

IN MEMORIAM  
ROGER DOUGLAS GROOT  
1942-2005



Lee Chapel  
Washington and Lee University  
At Two O'clock  
Wednesday Afternoon  
16 November  
2005

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Prelude

Opening Sentences (*please stand*)

Collect

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Roger. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

First Lesson:  
Revelation 21:2-7

Reader:  
Lewis "Lash" LaRue

Psalm 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills;  
from whence cometh my help?

My help cometh even from the LORD,  
who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved,  
and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD himself is thy keeper;  
the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day,  
neither the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil;  
yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

Second Lesson:  
Matthew 5:14-19

Reader:  
Lt. Gen. Paul Van Riper, USMC (Ret.)

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Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

A Letter from the Governor of Virginia

David F. Partlett

Reading: Excerpts from *Fieldnotes*

Lyman P. Q. Johnson

Meditation

Andrew W. "Uncas" McThenia Jr.

Homily

The Reverend R. David Cox

Responsorial Song: "Will the Circle Be Unbroken"  
(*The congregation may join in singing the chorus.*)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer  
Additional Prayers

Responsorial Song: "I'll Fly Away"  
(*The congregation may join in singing the chorus.*)

Concluding Prayers (*stand*)

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Blessing and Dismissal:

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Hymn: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, but armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own  
choosing:

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his Name, from age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to  
undo us;

We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us;  
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo! his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through him who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also,  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is for ever.

Postlude

*Please join the family for refreshments and fellowship in  
Evans Dining Hall immediately following the service.*

— Other Participants —

William R. (Burr) Datz, University Chaplain

Joshua T. Harvey, Organist

Barney Mitchell, Crucifer

John Armstrong and Jon Spear, Ushers

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*Roger's wife, Ellen, wanted to share this poem with you.*

### **If Tomorrow Never Comes**

If I knew it would be the last time  
that I'd see you fall asleep,  
I would tuck you in more tightly  
and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.  
If I knew it would be the last time  
that I see you walk out the door,  
I would give you a hug and kiss  
and call you back for more.  
If I knew it would be the last time  
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,  
I would videotape each action and word,  
so I could play them back day after day.  
If I knew it would be the last time,  
I could spare an extra minute or two  
to stop and say "I love you,"  
instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.  
If I knew it would be the last time  
I would be there to share your day,  
well I'm sure you'll have so many more,  
so I can let just this one slip away.  
For surely there's always tomorrow  
to make up for an oversight,  
and we always get a second chance  
to make everything right.  
There will always be another day  
to say our "I love you's."  
And certainly there's another chance  
to say our "Anything I can do's?"

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But just in case I might be wrong,  
and today is all I get,  
I'd like to say how much I love you  
and I hope we never forget,  
Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,  
young or old alike,  
And today may be the last chance  
you get to hold your loved one tight.  
So if you're waiting for tomorrow,  
why not do it today?  
For if tomorrow never comes,  
you'll surely regret the day,  
that you didn't take that extra time  
for a smile, a hug, or a kiss  
and you were too busy to grant someone  
what turned out to be their one last wish.  
So hold your loved ones close today,  
whisper in their ear,  
tell them how much you love them  
and that you'll always hold them dear.  
Take time to say "I'm sorry," "Please forgive me,"  
"Thank you" or "It's okay."  
And if tomorrow never comes,  
you'll have no regrets about today.

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Author Unknown

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