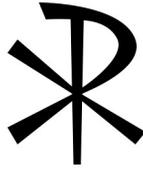


THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL SERVICE FOR
† ERIKA HERDA †



GREETING AND PRAYER

(P)astor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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 the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

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 for Erika, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought her to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even 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.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

RESURRECTION COMFORT

(P)astor: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

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

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

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

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

P: We will be before the throne of God

C: And serve him day and night in his temple.

P: Never again will we hunger;

C: Never again will we thirst.

P: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

P: Let us pray.

God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise 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.

C: Amen.

LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

LESSON

JOB 19:23-27

²³ "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 upon 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!

HYMN

#152

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

VERSES 1,5,7,8



²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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

#200

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

PLEASE STAND FOR VERSE 4

PRAYERS

P: Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Erika, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving her to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

OBITUARY

Erika Herda passed away peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, at the age of 91 to be with her Lord. She was preceded in death by her husband, Helmut Herda; a brother Heinrich, and two sisters, Christa and Hilde. Erika is survived by her children, Wolfgang Herda (Gloria), Peter Herda, and Kristina Herda Tortorici (Marc); grandchildren, Erik Scott Herda, Lauren Bolger (Jeff), Monika Tortorici, Marcus Tortorici, and her great grandchildren, Erika Dawn, Kaylee, and Isabella; along with many nieces and nephews here and in Germany.

She was born in Bad Lippspringe, Germany, and with her family moved to Birmingham in 1958. She enjoyed cooking, entertaining, and serving her church. Erika's generosity and kind heart were an inspiration to all who knew her. She was active until the last week of her life, enjoying her family and friends.

Memorial services will be held at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1074 Dunnivant Valley Road, on Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 2 pm, with visitation at 1 pm. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, where she was a long time member.

COVER ARTWORK

The Easter lily and the Easter season coincide with the beginning of spring, a time of renewal and rebirth. They are a special symbol of Christ's resurrection and the renewal and rebirth that he brings to us through faith.

The crown reminds us of Jesus promise in Revelation, "**Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life**" (Revelation 2:10).

The cross is where Christ paid for the sins of the world, gave us his righteousness, and makes an eternity with him possible!

They are all fitting symbols and reminders of the promises and comfort God gave to Erika and now gives to us as we mourn.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Preservice: Ms. Hannah Kratz, Ms. Makayla Benz (In Christ Alone)

Organ: Mrs. Rhoda Holbrook

Baritone: Pastor Ben Kratz

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