**CEMETERY DECORATION SERVICE- AUGUST 13, 2023 @ 2:00**

**ZION, PHILIPSBURG**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship today to all of you here in person and to our members and friends gathered online. We gather today to celebrate and commemorate the lives of the our loved ones buried here at Zion.

Much of the service is found in your bulletin. The hymns can be found in the cranberry hymnal.

Finish service outdoors?

We begin our service with the lighting of the Christ Candle. May its light shine in our lives as we share in the sorrow and memories of our dearly departed.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather here in this church and on the Holy grounds of our cemetery.

A sacred resting space for our dearly beloved family members and friends.

**We come sharing our joys and happiness**

**We come shouldering our grief, sorrow and memories**

We bring our doubts, hurts, and questions

And lay everything into your hands loving and compassionate God.

**God our protector, our parent, who was and who is**

**And who always shall be.**

Let us remember our loved ones as we worship and praise God this day.

**OPENING HYMN- *Beautiful Savior (838)***

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,

fair are the woodlands,

robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,

he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,

bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer

than all the angels in the sky.

4.Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration,

now and forevermore be thine!

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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**

Almighty God,

Your love never fails, and you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Help us receive your promises with open hearts, that we may have hope and be lifted from our sorrow into joy and peace. We rejoice in the lives of those who have died. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every time and place,

Gathered before your throne in ceaseless praise.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

**WORD**

**1ST READING: Isaiah 49:13b-16a**

13Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
 For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his suffering ones.  
 14But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me,  my LORD has forgotten me."  
 15Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?  Even these may forget,  yet I will not forget you.  
 16See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
 your walls are continually before me.

The word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 46:1-7- read responsively by whole verse.**

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

**6 The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.**

7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

**HYMN- *Children of The Heavenly Father* (781**)

1 Children of the heav'nly Father

safely in his bosom gather;

nestling bird nor star in heaven

such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God his own doth tend and nourish,

in his holy courts they flourish.

From all evil things he spares them,

in his mighty arms he bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever

from the Lord his children sever;

unto them his grace he showeth,

and their sorrows all he knoweth.

4 Though he giveth or he taketh,

God his children ne'er forsaketh;

his the loving purpose solely

to preserve them pure and holy.

**2ND READING: Romans 8:28-35, 37-39**

28We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 29For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 30And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.  
31What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 35Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: John 11: 21-27**

The Holy Gospel according to John

**Glory to You, O Lord**

21Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

The gospel of Our Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me* (ELW 767)**

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me  
upon life's way;  
direct, protect, and feed me  
from day to day.  
Without your grace and favor  
I go astray;  
so take my hand, O Savior,  
and lead the way.  
  
2 Lord, when the tempest rages,  
I need not fear;  
for you, the Rock of Ages,  
are always near.  
Close by your side abiding,  
I fear no foe,  
for when your hand is guiding,  
in peace I go.  
  
3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen  
and night has come,  
I know that you will strengthen  
my steps toward home,  
then nothing can impede me,  
O blessed Friend!  
So, take my hand and lead me  
unto the end.

**CREED (ELW p. 217)**

**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.**

**PRAYERS**

O God. We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you on this earth, who now rest from their labours, especially Helen and Esther. Keep us in union with all your saints and brin us with them to the joyous feast of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come; we give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. We remember these names and the saints buried here at Zion. (Pause)

As we remember these people, strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death are no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen**

Lord Jesus, by your death you took away the sting of death. Strengthen us to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep in you and wake in your likeness; to you the author and giver of life, be all honour and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

O Lord, support us al the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant to us a safe lodging, a holy resting place and peace at last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs.

Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need;

through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING (ELW p. 221)**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN: *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand (441)***

1. Oh, happy day when we shall stand

amid the heav'nly throng;

and sing with hosts from ev'ry land

the new celestial song, the new celestial song.

2. Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come

and show himself as Lord,

and thousands meet in their new home

which Jesus has prepared, which Jesus has prepared.

3. Oh, what a mighty rushing flood

of joy and love and peace

will roll down over us with good

and blessedness and grace, and blessedness and grace.

4. O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;

your love has made us free

to stand among the saints and sing

the glory that we see, the glory that we see.

*(At the conclusion of our sending hymn, all are invited to process to the cemetery for the conclusion of the service. Those who are unable to go to the cemetery are invited to remain in the sanctuary in prayer and reflection.)*

**Commeration of the Faithful departed**

Hear the words as written in the letter of Paul to the Hebrews: Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight ad he sin that hangs so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfector of our faith, who for the sake of our joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus by your death you took away the sting of death. Strengthen us to follow you in faith where you have led the way that we may live in you, the author and giver of life, in all honour and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord God, you have the power over life and death

**You are the Lord of the spirits and of all flesh.**

You created humankind and call your saints to you so that they may find rest.

**Your presence brings us peace and comfort in our times of grief and sadness.**

We remember our dead, the members and friends of Zion who have passed away and are buried in this cemetery. Before you we remember the dead who have passed away since last September and are buried here at Zion

Helen Ehrat

Esther Hoerle

Let them rest in peace, Awaken them on your promised day and grant to them an inheritance with all your saints in glory. *(Time of silence and reflection)*

We thank you God for all of the blessings you have granted through your beloved children of God

**For the blessings in body and soul, in times of trouble, sadness, and distress, in times of joy and happiness.**

For the promise of the Gospel that we have shared.

**Receive them for the grace that accompanied them on their earthly journey.**

Make the memory of them a blessing to us and comfort to those who mourn their deaths.

**Merciful God, prepare us at all times to meet a blessed end.**

Remove us when our last hour comes of all our despair, and strengthen our faith in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting**.**

**Help us we pray that in the midst of things we do not understand, that we too will one day join your company of saints and stand together with the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. For the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**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.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

Renewed by the promise that the power of God’s love we shall one day be brought together in the new life of resurrection, we go forth in peace. Amen. **Thanks be to God.**

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