

The Funeral Service
of
Bertha M. Bliesmer
1923 ~ 2018



...I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Thursday, August 9, 2018
2:00 p.m.
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fairmont, Minnesota

Funeral Service of Bertha M. Bliesmer

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St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairmont, Minnesota



Stand

INVOCATION & REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM: Page 278

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

C Amen.

P In Holy Baptism Bertha 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?"

C **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.** Romans 6:3-5

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Old Rugged Cross"

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.

Ref:

*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.*

Oh, 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.

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.

To the 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.

KYRIE, SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY: Page 278

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Bertha and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-3

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 (KJV)

P The LORD *is* my shepherd;

C I shall not want.

P He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

C He leadeth me beside the still waters.

P He restoreth my soul:

C He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou *art* with me;

C Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

P Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

C Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

C and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**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.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE (General): Page 279

Revelation 1:5-6

P Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 12:23-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED: Pages 279-80

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

C **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.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY: LSB 727 “On Eagles’ Wings”

SERMON

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Page 280

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give to the family of Bertha and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive our thanks for Bertha and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

P "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."

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.**

**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.**

P "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."

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION: Page 281

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Let us go forth in peace,

C in the name of the Lord. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: LSB 744 “Amazing Grace”

✠ ✠ ✠

Pastor: Rev. Thomas E. Fast, St. Paul Ev. Lutheran, Fairmont, MN

Organist: Michael Kutch, Music Director, SPLC