

Service of Christian Burial for Dale Lester "Jack" Brown, ★9.iv.1924 - †15.xi.2007  
Ev. Luth. Church of Saint James the Apostle / Brogue, Chanceford Twp., York Co., Penna.  
Monday, 19.xi.2007, 10:30 a.m., *ELW* Funeral Rite  
Proverbs 3: ; Psalm 23; Romans 8:31-35, 37-39; John 14:1-6

**J. J. !**

Hear the Word of God for your comfort and strength!

*A reading from the Book of Proverbs, Chapter 3:*

**My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;**

**for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.**

**Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.**

**So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people.**

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.**

**In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.**

**Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.**

**It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body.**

**Honor the LORD with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce;**

**then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.**

**My child, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof,**

**for the LORD reproves the one he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.**

The Word of the LORD! Thanks be to God!

*A reading from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm:*

**The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**He restoreth my soul:**

**He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;**

**Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**

**Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**

**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world

without end. ✠ Amen.

*A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the  
Church at Rome, the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter:*

**What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us?**

**He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him?**

**Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who**

**was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes 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?**

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

**For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The Word of the LORD! Thanks be to God!

*As we are able, let us now please rise for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

*Alleluia, LORD, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter.*

*Glory to You, O LORD!*

**"Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.**

**In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?**

**And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**

**And you know the way where I am going."**

**Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going;**

**how can we know the way?"**

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.**

*The Gospel of the LORD! Praise to You, O Christ!*



Grace, mercy and peace be yours, from God Our Father and from Our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ! ✠ Amen.

Dale Lester "Jack" Brown was born in Chanceford Township on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1924, in the home of his parents on the edge of the land they farmed, land he would farm with them, land that would always be his work and his home. He was born a child of God through water and the Holy Spirit on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 1929, through the ministry of the Rev. Glen T. Hafer, Pastor of Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church. Jack was to live and serve as a member of Saint James Church all his life. Jack

attended the St. James one-room school. He was confirmed in the faith of his Baptism by the Rev. Walter E. Waybright on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1939. Like so many young men with whom he grew to manhood, Jack loved to play softball and made this into a lifetime sport for himself and his family.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1948 Jack was joined in Holy Matrimony with Jacqueline Rehmeyer by the Rev. Claude R. Baublitz at the Altar of Saint James Church. Though Jack and Jackie's marriage would be crowned by the birth of sons and daughters, of grandchildren and great grandchildren, his love toward Jackie was primary, as he kept her always enthroned in his heart above all others save God alone.

That was and is mutual where Jackie is concerned, and in some ways it is she who made some of the greater sacrifices in the marriage, especially where the Church was concerned, patiently learning our Lutheran teachings and ways and making them her own, allowing her beloved to give so freely of his time on the Council and committees of this Congregation and as a teacher of our youth in the junior high Sunday School, joining in herself with the

women of the Church in countless activities benefiting this Congregation and community.

Jack and Jackie enjoyed together the rare gift of a large and loving family gathered around them weekly. Not every family that lives so close by gathers together every Sunday evening, but where love is there will be found those who enjoy one another and who celebrate the simple blessings of life together. That love was expressed in values taught by both word and example, as for example the value of honest work, *being* a blessing as well as receiving blessings. The children for whom Jack and Jackie provided learned to provide for themselves and their families in this way and they learned the dignity which comes with being expected to handle responsibility.

Strong bonds of family and community are built that way, great beams of a home much larger and stronger than any house, rooted deep in the soil Jack loved to till, in the land on which he loved to hunt, but deeper still in the love of the Creator and Redeemer of all Whose arms are there to catch us and to hold us, no matter how far we fall. It was that strong bond of love in a family where God was

real because faith and love were genuine that was able to withstand tragedy and the emptiness born of grief. And out of that experience of heartbreak, Jack and Jackie reached out to others to build bridges of caring that will never be forgotten.

It was a shock to Jack's family and to all of us that he was called home so quickly, for had it not been just days or weeks ago when we last saw him and spoke with him and enjoyed his smile and the warmth of his contentment, just to be able to be home with Jackie, to look after her needs as he always had done, and to look out on the good land as it changed from season to season? But, thanks be to God, his gentle passing out of this life was little more trouble than his being born into it, and now he knows a joy in which all sorrow has been swallowed up and overcome! Is it not fitting to be able to commend him with thanks to the eternal goodness of the Triune God, just as we prepare to give thanks as a nation for those many blessings that are uniquely ours in this great country? In Jack and in his generation we may see the passing of a way of life, but be assured that the dignity of a compassionate and upright

conscience by which Jack lived and Jackie continues her pilgrimage has been passed on to his children and through them to a great posterity.

The family of Jack Brown and this Congregation wish to thank those servants of mercy who have been such a tremendous help to the family in the past days, the Visiting Angels and the Visiting Nurse Association. With very few nurses, the VNA performs a ministry of long-term and hospice care that includes the entire family of the patient. Their national office has prepared a booklet for the families of those dying at home, explaining what to expect and to understand at each stage of the process, including also devotional verses and poetry. One meditation in particular struck a resonant chord during Jack's passing and the family has asked me to share it with you today. The author is Henry Van Dyke:

**I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength. I stand and watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.**

**Then someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!"**

**"Gone where?"**

**Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.**

**Her diminished size is in me, not in her. And just at the moment when someone at my side says: "There, she is gone!" there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices ready to take up the glad shout:**

**"Here she comes!"**

**And that is dying.**

Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding preserve your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Our LORD.

✠Amen.

