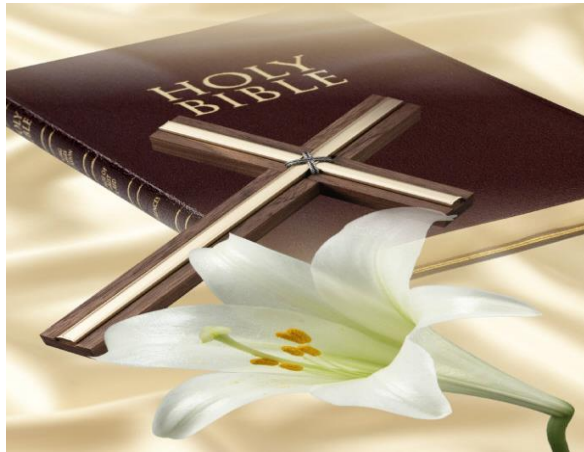


A Christian Victory Service

for

Margaret Elsie Coats



**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
August 1, 2022 11:00 A.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 Margaret 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 Margaret, 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

On Eagles' Wings

Christian Worship (red) # 440

***You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in his shadow for life, Say to the Lord: "My refuge,
My rock in whom I trust!"***

*(Refrain) And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*Snares of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear; Under his wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.*

*(Refrain) And he will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*For to his angels he's given a command
To guard you in all of your ways; Upon their hands they will bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Refrain*

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: 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.

A Reading from Holy Scripture --- Psalm 121

The Lord God gives a glimpse of who He is and what He is doing for us, even through eternity as Margaret now knows full well.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? ²My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; ⁶the sun will not harm you

by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; ⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

P: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

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.

A Reading from Holy Scripture --- 1 Peter 1:13-25

A reminder of what endures in and through this life, and how we, as Margaret did, are to go about this life in light of this truth.

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. ¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” ¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For, “All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word which was preached to you.”

P: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

Reading of the Obituary ... See Page 8

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 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Talking Point - "Margaret Was Connected To A Sure Thing"



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.

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, Margaret, 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,

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.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

There Is a Higher Throne

Christian Worship Supplement (blue) # 727

*There is a higher throne than all this world has known,
Where faithful ones from ev'ry tongue will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand, made faultless through the Lamb;
Believing hearts find promised grace; salvation comes. Refrain ...*

*Hear heaven's voices sing; their thund'rous anthem rings.
Through em'erald courts and sapphire skies their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and honor are
to God our King who reigns on high forevermore.*

*And there we'll find our home, our life before the throne.
We'll honor him in perfect song where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear-stained eye as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd-King; we'll reign with him. Refrain ...*

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

The words of the Hymn are on the next page

*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!*

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**For Further Personal Reflection:**

Psalm 103:8-17

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

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

**Romans 10:13**

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A Snapshot of Margaret's earthly journey

Margaret Elsie Coats was born on April 23, 1924 and baptized on May 1, 1924. She was confirmed in the faith on April 1, 1937. Margaret had been a member of St. Mark's since 1978. The Lord called her home to Himself in heaven on June 24, 2022 at the age of 98 years. Her mortal remains will be laid to rest in Redding, CA to await the great day of resurrection.

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.



Officiant

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

Accompanist

*Lisa Thiesfeldt
Member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

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