



*But those who hope
in the Lord will renew their
strength. They will soar on wings
like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk
and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:31 (NIVO)

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

January 25, 2025

In Loving Memory of

Carol Catharine (Cloeter) Hoefler

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Bist Du Bei Mir” (If You Are With Me)

J. S. Bach

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Setting by Paul Manz

“Hope”

Audrey Zeebuyth

“Fairest Lord Jesus” (Beautiful Savior)

arr. C. McMichael

“Air” from *Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D*

J. S. Bach

“Children Of The Heavenly Father”

Words by C. S. Berg; Swedish folk melody

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 Carol Hoefler and for ourselves as we believe that Jesus Christ has died for us and was raised back to life. We worship together.

† † †

VICTORY CELEBRATION

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

“Jerusalem the Golden”

Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest—
The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest—
We know not, oh, we know not
What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory,
The bliss beyond compare!

Within those walls of Zion
Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them;
The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed
Shines bright with glorious sheen.

Around the throne of David,
The saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader,
Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever
Their gleaming robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest.

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, Carol, 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 Carol 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.**

CAROL'S CONFIRMATION VERSE

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV)

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 103:1-5; 10-12; 15-17 (ESV)

¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, ³ who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵ who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ¹⁰ He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. ¹⁵ As for man, His days are like grass; He flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶ for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. ¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-10; 14b-17 (ESV)

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" ^{14b} These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will shelter them with His presence. ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

GOSPEL PROMISE

John 14:1-6 (ESV)

[Jesus said,] ¹"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

CAROL'S FAVORITE VERSE

Isaiah 40:31 (NIVO)

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NIVO)

“On Eagles’ Wings”

Music by M. Joncas, arr. By D. Wagner
ASCENSION CHOIR

MESSAGE

“PRIVILEGE”

John 14:1-6

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

PInto Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant, Carol Catharine Hoefer. 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 T Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

For All the Saints

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Please join the family for a time of fellowship
and refreshment in our Community Room
following the service.*

Memorials:

Survivors Teaching Students program of the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

Donate to: Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
PO Box 32141
New York, NY 10087-2141

~or~

Ascension Lutheran Church

Officiant: Rev. Jim Sprengle
Musicians: Brad Hall
Audrey and Chad Zeebuyth
Barbara Conway
Helen Hollenbeck

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

Carol Catharine (Cloeter) Hoefler

June 1, 1941 – December 26, 2024



Carol Catharine Hoefler, daughter of Rev. Arnold Ernst Cloeter and Lola Marie Nollman was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota on June 1, 1941, and died on December 26, 2024, at the age of 83 years, 6 months, and 5 days.

Carol was baptized in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Friberg, Minnesota on June 15, 1941, and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church, Ottertail, Minnesota on April 3, 1955, and was a

member of Ascension Lutheran Church at the time of death. Carol was united in marriage to Herbert Ernest Hoefler on August 13, 1966, in Parkers Prairie, Minnesota and they lived in Madras, India; New York, New York; St Louis, Missouri; River Falls, Wisconsin and Portland, Oregon. Three children were born to their union. They were Kristina Yvonne Hoefler, Pamela Rae Hoefler Lialias, and Susheela Ann Teather.

Carol served her Lord through her local congregation during her years as fiscal officer, organist, LWML and choir member. Carol was a devoted member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, reveling in the grace of God through her Lord Jesus Christ, eager at the end to join the saints in glory.

Carol grew up in northern Minnesota as a pastor's daughter, graduated from Concordia Teachers College, Nebraska, and taught in Iowa and California. She met Herb Hoefler at Concordia College, St. Paul, MN. Carol and Herb departed in 1968 to serve as

missionaries to India. While raising their daughters, Carol served in several capacities as a school headmistress, fiscal officer, and ESL teacher. After 15 years in India, the family moved to a parish ministry in River Falls, WI, where she trained and worked as a city librarian. After 13 years, Carol and Herbert moved to Portland, OR, where Herb taught at Concordia University, and Carol worked as a church secretary.

After dealing with the threat of breast cancer and then the onslaught of ovarian cancer, she had genetic testing and learned of her mutations, eventually succumbing to the ovarian cancer. She became a strong advocate and speaker for identifying the early signs of ovarian cancer and for early genetic testing.

In all her different roles in life, she was highly respected and loved. She was a gifted musician, singing in choirs and playing the piano and organ. She was also known as an excellent cook, especially with Indian cuisine. People felt a deep affection for her in her relationships because of her openheartedness, kindness, and generosity. As one condolence put it, people experienced “the truly genuine goodness emanating from Carol.”

Carol was preceded in death by parents; Rev. Arnold and Lola Cloeter, siblings; Herbert, Rhoda, Richard, Margaret, and David. She is survived by husband; Herbert, sister; Pauline, daughters; Kristina, Pamela, and Susheela, grandchildren; Elliot, Sofia, Loukas, Hannah and Quinn, and sons-in-law; Steven, Joakim, and Michael.