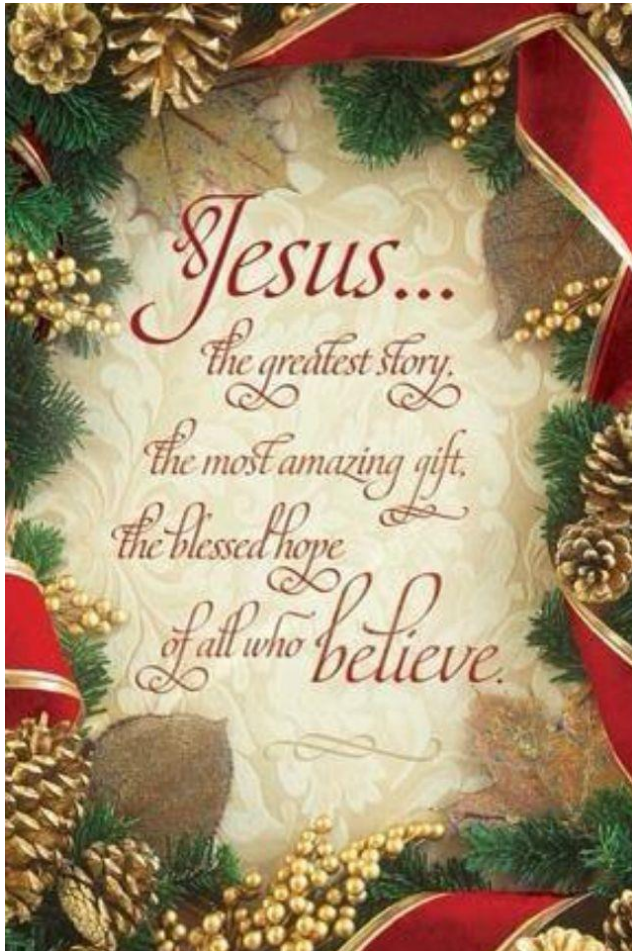


*The Funeral Service For
Sharon Marie (Mathews) Christianson*



January 6, 2024

Angels From The Realms of Glory

LSB 367

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines His Infant Light. [Refrain]
3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]
4. Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. [Refrain]
5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

Pastor: St. Paul, the apostle 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,

People: we, too, might walk in newness of life.

Pastor: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His,

People: we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.”

(Romans 6:3-5)

Pastor: In Holy Baptism God washes away our sin and clothes us with the righteousness of Christ. When Sharon was baptized, February 1, 1942, she was made a child of God and given the promise of a heavenly inheritance. This promise belongs to all who have their trust and hope in Jesus, who died for our forgiveness, and rose for our life and salvation.

People: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! *(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

Psalm 23 (Spoken Together)

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 for ever.

Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.
Heavenly Father, we give You thanks for the abundant love You showed to Sharon throughout her earthly life and the abundant joy she now has with You in the splendor of Heaven. Give to us, your dear baptized children, the comfort of the Gospel, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the hope of the resurrection, that we may walk in faith and love with our Lord Jesus Christ now on earth, and rejoice in His glorious presence forever; for You live and reign, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen

Old Testament

Job 19:23-27

“Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, ²⁴ that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! ²⁵ I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. ²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Solo How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

Sung by Pastor Brent Parrish

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away;
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

“How Deep The Fathers Love For Us” Words and Music by Stuart Townend Copyright 1995 Thankyou Music. All Rights Reserved Used by permission CCLI# 2960087

The Epistle

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon Hymn

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings
cease! My Comforter, my all in all, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.
'Til He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Sermon So Much More Yet To Come

1 Peter 1:3-9

The Confession of Faith

Pastor: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

People: **I believe in one 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

The Church's One Foundation

LSB 644

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.
2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

3. Though with a scornful wonder
The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

4. Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

The Prayers

Pastor: Lord God Almighty, Father of all mercy, provider of all good things, You promise that Your loving kindness will never depart from Your children. Look on us, your dear baptized children, with compassion, and bless us according to our needs. We praise You for the constant love and abundant blessings that You poured upon Sharon during her earthly life.

People: **Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, our Savior and Friend, because of Your great love for us You died on the cross to win our forgiveness, and in glory and power You rose for our life and salvation. Help us to daily repent of our sin, that trusting in Your mercy, we may rejoice in the new and eternal life we have through Your mighty, glorious resurrection.

People: Praise Him all creatures here below.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Helper, give us an abundance of faith, hope and love for the days ahead. Bless Sharon's dear family and friends with Your saving peace, and comfort them with Your healing love. Lead all Your dear children onward in this journey of faith until that great and glorious day when we behold our beautiful Savior, and rejoice at the blessed reunion, along with Sharon and with all our loved ones in Christ who have gone in faith before us.

And then, as Your Heavenly saints, along with Your holy angels, with the whole company of Heaven, we will joyfully give all honor, praise, thanks and glory to You, our Lord God Almighty.

People: Praise Him above You Heavenly host.

Pastor: O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for the fellowship of those who have gathered here today to support Sharon's family with their loving presence and prayers. Bless us all with Your love which renews and strengthens us unto life everlasting, for You, O God, so loved us all, that You gave Your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. And so from our hearts we praise You.

People: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray.

People: 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 Benediction

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen**

Closing Hymn

For All The Saints

LSB 677:1,2,3,7,8

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
You, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may your soldiers, faithful true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then their breaks a yet more glorious day:
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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!

