

"I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

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# THE FUNERAL SERVICE OF IRENE SELMA MATZKE

Zion Lutheran Church, El Paso, Texas

May 5, 2021

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## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC WELCOME

Bruce Nehring, organ  
Pastor Stephen Heimer

## INVOCATION AND BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**G** Amen.

- P** As a father shows compassion to his children  
**G** so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.  
**P** For he knows how we are made; he remembers that we are dust.  
**G** As for us, our days are like grass; we flourish like a flower  
**P** the wind passes over us, we are gone, our place is known no more  
**G** But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness upon their children's children, to those who keep faith with His promises. (Psalm 103)

## REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

- P** In Holy Baptism Irene 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?" (Romans 6:3)  
**G** "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 6:4-5)

## HYMN OF RESURRECTION WONDER

"How Great Thou Art" LSB 801

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed

ref Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

3 But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in—  
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!" *Refrain*

## THE PROMISES OF GOD IN HOLY SCRIPTURE

### PSALM OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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 paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 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. 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 forever.**

### EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:1–9

<sup>1</sup>For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup>if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. <sup>4</sup>For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup>He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

<sup>6</sup>So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

## HYMN OF RESURRECTION HOPE

"Rock of Ages" LSB 761

- 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
- 3 Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.  
<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going."  
<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

## MEDITATION

"At Home With the Lord"

## HYMN OF RESURRECTION PEACE

"Amazing Grace" LSB 744

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

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

**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.**

## **PASTORAL PRAYERS**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

## **WORDS FROM FAMILY**

Rev. Gerald Matzke

### **NUNC DIMITTIS**

**A** Jesus declared, "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."

**G** **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.**

**A** "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 PRAYER**

**P** 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 Nancy and all whom 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.

## **BENEDICTION**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and +† give you peace.
- G** **Amen.**

## **HYMN OF RESURRECTION JOY** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" LSB 461

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.
- 2 He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.
- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;  
He lives to wipe away my tears;  
He lives to calm my troubled heart;  
He lives all blessings to impart.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;  
He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
He lives my mansion to prepare;  
He lives to bring me safely there.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## *Irene Selma Matzke*

Irene Selma Matzke was born January 29, 1920 to Johann George Henry Nuechterlein, and Rosine Martha Hoerauf. She was raised in Saginaw, Michigan, and married Donald George Matzke, December 16, 1944. They were married 60 years. He preceded her in death September 22, 2005.

While living in Saginaw they became parents to son Gerald Donald. They moved to Lorain, Ohio in 1949, and Beth Ann was born there. They continued to live in Lorain for many years, and Irene wore many hats. She was active at Zion Lutheran Church, serving in Altar Guild, Mother's Club, choir, and was also active with PTA, and VFW. She also worked outside the home when the children were older. She worked in the bindery of the print shop, ran a postal sub-station, and worked as a clerk at Fligner's Market in Lorain, until retiring. Retiring they loved to travel and spent many months on the road in their van. Traveling to 47 of the 50 states, stopping frequently to visit family and friends and enjoying the sights.

After living in Lorain many years, they moved to south Texas, to be closer to daughter Beth. It was while living there Donald was lifted to his heavenly home. She later moved with family to El Paso where she lived until her being lifted with angels to her heavenly home April 5, 2021.

She is preceded in death by her parents, sisters Gladys Yeager, Margaret Walter, Marion Eurich, Ruth Kluck, and brothers Ralph Nuechterlein, Robert Nuechterlein and their spouses.

She is survived by her children Gerald and Susan Matzke, and Beth Ann and Ramon Montanez, grandchildren, Mark and Sue Matzke, Todd and Judith Albertsen, Michael and Sharon Montañez, Bruce and Kimberly Chadwick, Ramon and Alicia Montañez, Tiffani and Erik Escobedo. She is also survived by many great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.



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