

Celebration of Life Service
Karen Renee Finck
September 30, 1945—June 18, 2025



Lord of Love Lutheran Church
10405 Fort Street
Omaha, NE 68134
June 30, 2025 at 10:00am

** -Indicates places to stand, as you are comfortable doing so.*

****Bold type indicates** congregational responses.*


Welcome: 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 Karen, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Prelude: "Shall We Gather at the River"


ELW 423 v. 1 & 4




1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;




with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.




Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



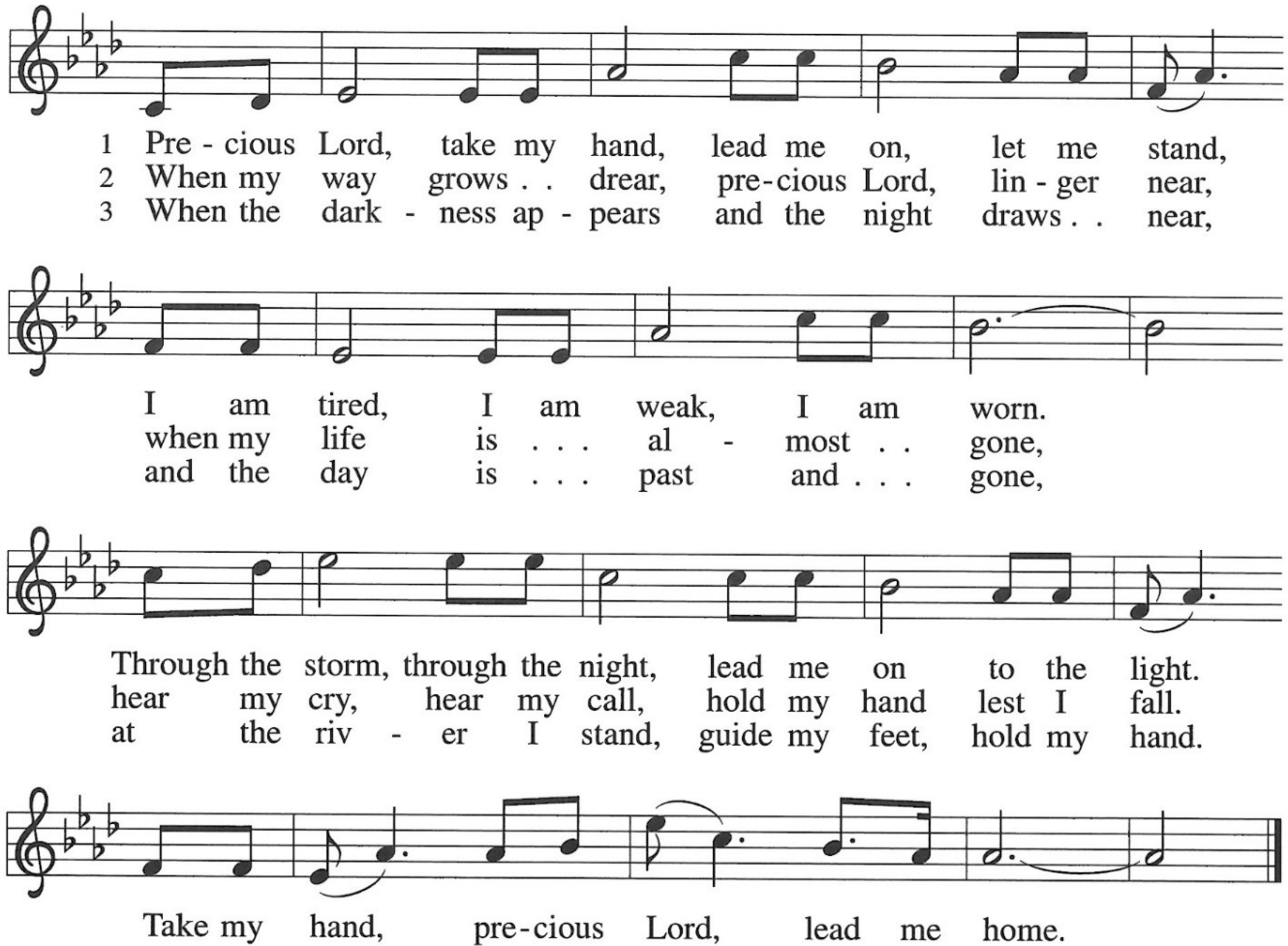
gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.



