

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

The Order
of a
Christian Funeral



Born to Alfred & Evelyn Berube – October 27, 1963

Baptized into Christ Jesus

✘ *Karen Theresa (Berube) Hamel* ✘

Entered into His Glory – November 19, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Westminster, MA

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

Though we mourn, we mourn with hope in Christ.

As we remember and give thanks to God for Karen, the central focus of the Christian funeral remains our Lord Jesus Christ.

God said to Adam: "You are dust and you will turn back into dust." Because sin came into the world by that one man, and by sin came death, and so death spread to all human beings because all of us have sinned. If we die unforgiven, we have no future but eternal darkness and the fury of unending fire. But there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because He was charged with all our sins and executed in our place, and He rose again to declare us innocent through faith in Him. If we claim that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and His blood cleanses us from all our unrighteousness. And just as everyone who is in Adam dies, so everyone who is in Jesus Christ will be made alive. To all who turn from their sins and trust in Him, He brings life and immortality through His Gospel, now for our souls, here and in heaven, and soon for our bodies as well, because our Redeemer is alive, and He will stand on earth on the last Day, and though worms destroy these bodies, yet in our flesh we will see God, for we will be raised.

Heavenly Father, into whose keeping we entrust our loved ones, help us look to You in our time of sorrow, remembering those who have gone before us in Christian faith. Grant that we may one day share in the joys of those who now rest in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please turn off or silence all cell phones or other devices. Thank you.

OPENING HYMN – TUNE: TLH 246 – TEXT: LSB 507

- 1 **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 **Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,**
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 **Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,**
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.
- 4 **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

In Holy Baptism Karen Theresa Hamel was clothed with the robe of Christ’s righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says: “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

THE INTROIT

Revelation 7:9–10; Psalm 84:1; 97:12a

*A huge multitude that no one could count stood before the throne and before the Lamb,
Clothed in white robes, with palms in their hands,*

And they shouted aloud:

“Salvation belongs to our God upon the throne and to the Lamb!”

Oh, rejoice in the Lord, you righteous!

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of Hosts!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*A huge multitude that no one could count stood before the throne and before the Lamb,
Clothed in white robes, with palms in their hands.*

THE KYRIE

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, You were dead; now You are alive forever. Strengthen us, who must die soon, so that we turn from our sins and follow You through this world, and then follow on, through death into life everlasting; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Reading of God's Word

from the Old Testament: Isaiah 40:28–31 & Malachi 4:1–6

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY: PSALM 23 (KJV)

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.

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 forever.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

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.

from the Letters: 1 Corinthians 15:20–26

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA & VERSE

Alleluia! Alleluia! Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;
to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia!

from the Holy Gospel: Luke 23:33, 39–43

Glory be to You, O Lord!

After the reading:

Praise be to You, O Christ!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

- 1 **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!**
- 2 **The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**
- 3 **Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.**
- 4 **Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.**
- 5 **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.**

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The Sermon

HYMN OF RESPONSE – TEXT: TLH 200 & TUNE: LSB 461, STANZAS 1–2, 5, 7–8

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 I know that my Redeemer lives; What comfort this sweet sentence gives! He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head. | 3 He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears; He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart. |
| 2 He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save; He lives all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high. | 4 He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death; He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there. |

**5 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: Public domain

The Prayer of the Church

after each petition:

*Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.*

the prayer concludes:

*. . . in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.*

PRAYERS

Dear Lord Jesus, hear Your disciples as we pray, for we long to leave and be with You, which is far better. When we are with You, we need nothing else on earth, but we are always with You. You lead us by the hand. You guide us with Your counsel, and afterward, You will take us into glory. In Your presence is fullness of joy and at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. How beautiful is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! Our souls long, they ache for the courts of the Living God. We shall be satisfied when we awake to see Your face. Until then, as You have taught us, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy 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.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

John 11:25–26 NIV; Luke 2:29–32

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though He dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

Now, Lord, You dismiss Your servant in peace, as You have promised, for my eyes have seen the Salvation You prepared before the face of all people, a Light to enlighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Your people Israel!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

“I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though He dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

THE THANKSGIVING COLLECT

Let us pray. Blessed Lord Jesus, God and Savior, we thank You for every earthly gift You gave to Karen in this world, from life itself to the love of those who are gathered here now, and for every gift, earthly and heavenly, that You gave to us through her, especially through her life as a daughter, sister, aunt, friend, and sister-in-Christ. But above all, we thank You that You loved her and carried her sins in Your own body on the cross, and that You rose from Your grave to find her, and through Your Church held out to her Your wounded hands, and through Your Word and Sacraments gave her forgiveness of all her sins and eternal life.

O Christ, Judge and Master of us all, grant that all of us who loved her here may now look to Your love, that we may grasp Your hands, scarred for us, and believe and receive Your forgiveness. Give each of us grace to follow You in this life, that each of us may also leave this life with You and enter the Paradise prepared for those who love You. Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 677



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
 2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
 3 Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
 4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!



Who Thee by faith be-fore the world confessed, Thy
 Thou, Lord, their cap-tain in the well-fought fight; And
 Fight as the saints who no-bly fought of old
 We fee-bly strug-gle, they in glo-ry shine; Yet



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold!
 all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
 Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
 And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 The golden evening brightens in the west;
 Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
 Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
 The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
 The King of Glory passes on His way.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

△ 8 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
 Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
 Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text and tune: Public domain



A private burial will take place at St. Bernard's Cemetery in Fitchburg.

Officiant
Organist
Assisting Organist
Acolytes

Rev Peter F. Gregory
Anne Bennet
Mary Gregory
Lazarus Gregory, Simeon Gregory

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Abide with Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.