

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF

Fawn M. Spears

November 14, 1980 ~ November 1, 2023



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GATHERING

INTRODUCTION

The assembly stands and faces the entrance of the church.

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister, Fawn, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

As a sign of being clothed with Christ in baptism, a pall is placed on the coffin.

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.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

HYMN #779

Amazing Grace

GREETING

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

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Fawn. 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 faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3: 16-18a

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4: 7-10, 16-18; 12: 9-10

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1: 1-5, 9-14

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN *If I Were a Butterfly*

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

If I were a butterfly,
I'd thank you, Lord, for giving me wings.
And if I were a robin in a tree,
I'd thank you, Lord, that I could sing.
And if I were a fish in the sea,
I'd wiggle my tail, and I'd giggle with glee,
But I'd just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

'Cause you gave me a heart,
And you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus,
And you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

If I were an elephant,
I'd thank you, Lord, by raising my trunk.
And if I were a kangaroo,
I'd just hop right up to you.
And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank you, Lord, for my good looks.
But I'd thank you, Father, for making me Me!

'Cause you gave me a heart,
And you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus,
And you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

If I were a wiggly worm,
I'd thank you, Lord, that I could squirm.
And if I were a crocodile,
I'd thank you, Lord, for my big smile.
And if I were a fuzzy wuzzy bear,
I'd thank you, Lord, for my fuzzy wuzzy hair.
But I'd just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

'Cause you gave me a heart,
And you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus,
And you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

'Cause you gave me a heart,
And you gave me a smile
You gave me Jesus,
And you made me your child.
And I just thank you, Father, for making me Me!

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The Spirit makes us one, we 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.**

The assembly is seated.

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Fawn to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Fawn. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your 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.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Let us go in peace,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN #595

Jesus Loves Me

FAWN M. SPEARS

Fawn M. Spears, age 42, of Kouts, Indiana, passed away at her home surrounded by her loving family on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. She was born on November 14, 1980, in Valparaiso, Indiana, to Jeff and Joanne (Gall) Wilson.

Fawn is survived by her loving husband, Sam Spears; two daughters, Emma Spears, Elodie Spears; sister, Amber (Jason) Cable; two brothers, Ryan (Jessica) Wilson, Kyle (April) Wilson; two grandmothers, Vicki Gall, Ilene Dibkey; mother-in-law, Marjorie Spears; and many extended family members and friends. She was preceded in death by grandfathers, Gilbert Gall, Larry Dibkey; and father-in-law, Richard Spears.

Fawn graduated from Washington Township High School, class of 2000. She enjoyed playing basketball, volleyball, and running cross-country in high school. She was a Teacher at Little Lamb Preschool in Valparaiso for 10 years and loved her kids. Fawn loved 4-H and working with animals. She found fulfillment in volunteering and being a part of her community. Fawn always felt proudest of being a mom. She will always be remembered and loved by those who knew her.

Fawn's family will be having a memorial service for her at 3:00 pm on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at Christ Lutheran Church, 2610 N. Campbell St., Valparaiso, IN 46385. A Memorial Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 from 1:00 pm until the time of services at 3:00 pm. Fawn will be laid to rest at Graceland Cemetery in private at a later date.



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
VALPARAISO, INDIANA
PASTOR TIMOTHY KNAUFF, JR.
PASTOR ERICA GIBSON-EVEN
BRIAN BARTUSCH, ORGANIST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

3:00 P.M.