

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF**

Chris Rasmussen
December 25, 1949 ~ June 25, 2025



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GATHERING

INTRODUCTION

The assembly stands.

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister, Chris to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall is placed on the urn.

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.

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.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

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.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Chris. 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. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES

READING: Romans 5: 2-5, 8

After the reading:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 *Read in unison*

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.

GOSPEL: John 14: 1-6

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN *I know That My Redeemer Lives (1, 2, 4, 7, 8)*

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

ELW #619

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!

He lives triumphant from the grave;
he lives eternally to save;
he lives exalted, throned above;
he lives to rule his church in love.

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.

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.

He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a handshake as a sign of Christ's peace and may say **Peace be with you** or similar words. When all have returned to their places, the assembly is seated as the altar is prepared. The assembly stands when invited by the presiding minister.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung as a solo)

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.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

***Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.*

DISTRIBUTION: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. **WINE** is received either by Common Cup or from individual glasses in trays. For those requiring it for health reasons, **GRAPE JUICE** is dark and in the center of each tray. **USED GLASSES** are to be placed in the basket located near the ramp. **GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE**, please indicate to the server that you require this option.

COMMUNION MUSIC *Eagles Wings* (Sung as solo)

When all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

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

COMMENDATION

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

Silence is kept.

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

SENDING

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go in peace,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *How Great Thou Art*

ELW #856

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;

Refrain

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!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ***Refrain***

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***
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***

*While immediate family and ministers move to the Memorial Garden for the committal,
all are invited to proceed directly to the Activity Center for the luncheon.*

In Christ Alone

*In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live*

*There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand*



CHRIS RASMUSSEN



In the quiet hours of June 25th, our beloved **Christine Ann Rasmussen** left us unexpectedly. Though words fall short of capturing the depth of our loss, we remember her with profound love and gratitude.

Born on Christmas Day, 1949, in Seneca Falls, New York, Christine was the cherished daughter of the late Louis and Anna (Morganti) Pagano.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 53 years, Arthur “Sam” Rasmussen; her sons, Aaron (Jen) of Ohio and Nathan of California; her adored grandchildren, Emma and Drew; her brother, Louis (Gerre) Pagano; and her grand dog, George. She was a loving aunt to many nieces, and a loyal friend to countless more.

Christine, affectionately known as Chris, was the heart of her family — a fiercely loving wife, mother, and Nona. Her greatest pride was her children and grandchildren, whose lives she enriched with unwavering support. She has sat through countless baseball, soccer, basketball, lacrosse games and even a few steel drum concerts, and there is no other place she would rather have been.

As a dedicated educator in the Valparaiso School System for 40 years, Chris’s impact was both profound and enduring. In the early years, she taught at Vale Day School and served on the Board of Directors of Opportunity Enterprises and Vale School. She started teaching at Memorial and ended her career at Flint Elementary School. Generations of students, colleagues, and families were shaped by her love for teaching and reading.

Chris was an absolute people person. Her friend group had no boundaries. She had grade school friends, college friends, teaching friends, book club friends, Tri-Kappa friends, neighborhood friends, even the friends she met in the grocery store. Her willingness to give to them was unmatched, if any of them needed something, she would be there.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the Valpo Schools Foundation, in Chris’s name to establish a scholarship for a student pursuing elementary education. www.valposchoolsfoundation.org.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
PASTOR TIMOTHY KNAUFF, JR.
PASTOR ERICA GIBSON-EVEN
DR. JOHN BERNTHAL, ORGANIST

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025

10:30 A.M.