

*Well done,  
good and faithful servant.*

*Matt. 25:21*



# **SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE**

**March 8, 2025**

In Loving Memory of

**Helen Joan Penk**

July 25, 1932 – February 5, 2025

† † †

## **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

**“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”**

**LSB 702**

**“Take My Life and Let It Be”**

**LSB 783**

## **REMEMBRANCES**

**OBITUARY** (*pg. 9*)

## **VICTORY CELEBRATION**

A Christian memorial service is a worship celebration. Although there is sadness because we no longer have our loved one with us, we meet here to celebrate the joy of victory for Helen Joan Penk and for ourselves as we believe that Jesus Christ has died for us and was raised back to life. We worship together.

## **LIFE THROUGH BAPTISM**

Do you not know that all 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. If we have been united with Him in His death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection. (*Romans 6:3–5*)

## HYMN OF COMFORT

### Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

## INVOCATION

**P** We gather here today to receive and to share with each other the comfort and strength of our Lord.

**C** **In His Word is both life and hope which is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**P** In You, O Lord, do we trust. Be with us this day as we need and seek Your guidance and direction in grief and sorrow.

**C** **In You, O Lord, do we trust. And so, we make our beginning in the name of the Father Who created us, the Son Who redeemed both body and soul, and the Holy Spirit Who made this earthly body the temple of our Lord. Amen.**

**P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today, Helen, our sister in Christ. We thank You for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion here on earth. In Your unlimited compassion, console us who mourn. Enable us, Lord, to be able to see in death the gate to eternal life and that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with Helen and those who have gone before us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God the Father Who loved us, and by His grace gave us eternal life, strengthen you in every good deed and word. (2  
*Thessalonians 2:16–17*)

**C** **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

## Psalm 23 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. <sup>3</sup> He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## EPISTLE READING

## Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL PROMISE

John 14:1- 6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

## HYMN OF HOPE

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**                **Great is Thy faithfulness!**  
                              **Great is Thy faithfulness!**  
                              **Morning by morning new mercies I see;**  
                              **All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;**  
                              **Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **(refrain)**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **(refrain)**

## PRAYER

**P** O God, our Father in Heaven:

**C** **Have Mercy.**

**P** O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

**C** **Have Mercy.**

**P** O God the Holy Spirit, our Counselor:

**C** **Grant us Your peace.**

**P** O, how glorious is that Kingdom wherein all the saints rejoice with Christ.

**C** **They are clothed with white robes and follow the Lamb wherever He goes.**

**P** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**C** **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**P** Loving and merciful God, if it were not for the promise of the resurrection and life eternal, we could not endure the sorrow which has come upon this gathering. Only the assurance of Your continual presence enables us to carry on during these times.

Lord, do not let these loved ones mourn as those who have no hope. Comfort them day after day with the precious promise of Your Word. Give them grace to come to You and to find rest for their souls.

Merciful God, You have appointed us to endure trouble and sorrow with our Lord Jesus Christ before we enter with Him into glory. Enable us to be strong in faith to the end and to find peace and joy in the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come. We pray through Jesus. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, Helen Joan Penk. We humbly ask, Lord, that You acknowledge her as a sheep of Your fold, a lamb of Your flock, and a sinner whom You have redeemed. Receive her into Your merciful arms, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in Heaven.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

*(Elderly Simeon spoke the following words when Baby Jesus was presented to him in the temple.)*

Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.  
*(Luke 2:29-32)*

May God enable you to see Jesus as your salvation. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMNS**

### **“He Lives!”**

I serve a risen Savior,  
He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living,  
Whatever men may say.  
I see His hand of mercy,  
I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him,  
He's always near.

He lives! He lives!  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way;  
He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives:  
He lives within my heart.

### **“This Is The Day”**

This is the day (This is the day)  
That the Lord hath made  
(That the Lord hath made)  
We will rejoice (We will rejoice)  
And be glad in it (And be glad in it)

This is the day  
That the Lord hath made  
We will rejoice and be glad in it  
This is the day (This is the day)  
That the Lord hath made



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*When the service is complete, we invite you to join our family  
in the Community Room for refreshments.*

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**Memorial Donations**  
**Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund**

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Officiant: **Rev. Jim Sprengle**  
Musicians: **Brad Hall**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

## Helen Joan Penk

July 25, 1932 – February 5, 2025



With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Helen Joan Penk on February 5, 2025, at the age of 92. A beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, Helen touched the lives of all who knew her with her kindness, warmth, and unwavering strength.

Born on July 25, 1932, in St. Paul, MN, to Peter and Vivian Pfenning, Helen was baptized on August 21, 1932, and confirmed on April 14, 1946, at Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her early years

were filled with church activities and cherished moments with classmates, forming lifelong friendships and a deep faith that would guide her throughout her life.

Helen married Gerald (Jerry) L. Penk in 1953. Together, they built a life centered on love, family, and shared dreams. They raised three children—Deborah (Richard), Dave (Sue), and Ruth (Bob)—instilling in them the values of hard work, kindness, and resilience.

Helen had a long and meaningful career in nursing, dedicating herself to the care of others in a variety of roles. She served as a school nurse at the University of Minnesota, worked at a doctor's office, and was part of the team at the newly opened Burn Center at Emmanuel Hospital. Later, she joined the American Red Cross as a traveling nurse with the Bloodmobile, journeying throughout the Pacific Northwest to help small communities maintain a strong blood supply. Her compassion and dedication to others were evident in all that she did.

She had a love for puzzles—both the jigsaw kind and the puzzles of life—always approaching challenges with patience, determination, and faith that things would turn out "just how they should." Helen and Jerry also shared a passion for gardening and traveling, finding joy in planning their garden together and exploring new places. Through Elderhostel, they embraced learning and adventure, traveling to destinations including China, Greece, and beyond, immersing themselves in the history, culture, and experiences each place had to offer.

Helen was a proud and loving grandmother to six grandchildren—Matthew, Risha, Ethan, Camille, Stuart, and Goose—and a delighted great-grandmother to Brecken and Berkley, treasuring the joy and energy they brought into her life.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, in June 2007; her parents, Peter and Vivian; her brother, Peter Pfenning; and her sister, Barbara Harris.

Helen's love, kindness, and spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.