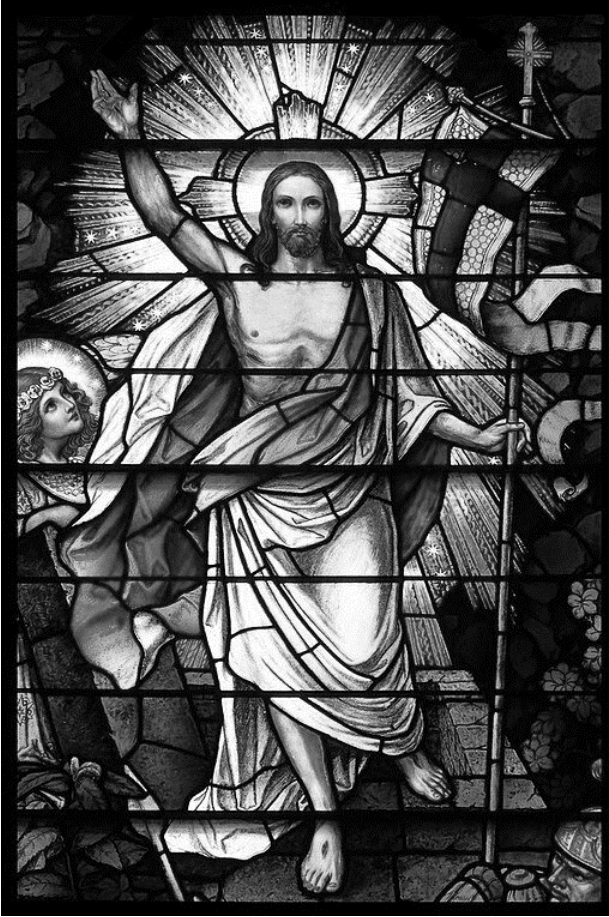


I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE



Judy Ann Ahrens

Entered This Life ~ 31 July 1949



Entered God's Glory ~ 27 January 2025

The Christian Funeral

**By Laren Shiley
Daniel G. Reunig, Editor**

Purpose of a Christian Funeral

- 1 - to hear the comfort of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a time of grief and trouble;
- 2 - to proclaim the power of God and grace which redeems and saves His children;
- 3 - to remember Jesus Christ is the First fruits of those who have fallen asleep and thus is our continuing hope;
- 4 - to witness publicly to the joy of our faith in God and to the victory we have through our loving Savior;
- 5 - to receive comfort in the knowledge of a joyful reunion with our loved ones in the resurrection;
- 6 - to face death knowing Jesus Christ has delivered us from sin, from the power of death and the devil, giving eternal salvation to all who believe in Him.
- 7 - to praise God from whom all blessings flow as He our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter has shown us in His eternal Word.

801 How Great Thou Art



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!

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*Stand***Invocation**

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

C Amen.

Remembrance of Baptism

P In Holy Baptism Judy 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.

Psalm 23 (ESV)

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even 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.

⁵You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

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

Gloria Patri

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy upon us.

C Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

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 Judy 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:27–31

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God?”

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;

³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

Acts 16:25–31

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse

LSB 279

P Alleluia, alle- | luia.*
Jesus Christ is the firstborn | of the dead;

C to Him be glory and power for- | ever.*
Alle- | luia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-6

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

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

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles’ Creed

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.**

Please be seated

861 Christ Be My Leader



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024 Tune: Irish Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003744 Tune: Public domain

Sermon - “A Household of Hope”

Acts 16:31

Kneel/Stand

Prayer of the Church

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

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

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

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction and Dismissal

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.**

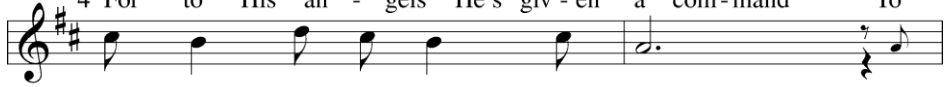
P Let us go forth in peace,

C **in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

727 On Eagles' Wings



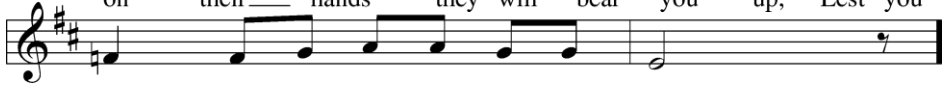
1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
 2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
 3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
 4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com - mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
 fam - ine will bring you no fear;
 ar - row that flies by day; Though
 guard you in all of your ways; Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My
 Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
 thou - sands fall a - bout you,
 on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!"
 faith - ful - ness your shield.
 Near you it shall not come.
 dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

