



HE ALONE IS MY
ROCK AND MY
SALVATION....

PSALM 62:6, NIV

The Christian Funeral
of
Joyce M. Gehl

Monday, November 20, 2023 at 1:00pm
Salem Lutheran Church ~ Stillwater, Minnesota

We Welcome You In Jesus' Name

Preservice music for meditation & prayer

Remembrance of Baptism

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: In Holy Baptism, Joyce was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul affirms, *"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."*

The apostle also writes, *"All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."*

M: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed!**

Psalm 23

M: 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.

C: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

God's Comfort

M: We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

M: The wages of sin is death,

C: but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn the loss of Joyce, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts; dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing Joyce to faith and giving her the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word and sacraments, and keep us in the saving faith until we are united with you and all the saints where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn: The Old Rugged Cross

- 1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.

- 2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary. (*Refrain*)

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me. (*Refrain*)

4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share. (*Refrain*)

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:4-9

⁴But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

Scripture Reading

John 5:24–25

²⁴“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

Scripture Reading

Revelation 22:1–5

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Hymn: Jerusalem the Golden

CW 890

- 1 Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—
the sight of it refreshes the weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory, what bliss beyond compare.
- 2 They stand, those halls of Zion, all jubilant with song
and bright with many an angel and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them, the daylight is serene;
the pastures of the blessed are ever rich and green.
- 3 There is the throne of David, and there, from care released,
the shout of them that triumph, the song of them that feast.
And they who with their leader have conquered in the fight
forever and forever are clad in robes of white.
- 4 O sweet and blessed country, the home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country that eager hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us to that dear land of rest;
you are with God the Father and Spirit ever blest.

Sermon Reading

Isaiah 12:1-3

¹In that day you will say: "I will praise you, LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. ²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

"Words to live by"

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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: Amazing Grace

CW 576

**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.**

**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 has 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.**

Prayer of Comfort

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Recessional

Service Participants

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Organ: Robyn Stoller

FELLOWSHIP: After the service today, family and friends are invited to a luncheon in the church fellowship hall downstairs.

PASCHAL CANDLE: The large candle next to the baptismal font symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World; Its large size symbolizes Jesus as the mighty Victor over death and sin. It is lit at every baptism, for *“we are buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* (Romans 6:4) It is kept burning throughout the Easter season and always lighted for Christian funerals to show the close connection between Christ's resurrection and the Christian's resurrection to life eternal.

OUR PRAYER FOR EACH OF YOU: It is our prayer that the Word of God which brought such comfort to Joyce also brought you comfort today. The message of our Savior who lived, died and rose again leads us believers to mourn not like the rest of the world, but as people who have the sure hope of a reunion because of Christ. If we can comfort or guide you in the future with this same life-saving message, please do not hesitate to contact us. God be with you.

Joyce M. Gehl

1934 – 2023



Joyce was born October 24, 1934 on the family farm in Iona Township, Minnesota to George and Minnie Meyer. The family eventually settled down on a farm near Fulda. Joyce loved the farm life and was happy both working with her dad in the fields and helping her mother tend the garden, care for the animals and provide meals for visiting neighbors that gathered during harvest time.

Joyce married Delmar Gehl on January 16, 1955 in Fulda, Minnesota, and the Lord blessed them with 58 years of marriage. After farming briefly in Fulda, Joyce and Delmar moved to Bloomington, Minnesota before building their hobby farm in Stillwater. There they raised cattle, chickens and grew crops. Joyce retired from Washington County, where she worked as a court clerk.

Joyce and Delmar enjoyed traveling in their 5th wheel trailer during their retirement years. Joyce was dedicated to supporting the work of the church. She spent many hours volunteering at church and the school.

God graciously called Joyce out of this life to her eternal home in heaven on Sunday, November 5th, in Stillwater.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Delmar; great-grandchild, Abrielle; and brother-in-law, Wayne Franzen. She is survived by sons, Veryl (Sandra) and Todd (Wendy); granddaughter, Sarah; grandson, Randy; grandson, Justin Teske; great-grandchildren, Nolan and Amelia Teske; sister, Twyla Franzen; brother, Maynard (Sandra) Meyer; nieces, nephews, and other family and friends.

Her ashes will be kept to await a glorious resurrection on the Last Day.

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” ~ Revelation 7:10