manitowoc to the late Theodore “Ted” and Sylvia (Lakatos) Blashka.

Jim graduated from Manitowoc Lincoln High School. On November 26, 1988, he was united in marriage to Diane Buchholz at Trinity Lutheran Church, Brillion.

Jim was a seasonal employee with the Brown County Parks for 24 years, he loved working outdoors, and meeting the people for their rentals.

An active member of the Way-Morr Lions Club, and serving as President a few times, Jim enjoyed the activities that were put on by the club. He especially enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt, and most of all the Music in the Park. He so enjoyed all the smiling faces. He was also the guy if you needed something, he would try and fix it, and if you needed a tool, Jim probably had it.

He is survived by his wife Diane, daughter Heidi (Shane) Rusch, Reedsville, and granddaughter Autumn Brandes (fiancé Ben Klistler), Hilbert. Jim is further survived by his siblings; Pat Blashka, Brillion, William (Pauline) Blashka, Sheboygan, Mary (Don) Bender, Manitowoc, as well as his brother-in-law Dan Buchholz, and nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws; Melvin “Bud” (Eldora) Buchholz, brother-in-law Robert “Bob” Ollendorf, and sister-in-law Sandy Blashka.

Special thanks to Alvin and Edward Beyer, First Responder Amanda, Brown County Sheriffs Department, County Rescue, and the Emergency staff at Bellin Hospital.

We say with Job, *“I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”* (Job 19:25-27).