

# LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Pastor Steve M. Saxe



## ✠ MEMORIAL SERVICE ✠

October 7, 2020, 7:00 PM

**Alice Ruth Stephenson**  
**June 28, 1922-October 3, 2020**

*Please turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the nave.  
If you need to leave the service please do so during the hymns.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.
- P** In Holy Baptism the servant of God, Alice Ruth, was clothed with Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul writes, "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. *Romans 6:3-5*

## Entrance Hymn

LSB # 818 *In Thee is Gladness*

1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,  
2 Since He is ours, \_\_\_\_\_ We fear no pow - ers, Not of  
sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of  
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -  
heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou  
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where-fore the  
wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -  
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -  
cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for

pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing  
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him

To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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### Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on 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 Alice 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.

*Sit*

#### First Reading:

*Romans 5:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— <sup>8</sup>but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

### **Psalm**

*Psalm 43*

<sup>1</sup>Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause  
against an ungodly | people,\*  
from the deceitful and unjust man  
de- | liver me!

<sup>2</sup>For you are the God in whom I take refuge;  
why have you re- | jected me?\*

Why do I go about mourning  
because of the oppression of the | enemy?

<sup>3</sup>Send out your light and your truth;  
let them | lead me;\*

let them bring me to your holy hill  
and to your | dwelling!

<sup>4</sup>Then I will go to the altar of God,  
to God my ex- | ceeding joy,\*  
and I will praise you with the lyre,  
O | God, my God.

<sup>5</sup>Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?\*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation | and my God.

**Δ Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit;**  
**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever,| Amen.**

### **Epistle**

*Romans 11:11-24*

<sup>11</sup>So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

<sup>12</sup>Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

<sup>13</sup>Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry <sup>14</sup>in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. <sup>15</sup>For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? <sup>16</sup>If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

<sup>17</sup>But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup>do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. <sup>19</sup>Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." <sup>20</sup>That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. <sup>21</sup>For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. <sup>22</sup>Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. <sup>23</sup>And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup>For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### The Holy Gospel

**Verse**

**A** Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;  
to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia

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

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

**Holy Gospel**

*St. John 1:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**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 catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Hymn**

**LSB # 725 Children of the Heavenly Father**



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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## Sermon

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

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

*After each petition the responses are:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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,**

Hollowed 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

**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."*

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. 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.

- 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 Collect

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, our Good 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; 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 and Benediction

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**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 T give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Let us go forth in peace,

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

*Stand*

### Closing Hymn

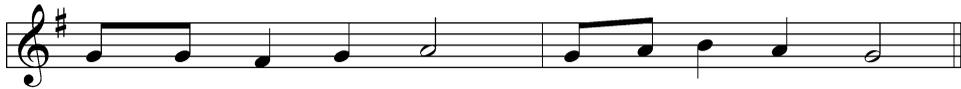
**LSB # 718** *Jesus, Lead Thou On*



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief From a long - felt grief, When temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.  
fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.  
still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.  
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.  
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.  
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

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***Acknowledgments***

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## Alice Ruth Stephenson – “Blessed to be a Blessing”



On **June 28<sup>th</sup> of 1922** Alice Ruth Witt was born in Winthrop, Minnesota. Alice was the third child for Martha and Henry Witt. She was a premature infant, so small at birth that she slept swaddled in a shoe box. On Sunday, **July 16<sup>th</sup> of 1922** Alice was Baptized at Zion Lutheran Church in Winthrop, becoming a saved child of God through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. She was also confirmed in the faith at Zion Lutheran on **June 7<sup>th</sup> of 1936**.

After high school Alice pursued continuing education and became a Registered Nurse. Her profession included a time working as a nurse in California during WWII. However, the geographic focus of nursing was Duluth, Minnesota at the start and continued to be her “work home” until she retired a little over four decades later.

In Duluth Alice met Miles Stephenson. After the conclusion of WWII and after Miles’ term of military service were completed they joined themselves to each other as husband and wife. They were married on **June 5<sup>th</sup> in 1945**. Alice and Miles provided a loving and nurturing home for their three children; Jenine, Jeffery and Roderick, who would arrive one by one over the next decade.

Whether during the years of childhood in Winthrop or during the decades to follow, Alice always was a person who walked her faith. She and Miles saw to it that they and their children enjoyed the blessings of faith-life and active involvement in a congregation of the faithful. During those years of running their household they established and kept active membership at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Duluth. Their children each attended Sunday School and worship. Alice and Miles provided the constant, loving and (as needed) firm support which led the children as each of them began their faith walk.

When the children were grown and out on their own, Alice and Miles considered “retirement” options. They moved to Naples, Florida. In Naples they continued their walk of faith – becoming active members at Messiah Lutheran. One Sunday morning in 2002, after having attended morning worship and while sitting with friends at church, Miles left for heaven. It was her strong faith in the love of our Lord Jesus which carried Alice through that crushing change.

It continued to be her strong faith which guided and sustained her over these passing years. Even in the battle against advancing Alzheimer’s, God’s constant love and support was her fuel of life.

A half-dozen years ago one of Alice's daughters-in-law asked what she would do first when she arrived in heaven. The answer was immediate and clear. "I'll run to the arms of Jesus!"

Alice is survived by her daughter Jenine and son-in-law Mark (Bristol), by her son Jeff and daughter-in-law Selma and by her son Rod and daughter-in-law Deb. She is also survived by grandchildren and great-grandchildren and even by great-great grandchildren.

All of us who have been blessed by Mom's faith-walk throughout our lives miss her dearly. Even so, we know without any doubt that her feet ran and Jesus got that thank-you hug.