

*Celebration of the Life of
Betty M. Thompson
February 26, 1927 - October 4, 2024*



*October 11, 2024
Lord of Love Lutheran Church
10405 Fort Street
Omaha, NE 68134*

Prelude

Gathering

Welcome in the name of Jesus the Savior, who died and was raised to new life by the grace of God. We are gathered here to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister Betty, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We Glorify You.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"..... ELW 502

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister in Christ, Betty. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Illumine our lives, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Choir Anthem: *“Holy and Mighty”*, by Pepper Choplin performed by Lord of Love Choir

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Psalm 23

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

Romans 8:35-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 14:1-6, 27

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Homily: Rev. Becky Sells

Hymn: "On Eagle's Wings" ELW 787

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no

fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

Refrain



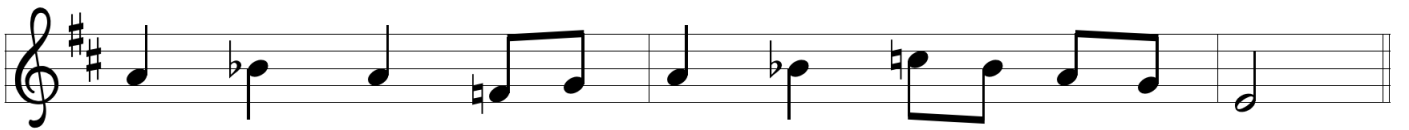
day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.



4 For to the an-gels God's giv - en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain

All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

The Apostle's Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism in the words of the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.
God of mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall 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.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Commendation

P: Let us commend Betty to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Betty. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.
Amen.

Announcements

Sending

P: Let us go forth in peace.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn "Amazing Grace"..... ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Tolling of the bell for every year of Betty's life.

Officiant: Rev. Becky Sells

Organist: Carol Novak

Technical Directors: Chris Rich & Renae Rich

Choir Director/Sound Board: Jon Novak

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Elizabeth (Betty) M Thompson

2.26.1927 – 10.4.2024

Betty is survived by her daughters, Carol Thompson and Beth Olson, son-in-law Tom Olson, grandsons Nicholas (Jess) Olson, and Nathan (Ariel) Olson, granddaughters Heather Christensen and Paula (David) Lawhead, great grandchildren Kyle (Meghan) Christensen, Aspen Lawhead, Pika McCullough, Elijah Lawhead, and Sloane Olson, great great grandsons Oliver, John and Casen Christensen, as well as sister-in-law Lathelle Dale, brother-in-law Glennis Thompson, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to Betty's memory care team at Ovation Heartwood Preserve for the friendship, laughter, care and comfort they provided Betty these past 10 months. She had her favorites and we hope they know how special they were to her.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Nebraska Humane Society, St. Jude's Children's Hospital or a charity of your choice is suggested.

Betty was born in Upper Penns Neck, NJ to Lewis and Rita Mangini. She was the second oldest of three children and lived most of her early life in Penns Grove, NJ, a small town across the Delaware River from Wilmington, DE.

After graduating from high school, she attended business college to learn stenography and bookkeeping and went to work. She met her husband, Gordon Thompson, at a USO dance during the Korean War. Gordon was an ordinance instructor at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. Despite their diverse backgrounds – Betty, from an East Coast Italian family and Gordon, from southern Oklahoma roots -- they embraced their differences, found common ground and were married on May 2, 1953.

Betty was Gordon's co-pilot for 70 years. She relocated 5 times for his career at DuPont. She ran the house, raised their daughters, paid the bills, and supported all of Gordon's efforts, including building several carwashes and owning rental properties. She put her bookkeeping skills to good use in their businesses and by taking part time work at G & O Electric and the Clinton Pallett Company in Clinton, IA. She saved her earnings for their daughters' college tuition and vacations.

Betty was a strong advocate and loving mother to Carol and Beth. She always had a listening ear and kind words of encouragement and support. The girls grew up thinking they could be whatever they wanted to be and felt loved every day of their lives.

Betty and Gordon had family pets for nearly 60 years. Betty loved all animals and devoted 25 years to animal rescue through the Humane Society in Grove, OK. Many times, she and Gordon would care for abandoned puppies and kittens until they were old enough to be adopted out. There were quite a few little ones that she couldn't part with, though, and at one point they had 5 cats and a dog – each one loved for all of their days. Carol and Beth each ended up with at least one kitten from Mom's rescues, too. She did that work until she was about 90 years old.

Flowers, plants and gardens brought Betty a lot of joy. In Oklahoma, she was always on the lookout for a new African Violet or plant to add to her collection of greenery in her kitchen. Sometimes she'd find a really good deal on a ragged little plant at Lowes and turn it into a real beauty. She loved that.

Her plants from home made the move to memory care and they thrived in their new environment. The large window in her room faced a beautiful courtyard and allowed for tons of sunshine and new leaves often appeared. She loved to take a stroll in the courtyard and admire the colorful planters, trees and perennials and watch the birds twittering around and airplanes passing overhead.

Betty was most content when sitting with Gordon on the front porch of their home in Oklahoma watching the world go by. It was THE PLACE to listen to the bird song in the morning, visit with their favorite next-door neighbors, wave at the passersby, and to watch the sun go down in the evening. This was what she missed the most after losing her husband in 2023. We hope that she's sitting with Gordon now on the porch in her new Heavenly home.