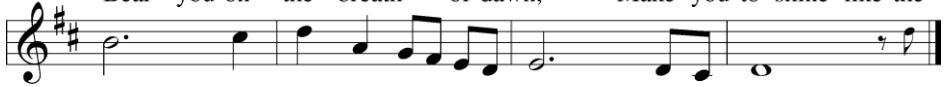
Refrain



And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

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Acknowledgments

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The service will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

It can be viewed afterward for those that cannot attend.

<https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurchKearney>

www.youtube.com/@zionlutherankearney9824

The interment service will take place at the Kearney Cemetery immediately after the service.
You are invited to come back to the Zion Gymnasium where a luncheon will be served.

Committal Service

Procession to the Grave

Blessing of the Grave

The Reading

The Committal

Lord's Prayer & Closing Prayer

878:1,6 Abide With Me

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

- P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! C: He is risen indeed!
P: Let us go forth in peace C: In the name of the Lord.
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 T give you peace.
C: Amen.

“Common Doxology”

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Tune and text: Public domain

Obituary

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brings life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through Judy.

Born on July 31, 1949, to Gilbert M. and Anna H. (Grams) Martenson in Kearney Nebraska. She attended Zion Lutheran School, kindergarten through eighth grade, Kearney Junior and Senior High Schools 9 through 12, graduating in 1967. During high school she was involved in booster club and worked for A&W restaurant through 1968. She was then employed by Kearney Laundry prior to moving to rural Kearney County to become a homemaker, mother of three children, and operating an in-home childcare.

Upon returning to Kearney in 1979 she worked as Parts Dept Manager for DeLuxe Manufacturing. In 1982 she married Randall Ahrens, and added to her family, her fourth child, continuing to reside in Kearney, she began employment with "The Booster" newspaper, later known as "Penny Press" as typesetter for several years, until owning and operating Ladybug childcare for 14 years. Caring for some of her grandchildren at that time led to the other children to know her as "Grandma Judy."

As proof of her strong faith and commitment to the Lord, she was a lifetime member of the church and taught Sunday school for several years. She was an active member on the Board of Stewardship, Church Council Secretary and Mary Martha Guild for several years. In 1976 through 1978, she was the leader for the Goldenrods 4-H club in Kearney County. She was Cub Scout Den leader and Cub-Scout Pack Secretary in Kearney in 1981 through 1983 and served again in 1990 through 1994. She will be remembered for her strong Christian faith, her pillar of strength and courage and most of all her beautiful smile and natural beauty, which is loved most by her husband, Randy.

Her talent for sewing over the years brought her much joy, eventually leading to the making of her own bridal gown as this was a great accomplishment she treasured. Even through her trials with her illness, she was still able to assist with the making of several quilts to be sent to third world countries and was able to gift all of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren homemade gifts, which consisted of pillows, blankets, and special purses.

Left to cherish her memory is her husband, Randy of Kearney, daughter Kristi (Jack) Gleason of Kearney, Kurt (Jill) Gibbs of Rosedale, Lanny (Pam) Gibbs of Pleasanton, Tony (Lacey) Ahrens of Kearney, sister Jeanne (George) Day of Amherst, Brother Jim (Diane) Martenson, of Holdrege. Grandchildren, Amber (Rick) Lett of Merrillville, Indiana, Nick Journey, and fiancé Devin Barker Holdrege, Corey (Kenzie) Journey, Kearney, Noah (Brenna) Journey of Grand Island, Emmalee (Nick) Eckert, of Wood River, Paige, Kenzie, and Cooper Ahrens, and Emma Kutsch all of Kearney. 11 great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and extended family members.

She was proceeded in death by her parents, brothers John and Jerry Martenson, one nephew and one niece.

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord for our sister, Judy.