

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

The Order
of a
Christian Funeral



Baptized into Christ Jesus – December 26, 1949

✘ *Nancy H. Kangas* ✘

Entered into His Glory – September 16, 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 Nancy, 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 151 – TEXT: LSB 420, STANZAS 1–2, 6–7

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| <p>1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> <p>2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> | <p>3 Thou hast suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.</p> <p>4 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.</p> |
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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 Nancy Helvi Kangas 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 on us. Lord, have mercy on 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 25:6–9

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 15:51–57

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: John 6:27–40

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – TUNE & TEXT: LSB 633, STANZAS 1–2, 5–8

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| <p>1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing
Praise to our victorious King,
Who has washed us in the tide
Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!</p> <p>2 Praise we Him, whose love divine
Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast—
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.
Alleluia!</p> <p>3 Mighty Victim from the sky,
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight,
You have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!</p> | <p>4 Now no more can death appall,
Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise,
And Your saints in You shall rise.
Alleluia!</p> <p>5 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!</p> <p>△ 6 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!</p> |
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The Sermon

John 6:27–40

- 1 **Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;**
 Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
 In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 **Be still, my soul; your God will undertake**
 To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
 All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 **Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart**
 And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
 Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 **Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on**
 When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
 Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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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 SALUTATION

2 Timothy 4:22

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 Nancy 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 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 680

- 1 **Thine the Amen, Thine the praise, alleluias angels raise,
Thine the everlasting head, Thine the breaking of the bread,
Thine the glory, Thine the story, Thine the harvest, then the cup;
Thine the vineyard, then the cup is lifted up, lifted up.**
- 2 **Thine the life eternally, Thine the promise—let there be.
Thine the vision, Thine the tree; all the earth on bended knee,
Gone the nailing, gone the railing, gone the pleading, gone the cry,
Gone the sighing, gone the dying, what was loss lifted high.**
- 3 **Thine the truly, Thine the yes; Thine the table, we the guest.
Thine the mercy all from Thee; Thine the glory yet to be.
Then the ringing and the singing, then the end of all the war;
Thine the living, Thine the loving evermore, evermore.**
- 4 **Thine the kingdom, Thine the prize, Thine the wonderful surprise;
Thine the banquet, then the praise, then the justice of Thy ways.
Thine the glory, Thine the story, then the welcome to the least,
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast, at Thy feast. (Continued)**
- 5 **Thine the glory in the night, no more dying, only light.
Thine the river, Thine the tree, then the Lamb eternally,
Then the holy, holy, holy celebration jubilee,
Thine the splendor, Thine the brightness, only Thee, only Thee.**



Following the service, you are invited to the committal service at 2:00 pm at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 111 Glenallen Street, Winchendon, MA 01475

Refreshments and fellowship time will take place at Our Savior following the committal.

Officiant
Organist

Rev Peter F. Gregory
Anne Bennet

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The Committal Hymn: 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.