***Gathering at the Font:** *Please rise as you are comfortable and face the Baptismal Font*
P: 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.

***Processional Hymn: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

ELW 773 v. 1 & 3



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993
Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey
Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

PRECIOUS LORD
Irregular

Please be seated.

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, Karen. 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.

Special Music: "Sweet Hour of Prayer" **Arr. By Clarence Kohlmann**

-Played on the piano by the youngest daughter, Stacy Gill.

Scripture Readings *(Read by Steven Walker, her son-in-law)*

Eccl. 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 (Read in unison together)

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

He leads me beside the still waters.

He restores my soul;

He leads 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 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 runs 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.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

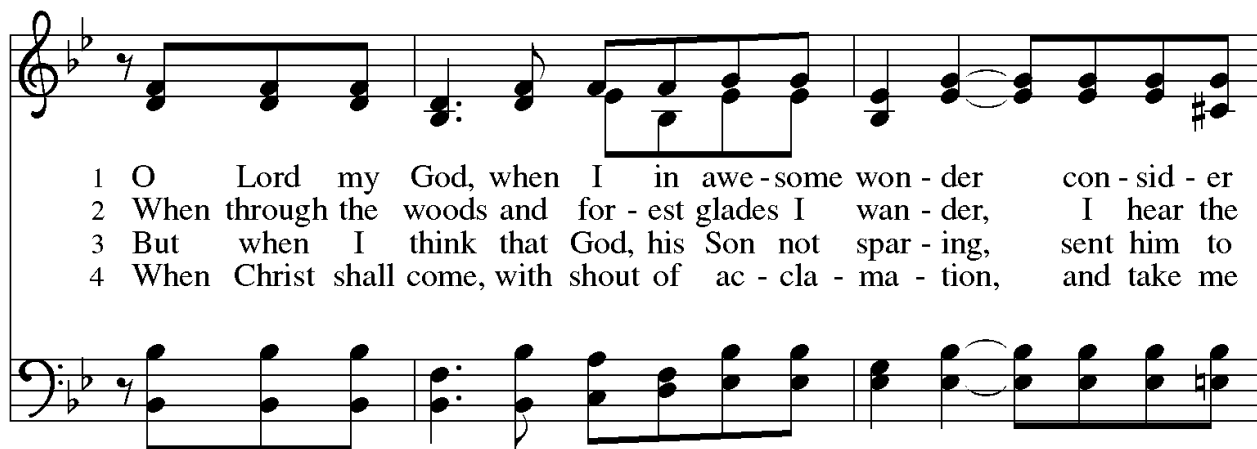
So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

1 Corinthians 13:13 *-This verse was chosen by them to be put on their headstone.*

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Hymn: "How Great Thou Art"

