

The Celebration of the Resurrection
for
Ruth A. Neidinger



Ruth A. Neidinger
December 4, 1932 - December 7, 2023

Officiant: Rev. David Thoresen
Organist: Gene Hodges

March 9, 2024
10:00 A.M.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
745 S. Ingraham Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

C Thanks be to God.

P May God grant you His grace, that in your pain you might receive God's comfort that in your sorrow you might find hope, and that faced with death you might find strength to believe in the resurrection. Listen to this good news. The Lord says, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades." (Rev. 1:17) Jesus also said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25-26)

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried, therefore, with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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.

C Christ has died, Chris is risen. Christ will come again.



1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
 you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold!"

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today, our sister, Ruth. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

PSALM 23 (read in unison)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff —

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

**all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

SECOND 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 the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." ⁶Then he 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 as a gift from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

Stand

GOSPEL: John 14:1-3

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

Sit

HOMILY

The Rev. David Thoresen

HYMN

On Eagle's Wings

ELW 787

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no

fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

day; thou- sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up-on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a-gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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.**

THE PRAYERS

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole Church in heaven and on each your light and your peace.

C **Hear us Lord.**

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

P Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

P Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

P Grant us grace to entrust Ruth to your never-failing love which sustained her in this life. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, and remember her according to the favor you bear for your people.

C **Hear us, Lord.**

P God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death, Jesus destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and 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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us all pray together the prayer that our Lord taught us.

C **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.**

THE COMMENDATION

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Ruth. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock a sinner of you own redeeming. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P As you go your way, may Christ go with you. May He go before you to show you the way; may He go behind you to encourage you; may he go beside you to befriend you; may He be above you to watch over you; and may He be within you to give you peace.

C Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *How Great Thou Art* ELW 856

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-ile breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou
 art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to
 thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

- P Let us go forth in peace.
 C **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

All are invited to join the family for light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. Internment will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery, 4620 US Hwy 98, South, Lakeland, Florida.

Ruth Neidinger Obituary

Ruth Anna Neidinger passed away on December 7, 2023. Ruth was born on December 4, 1932, in Hackensack, New Jersey, to Harold and Ruth Geyer. She attended New Milford, New Jersey elementary schools and graduated from Hackensack High School. She worked for Atlas Insurance Co. in New York City as a stenographer. Later, she was employed by General Adjustment Bureau and was ultimately promoted to Clerical Consultant for the Eastern Department. In that capacity, she re-wrote the clerical manual which was used in all branch offices in the United States. As Clerical Consultant she set up storm offices in Puerto Rico and Nassau, Bahamas.

She met the "love of her life", Alfred (Al) Neidinger at her Father's retirement dinner and they were married a year later in 1966 and move to Hillsdale, New Jersey, where she worked for the Borough of Hillsdale and later for the Borough Attorney.

They were blessed with two children, Gustav and Susan. Ruth was active in Scouting, serving as Den Mother and Den Leader Coach. The family loved camping and visited many historical sites in their trailer.

They lived in Hillsdale for 26 years and after Al retired, they moved to Wildwood Crest, NJ. Al predeceased her in 1996. Ruth and her Mother moved to Lakeland, Florida, in 1998 and served for 14 years as President of Imperial Southgate Condominium Association, Section One. She also joined Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church where she served as Financial Secretary, Usher, Greeter, Morning Circle Secretary and a member of the Bereavement Committee, Outreach Committee and Saints Alive.

Ruth is survived by her son, Gustav (Kellie) and daughter Susan Peterson (Scott); four grandchildren, Zachary (Ivana), Hayley (Jake) and Kayla Peterson and Mathilda Neidinger.

A Celebration of Life will be held on March 9, 2024 at 10 am at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 745 South Ingraham Ave, Lakeland, FL. The family will receive friends after the service in the fellowship hall.

*To Those I Love
“And Those Who Love Me”*

*While I am gone release me, let me go.
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears.
Be happy that we had so many beautiful years.
I gave to you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown.
But now it's time I traveled on alone.
To grieve for me a while, if grieve you must.
Then let your grief be comported by trust.
It's only a while that we must part,
To bless the memories within your heart.
I won't be far away, for life goes on.
So, if you need me, call and I will come.
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near.
And if you listen with your heart,
You'll hear all my love around you soft and clear.
And then when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile and say...
“Welcome Home”.*