

## Don Lee

**Restaurants require hard work. Behind the scenes people labor long hours, bringing creativity and unique personal skills, managing the business side of properties and finances, and supervising staff concerns. When Don took over the Savoy, he managed not just any restaurant with these needs, but an iconic Kansas City restaurant with these needs. He took on all this toil so that the people who came there to eat could leave their toil behind. As a diner, you relax, converse, and taste the many gifts that God provides through the farming of the earth and the crafting of chefs. You get to do all that because other people are doing hard work.**

**Don loved his job. His true love, of course, extended beyond the business world to his family. He never retired from office or home. He needed a place apart from his toil where he could find refreshment. Through 60+ years as a husband and father, whether in the house or on the road of travel, fishing and hunting, Don received the support he needed to help other people enjoy the blessings of life.**

**God created this world out of a similar kind of love. He established the earth and the skies, he coordinates all in marvelous beauty, he sent his Son that we might see even further behind this beauty and into the deep purpose of the world, and he promised those faithful to him an eternal reward. Through our time on earth, we all toil. But God gives us places to appreciate the earth's beauty so that we can find refreshment.**

**Hard work and uncertain futures would taint this world if we did not have faith. Isaiah the prophet reassured the people, "On this mountain the Lord of hosts... will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations. He will destroy death forever." In messages such as this, we lift our eyes beyond our daily cares and rejoice that God has saved us.**

**Some of the Thessalonians were losing hope because beloved family and friends were losing their lives before the Second Coming of Christ. They feared their work was in vain. As close as we feel to one another in life, when someone dies, we, like the Thessalonians, naturally fear that the separation may not be breached. But St. Paul wrote, "we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with [those who have died] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord." Christians console one another with these words that God provides a place of rest where those who once enjoyed one another's company on a trip, in a boat, or at a table will one day meet again.**

**At table with his disciples during the Last Supper, Jesus told them about his Father's house. He too offered words of consolation. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.... I will come back again and take you to myself."**

**Today we pray that Christ will be faithful to that promise, soften our grief, and redeem our brother Don. May Don now enter a dwelling place more spacious and comforting than the finest hotel. May he relax from all his toil and enjoy at long last the kind of refreshment he tirelessly offered to others. May Don finally rest, truly rest in peace.**

Saturday, March 18, 2023