

“Do Not Be Afraid. I Am The First And The Last, The Living One.”
By Rudolf Schäfer

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Steven Cholak, Officiating • Jeff Armstrong, Organist

A Service of Thanksgiving Celebrating God's Gift of Eternal Life For



Rebecca Lee Sposit

November 5, 1987 - January 17, 2026

The death of a Christian has been transformed from tragedy into victory by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the moment of physical death the soul of the believer is safe at home in heaven with their Lord. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that those who remain - for a time - here on earth, would gather to celebrate God's gift of life and savor the memories of blessings received through our beloved who now lives with Christ in heaven. We affirm the faith in which they lived and through which they have been given eternal life in the sanctuary where they received the forgiveness of sins in Word and sacrament. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

(Stand)

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C *Amen.*

Remembrance of Baptism

P In Holy Baptism Rebecca was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C *We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.*

Kyrie

P Lord, have mercy upon us.
C *Christ, have mercy upon us.*
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C *And also with you.*

P Let us pray.
O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Rebecca and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *Amen.*

(Be Seated)

Old Testament Reading

JOB 19:23–27

[23] “Oh that my words were written!
 Oh that they were inscribed in a book!
[24] Oh that with an iron pen and lead
 they were engraved in the rock forever!
[25] For I know that my Redeemer lives,
 and at the last he will stand upon the earth.
[26] And after my skin has been thus destroyed,
 yet in my flesh I shall see God,
[27] whom I shall see for myself,
 and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
 My heart faints within me!”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 23

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 paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

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.

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 forever.



Epistle Reading

ROMANS 8:28-39

[28] We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. [29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. [30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. [31] What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? [33] Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? [36] As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C *Thanks be to God.*

(Stand)

Verse

P Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;

C *to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel

JOHN 11:20–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.
C *Glory to You, O Lord.*

[20] So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. [21] Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [22] But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” [23] Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” [24] Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” [25] Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” [27] She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C *Praise to You, O Christ.*

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

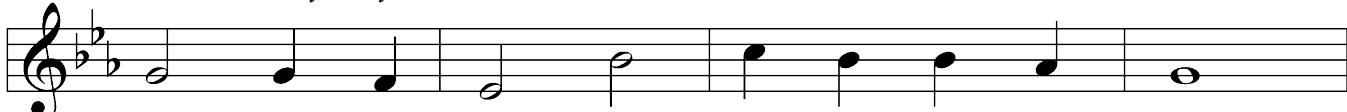
C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

(Be Seated)

Hymn of the Day

ABIDE WITH ME

Text: Henry F. Lyte; Tune: William H. Monk – “Eventide”; LSB #878 © 2006 CPH



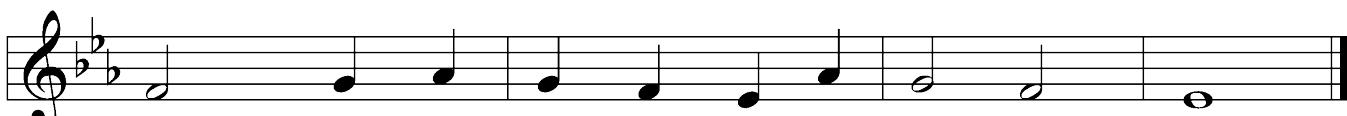
1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt-er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

(Stand)

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C *hear our prayer.*

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C *hear our prayer.*

P Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,

C *hear our prayer.*

P Give to the family of Rebecca and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

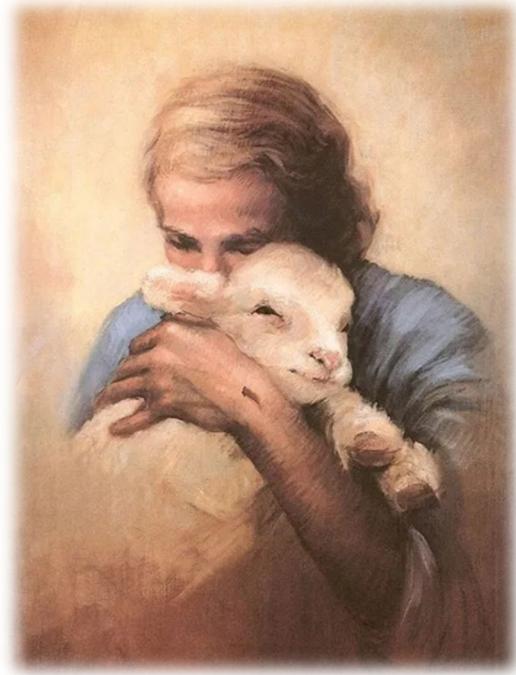
C *hear our prayer.*

P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C *hear our prayer.*

P Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C *hear our prayer.*



P Receive our thanks for Rebecca and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C *hear our prayer.*