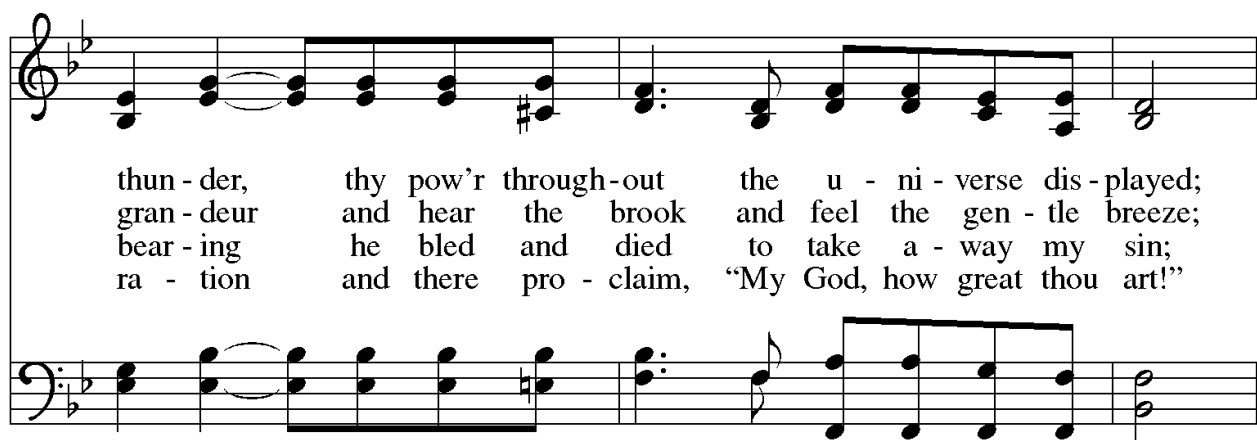
ELW 856 v. 1 &4



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).

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Gospel: John 14:1-6, 2-7 (Read by Pastor Amy)

(Jesus said,) "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. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

Homily:

Pastor Becky Sells (Pre-recorded)

Hymn: "Faith of Our Fathers"

ELW 813 v. 1,2,4



1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 Faith of our moth - ers, dar - ing faith, your work for Christ is
 3 Faith of our sis - ters, broth - ers too, who still must bear op -
 4 Faith born of God, oh, call us yet, bind us with all who



fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
 love re - vealed, spread - ing God's word from pole to pole,
 pres - sion's might, rais - ing on high, in pris - ons dark,
 fol - low you, shar - ing the strug - gle of your cross

Refrain



when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word. Faith of our fa - thers,
 mak - ing love known and free - dom real. Faith of our moth - ers,
 the cross of Christ still burn - ing bright. Faith for to - day, O
 un - til the world is made a - new. Faith born of God, O



ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
 ho - ly faith, we will be true to you till death.
 liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.
 liv - ing faith, we will be true to you till death.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, st. 1, alt; Joseph R. Alfred, b. 1947, sts. 2-4
 Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henri F. Hemy, 1818-1888; James G. Walton, 1821-1905, refrain
 Text sts. 2-4 © Joseph R. Alfred, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's 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

P: 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.**

Service of Holy Communion

-Please rise as you are comfortable.

****The Great Thanksgiving***

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

****Words of Institution***

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for remembrance of me.

****Lord's Prayer***

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

Just a word about communion: You'll come up the center aisle. Fill to the edge of the chancel on each side to receive. Once you have received communion, you will return to your seats down the side aisles back to your seats. If you are in need of a gluten-free option, just let your server know. Otherwise, please note that the wine is red and the grape juice is white. All who believe and wish to receive are welcome at the Lord's table.

Come. All are welcome at the Table of the Lord.

Distribution Music: "On Eagle's Wings" (not sung, just played) ELW 787

Blessing from the table

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Announcement

In just a moment, we'll have the Commendation, but afterwards folks are welcome to head with the family to the Flower Hill Cemetery (off of 144th, just North of Fort St.). Those who do not wish to go out to the cemetery are invited to wait for the others in the Fellowship Hall for the luncheon. The luncheon will start when those who went to the cemetery return.

Commendation

Let us commend Karen to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Karen. 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.

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

ELW # 781

-Karen was a Swede through and through. At Thabor Lutheran Church's centennial celebration in Wausa, NE, all the daughters were taught how to sing the first verse in Swedish and Karen loved hearing it. So today, those who know it are encouraged to sing it with Deb Lund leading us. Then we will sing verses 1-4 together in English.

Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra ä'n Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Sending

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Recessional Music: Growing up, the *Hallelujah Chorus* was often sung at the Christmas Eve Service, but one year the girls played it as a duet instead. And so today's recessional will be the *Hallelujah Chorus* played by her daughter Julie at the organ and Stacy on the piano.

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