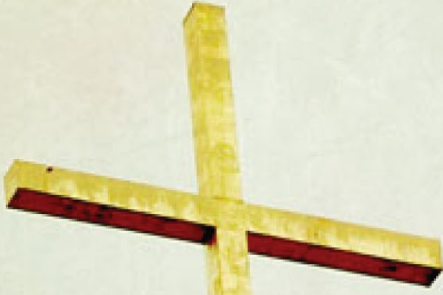


July 11, 2024

Funeral of Debbie Swanson



HE ALONE IS MY
ROCK AND MY
SALVATION....

PSALM 62:6, NIV

The Christian Funeral
of
Debora “Debbie” A. Swanson

Thursday, July 11, 2024 at 11:00am
Salem Lutheran Church ~ Stillwater, Minnesota

We Welcome You In Jesus' Name

Preservice music for meditation & prayer

Remembrance of Baptism

M: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: In Holy Baptism, Debbie was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul affirms, *“In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”*

The apostle also writes, *“All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”*

M: Christ is risen!

C: **He is risen, indeed!**

Psalm 23

M: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

C: **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.**

God's Comfort

M: 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 from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

M: The wages of sin is death,

C: but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

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

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: 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 the loss of Debbie, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts; dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing Debbie to faith and giving her the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word and sacraments, and keep us in the saving faith until we are united with you and all the saints where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Scripture Reading

Revelation 21:1-7

¹Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

⁶He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Scripture Reading

John 3:16-18

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Scripture Reading

Revelation 3:20-22

²⁰Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

²¹To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²²Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Music: I Can Only Imagine

By Chris Tomlin

I can only imagine what it will be like, when I walk by your side.
I can only imagine what my eyes would see, when your face is before me.
I can only imagine.

Chorus

Surrounded by your glory what will my heart feel?
Will I dance for you Jesus, or in awe of you be still?
Will I stand in your presence or to my knees will I fall?
Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?
I can only imagine. I can only imagine.

I can only imagine when that day comes, and I find myself standing in the Son.
I can only imagine when all I will do is forever, forever worship you.
I can only imagine. (*Chorus*)

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

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.**

Music: Untitled Hymn

By Chris Rice

Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die,
Oh, raise your head for Love is passing by.
Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus. Come to Jesus and live.

Now your burden's lifted and carried far away.
And precious blood has washed away the stain.
So sing to Jesus. Sing to Jesus. Sing to Jesus and live.

And like a newborn baby, don't be afraid to crawl.
And remember when you walk sometimes we fall.
So fall on Jesus. Fall on Jesus. Fall on Jesus and live.

Sometimes the way is lonely and steep and filled with pain.
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain,
Then cry to Jesus. Cry to Jesus. Cry to Jesus and live.

Oh and when the love spills over and music fills the night,
And when you can't contain your joy inside,
Then dance for Jesus. Dance for Jesus. Dance for Jesus and live.

With your final heartbeat, kiss the world goodbye.
Then go in peace and laugh on Glory's side.
Fly to Jesus. Fly to Jesus. Fly to Jesus and live.

Prayer of Comfort

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

M: O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

M: 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.

C: Amen.

Family Thank You Letter

Music: God's Great Dance Floor

By Chris Tomlin

Recessional

Service Participants

Worship Leaders: Pastors Ryan Wolfe & Jacob Schram

PASCHAL CANDLE: The large candle next to the baptismal font symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World; Its large size symbolizes Jesus as the mighty Victor over death and sin. It is lit at every baptism, for *“we are buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* (Romans 6:4) It is kept burning throughout the Easter season and always lighted for Christian funerals to show the close connection between Christ's resurrection and the Christian's resurrection to life eternal.

Invitation to Fellowship

After the service today, family and friends are invited to a luncheon in the school gymnasium downstairs.

Our Prayer for Each of You

It is our prayer that the Word of God which brought so much comfort to Debbie also brought you comfort today. The message of our Savior who lived, died and rose again leads us believers to mourn not like the rest of the world, but as people who have the sure hope of a reunion because of Christ. If we can comfort or guide you in the future with this same life-saving message, please do not hesitate to contact us. God be with you.





Debbie A. Swanson
1963 – 2024

With profound sadness, we say goodbye to Debora A. Swanson of Osceola, Wisconsin, whose vibrant spirit touched the lives of many. Debora left this world on July 2, 2024 at the age of 61, leaving a void in the lives of so many people.

As we bid farewell to this luminous soul, let her loved ones carry forward the torch of her memory, illuminating the path ahead with the warmth of her love and the brilliance of her spirit. Though Debbie may journey beyond the horizon of our sight, her essence remains woven into the very fabric of our being — a guiding light in the darkness, a beacon of hope in the night.

She was predeceased by her parents, Ervin Schwalich and Rose Schwalich; her brother Tommy; and her father-in-law Wayne Swanson. She is survived by her husband Steve; her daughters, Stephanie (Aaron Heille), Angela (Nate Rogney) and Jennifer (David Boucher); her grandchildren, Zachary and Vivian; and her pets, Charlie and Button.

Her body will be laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery in East Farmington, WI to await a glorious resurrection on the Last Day.

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.” ~ Revelation 7:10