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.*

Nunc Dimittis

P “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

C *Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

P “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

Concluding Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C *And also with you.*

P Let us pray. Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *Amen.*

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.
C *Thanks be to God.*

Benediction and Dismissal

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and \ddagger give you peace.
C *Amen.*
P Let us go forth in peace,
C *in the name of the Lord. Amen.*

Closing Hymn

GOD LOVES ME DEARLY

Text: August Rische; Tune: German – “Gott Ist Die Liebe”; LSB #392 © 2006 CPH



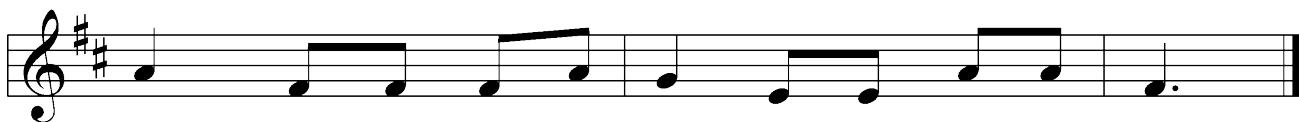
1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



Refrain
There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book

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FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

"I Am The First And the Last" by Dr. Rudolf Schäfer presents the awesome vision of our Lord Jesus as He revealed himself to the apostle John in the opening scene of the Book of Revelation. There Christ was standing amid the seven golden lamps which signified the church. Schäfer captures the essence of the vision as Christ upon the cross, shedding His precious blood to win forgiveness for the sins of mankind, dominates the entire image. Our Lord's humble entrance into this world as the Babe of Bethlehem is shown in the left foreground. A joyful choir of angels proclaims the Christmas gospel above the stable and a gleaming star announces the Savior's birth. In the right foreground stands the empty tomb with its resplendent guardian angel so that all might know that Jesus has conquered death for us. The beautiful life promise of the rainbow extends from the cross to the open door of the tomb. The risen Lord walks in the nearby garden behind the tomb awaiting the arrival of the women. The angels ascending from the empty tomb are carrying home the life harvest of God's people. Over all is the extended hand of God the Father surrounded by the countless hosts of heaven, prophets and apostles, faithful men and women of God (including Martin Luther), those who have already received their share of God's gracious gift of eternal life. Schäfer painted this masterpiece for the altar of the village church in Oberjesigen, Germany.

Obituary

REBECCA LEE SPOSIT

Rebecca Lee Sposit (nee Stephens), aged 38, passed away unexpectedly on January 17, 2026. She was born on November 5, 1987. Rebecca lived in Houston, Texas, and was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is survived by her two boys, Joseph (6) and Teddy (3), her husband Tim, mother Laura Stephens, father Phil Stephens, and brother Phil Stephens.

Rebecca was the bright light in the lives of her family. She had a laugh that was contagious to those close to her. She enjoyed spending time with her two boys more than anything, whether it was playing in the house or going on an adventure to a National Park and hiking through the mountains. Rebecca's true calling was to be a boy mom to her two boys.

Rebecca and Tim met at The Ohio State University in 2006, freshman year, in the Mack Hall dorm. They quickly became best friends and started dating, bonding over their love of traveling and seeing the world and different cultures. She was a true Ohio State fan, loving to go to Ohio State football games or walking through campus. She was proud to have graduated with both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Ohio State (2010 & 2012). After graduation, she moved to Houston Texas to be with Tim. She quickly found her calling in human resources and has been proud to be part of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) family for the last 10 years. She believed in the people and the mission of the group. She loved to be outdoors with her boys, hiking and fishing. She loved to see her boys exploring the world like she loved to do. She also loved to cook for her boys and husband, never being afraid of trying to cook a new, unfamiliar cuisine. She showed her care and love to her family at the dinner table and by spending time teaching her children how to cook and bake.

Rebecca will be missed dearly by all those in her life. She made a big impact in the 38 years she had here.

Rebecca Sposit: boy mom, wife, dog lover, world traveler, forever buckeye

The family will be having a celebration of life service, 4:30 pm, Thursday 2/5/2026 at Memorial Oaks funeral home and with a visitation to follow with refreshments.



Soli Deo Gloria