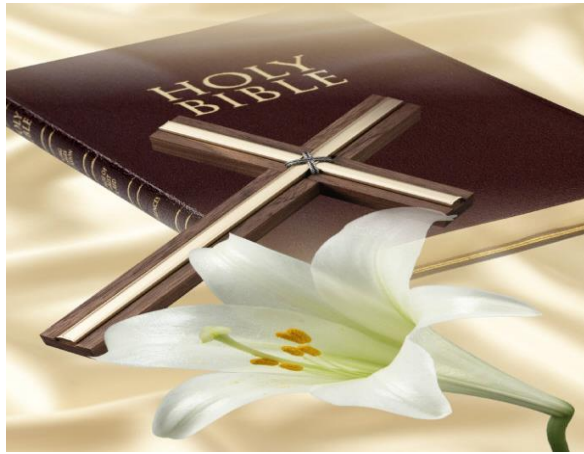


A Christian Victory Service

for

Helen Katheryn Bishop



**Be faithful,
even to the point
of death,
and I will give you
the crown of life.**

Revelation 2:10

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Citrus Heights, California
Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Service held at St. Mark's Lutheran in Citrus Heights, CA
May 21, 2021 12:00 P.M.

*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair" 2 Corinthians 4.*

A prayer: Teach us, Lord of heaven and earth, to number our days aright. Hear our prayers and open our ears to the message You have prepared for us this day. Fill our hearts and minds with the peace which can only come from You as we mourn the earthly departure of Helen and at the same time celebrate the eternal victory she has received by Your grace. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Pastor: We begin this Christian Victory Service in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: (spoken) Amen.

P: 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 Helen, 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.

A: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

How Great Thou Art
Christian Worship (red) # 256

*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.
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,
And 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,
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!”*

P: We turn our attention to these words of Psalm 23. The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures,

A: he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

P: He guides 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;

A: your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.

A: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

A: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: We hear these words of Resurrection Comfort: 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.” Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

A: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

P: When Christ, who is our life appears,

A: Then we also will appear with him in glory,

P: We will be before the throne of God

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

P: Never again will we hunger;

A: 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.

A: 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.

A: Amen.

(sing, intro)

*And 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.
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 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!”
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!”*

A Reading from Holy Scripture --- Isaiah 40:1-8, 28-31

Helen was able to receive comfort in the fact her salvation was not dependant on her way of life, but on the Lord and His plan of salvation which comes with eternal blessings.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. ⁷ The

grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

P: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from Holy Scripture --- 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Our confidence does not come from the here and now, rather it rests on what has been prepared by God for those who believe.

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

P: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Reading of the Obituary ... See Page 9

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

Christian Worship # 219

*Lord, when your glory I shall see ... And taste your kingdom's pleasure,
Your blood my royal robe shall be, ... My joy beyond all measure!
When I appear before your throne, ... Your righteousness shall be my crown;
With these I need not hide me. ... And there, in garments richly wrought,
As your own bride I shall be brought ... To stand in joy beside you.*



A Reading from Holy Scripture --- John 20:24-31

Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. There is plenty of proof before us even if we do not see Him in the flesh. We are encouraged to believe and live!

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” ²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

P: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound

Christian Worship # 379

*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.*

*The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.*

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

*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.*

Further words based on Holy Scripture – Hebrews 11:1-2

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

² This is what the ancients were commended for.

Talking Point - "Helen Had Confidence"

A Confession of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed (...the foundation of Christian faith)

You are welcome to join the Pastor in speaking these words...

P: 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

Musical Introduction

In Christ Alone

Christian Worship Supplement (blue) # 752

***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.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev’ry sin on him was laid. Here in the death of Christ 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 pow’r of Christ in me;
From life’s first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home, Here in the pow’r of Christ I’ll stand.***

P: Let us pray... 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, Helen, whom You have redeemed by the blood of Your Son. 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,

A: 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,

A: 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,

A: Hear our prayer.

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

A: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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

A: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Abide with Me
Christian Worship # 588

*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!*

~~~~~  
**For Further Personal Reflection:**

Psalm 103:8-17  
Romans 8:18, 28-39

**...for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**

**Romans 10:13**  
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A look at Helen's earthly journey

Helen Kathryn Bishop was born on December 28, 1934 in Springfield, Missouri to James and Norene Coldren. She married Kenneth Bishop on March 20, 1954 in Corcoran, California, he was stationed in San Diego at the time they met in 1952; they were married for 60 years.

In 1962 Ken and Helen moved from the Berkley area to North Highlands. For 23 years Helen worked for the State of California, the Franchise Tax Board. In 1999 Ken and Helen became members at St. Mark's Lutheran in Citrus Heights. While her family was of most importance, Helen also enjoyed doing puzzles, watching gameshows and Hallmark movies, along with old western movies, playing Trivia and Bingo, she also admitted that she was a Giants fan.

On April 7, 2022 in Roseville, California Helen passed away peacefully with family at her side. She was preceded in death by her husband and oldest son, John. She is survived by her three sons (Mike, Russ, and Rick), eleven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren, along with other relatives and friends.

*O God the Father in heaven, have mercy on us.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
O God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.*

Internment will take place at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA at a later date.

If you would like to offer a gift in memory of Helen, the family has asked that gifts be given to St. Mark's. Gifts will go toward the St. Mark's School Tuition Assistance Fund and the Campus Improvement Fund. An online gifting option is available at www.stmarkslutheran.com/giving/



Officiant

*Pastor Jonathan Kolander
Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

Accompanist

*Rosemarie Boushek
Member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

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Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross

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Sunday Services at 8:00 & 10:45 AM
St. Mark's Elementary School: JrK through Grade 8

JESUS CHRIST

YESTERDAY, TODAY,
AND THE SAME
FOREVER.

HEB·13-8



