

**A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR THE LIFE OF**

Mary H. Sikorski
December 20, 1952 ~ November 5, 2023



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GATHERING

INTRODUCTION

The assembly stands.

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, Mary to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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 ELW #856 *How Great Thou Art*

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, Mary. 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: Isaiah 25: 6-9

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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: Romans 5: 1-11

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 10: 11-16

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 OF THE DAY ELW #574 *Here I Am, Lord*

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

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a handshake as a sign of Christ's peace and may say **Peace be with you** or similar words. When all have returned to their places, the assembly is seated as the altar is prepared. The assembly stands when invited by the presiding minister.*

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 Mary to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Mary. 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.

SENDING HYMN ELW #779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

A procession may form and leave the church, the ministers leading.



Mary Sikorski

Mary was born December 20, 1952, in Gary, IN to the late John and Marie (Coughlin) Hecimovich. She proudly made her career as a Registered Nurse, beginning at Porter Memorial Hospital in surgery, then working with the VNA of Valparaiso for 20 years, and retiring after serving for 15 years as the school nurse at Valparaiso High School, where she was beloved by the students and student aides who assisted her.

Mary loved reading, going to the Dunes, and perfecting her excellent baking skills. She was also an active member at Christ Lutheran Church in Valparaiso. Mary was an organized and thoughtful woman, both traits that served her well in her professional and personal life. She will be remembered for her quick wit and sense of humor that could make anyone laugh. Mary was a loving and devoted wife and mother, who will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

On April 29, 1989, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, Mary married the love of her life, Pete Sikorski, who survives, along with their daughter, Colleen Sikorski, of Los Angeles, CA; her brother, John (Joyce) Hecimovich of TX; four sisters and one brother; nephews: Patrick Jalk and Ryan Hecimovich; along with many other nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be made to [St. Agnes Adult Day Service Center](#), 1859 Harrison Blvd., Valparaiso, IN 46385.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

11:00 A.M.