



Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL OF

Esther Brandner

May 2, 1926 — October 28, 2024



Monday, November 4, 2024 AD
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Bismarck, ND

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

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Welcome

Thank you for joining us today as we rejoice in the victory over death that Jesus has won for Esther Brandner. It is our prayer that the Word of God which brought so much comfort to her also brings you comfort today. If we can serve you in the future with this same life-saving message, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A Note about Worship

Lutheran worship is focused on the good news of Jesus and designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out entirely. Parts in normal type font are spoken or sung by the worship leader, and the **parts in bold face font are spoken by the congregation.**



The Paschal Candle

The large candle in the front of church symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World; Its large size symbolizes Jesus as the mighty champion over death and sin. It is lighted at every baptism, for “we are 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.” {Romans 6:4} It is kept burning throughout the Easter season and always lighted for Christian funerals to show the close connection between Christ's resurrection and the Christian's resurrection to life eternal.

Serving in Worship

Rev. Thomas Moldenhauer, *pastor of Our Saviour's*

Deb Selland - *organist*

THE SERVICE



Remembrance of Baptism

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

In Holy Baptism, Esther was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul affirms, "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Galatians 3:26,27

The apostle also writes, "All of us 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. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Romans 6:3-5

Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!

God's Comfort

We have come together to be refreshed in the gospel of Jesus and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

John 11:25,26

The wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!
He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*1 Corinthians
15:54,57*

When Christ, who is our life, appears,
then we also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:4

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn the death of Beverly. Calm our troubled hearts and dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing him to faith and giving him the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and through it keep our hearts sure and certain of all your promises. In your name, who defeated all our enemies and opened heaven to all who believe, we pray.

Amen.

Hymn

576 | Amazing Grace

Psalm 23

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
³he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
⁶Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading

Scripture Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,
¹²saying:

“Amen!

Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and
where did they come from?”

¹⁴I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they
have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore,

“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‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;

‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’
‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 11:17-44

¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four
days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had
come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰When
Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at
home.

²¹“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have
died. ²²But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in
me will live, even though they die; ²⁶and whoever lives by believing in me will never
die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God,
who is to come into the world.”

*The gift of faith
allows us to see that
eternal treasure that
is found in the home
whose architect and
builder is God.*

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

441 | I know that My Redeemer Lives

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us in grace that amazes us. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Derived from Greek, these letters have been used by Christians as a way of saying, "Jesus Christ conquers." Through Jesus, that is the victory that Esther has for eternity. That is the victory refreshing us today.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Hymn

612 | *How Great Thou Art*

+ + +

Acknowledgments

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Obituary

Esther Pauline Brandner died on October 28, 2024 from a stroke at St. Vincent's care center where she had been living since 2022.

Esther was born on May 2, 1926 on her family's farm near Hague, ND to Pauline and Reinhold Huber. She grew up on the farm and attended country school. Esther married Wilbert Brandner and together they raised their family in Zeeland, ND until moving to Bismarck to be near family.

Esther worked several jobs including Medcenter One and working at the Zeeland school as a cook. She was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother and will be dearly missed by her family and friends. She had a strong Christian faith and a kind heart. She loved to garden, cook, sew, read, paint, color and spend time with her family.

Esther was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbert; parents and three siblings.

She is survived by her children, Deborah Steenbock, Coos Bay, OR, Pamela (Chuck) Bosch, Bismarck, Janice Jensen, Lincoln, ND and Neil Brandner, Lincoln, ND; grandchildren, Amber (deceased), Erin, Audrey, Kimberley, Jared and Delaney; and nine great-grandchildren.