

+ Memorial Service for Carol Ann Ehrens +

b. Aug. 17. 1938, Baptized: 1938, Confirmed: 1950, Married: Apr 5, 1968, d. Dec. 9, 2025
Service on January 3, Year of our Lord 2026

Opening Hymn: 570 Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

Remembrance of Baptism

Romans 6:3–5

- ¶ In Holy Baptism Carol Ann Ehrens 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?"
- ¶ **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.**

Psalm 51 (select verses)

Read by Carol's grandson, Joshua Custer

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.

P Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Carol 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.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:10—62:3 *Read by Carol's grandson, Dustin Alfson*

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

Hymn: 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819-86 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918 Text and tune: Public domain

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17

Read by Carol's grandson, Cody McConnell

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

General Verse

Revelation 1:5–6

- P** Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of the dead;
- C** to Him be glory and power forever. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22–40

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord” and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”



And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

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

Apostles' Creed

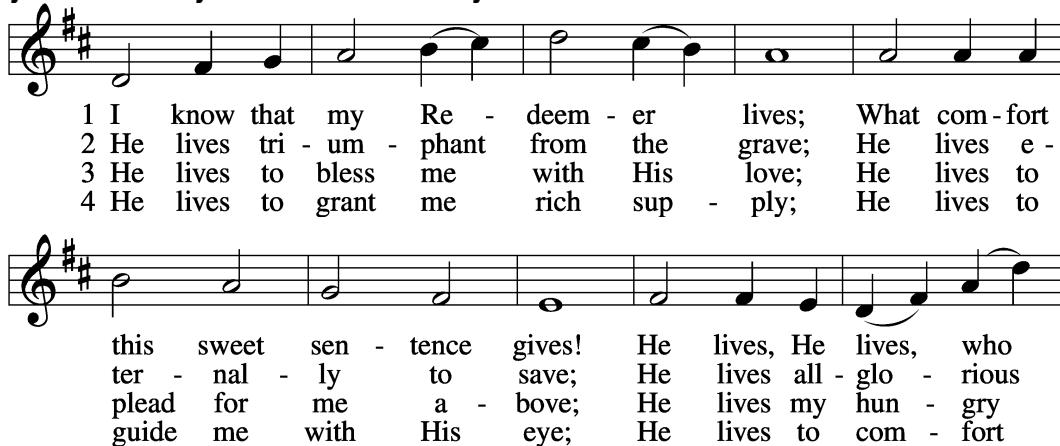
P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 \ddagger everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to

this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
 in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
 soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
 me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

+ Sermon +

Carol Sings of Daily Breath and Conquering Death

- 5 He lives to silence all my fears;
 He lives to wipe away my tears;
 He lives to calm my troubled heart;
 He lives all blessings to impart.
- 6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
 He lives and loves me to the end;
 He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
 He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.
- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;
 He lives my mansion to prepare;
 He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name!
 He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
 Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1–4]

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

P 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.**

¶ 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.**

¶ Give to the family of *Carol* 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.**

¶ 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.**

¶ 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.**

¶ Receive our thanks for *Carol* 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.**

¶ 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.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

¶ 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 Dimitis

John 11:25–26; Luke 2:29–32

A “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.

A “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.

The pastor places his hand over the remains as he says:

Blessing

P May God the Father, who created this body; may God the [†] Son, who by His blood redeemed this body; may God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism sanctified this body to be His temple, keep these remains to the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

C **Amen.**

Collect

P Let us pray. Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope. Receive our thanks for the victory over death and the grave that He won for us. Keep us in everlasting communion with all who wait for Him on earth and with all in heaven who are with Him, for He is the resurrection and the life, even Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

[Psalm 103:1]

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction and Dismissal

Numbers 6:24–26

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 [†] give you peace.

C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace,
C **in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

Closing Hymn on next page >

Closing Hymn: 763 When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The

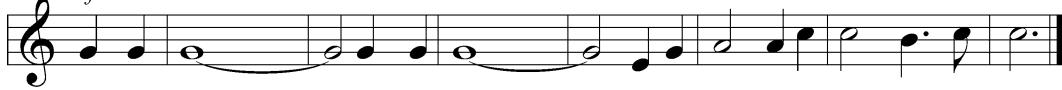


sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de-scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-88, alt. Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-76 Text and tune: Public domain

Time of Sharing and Remembrance

Cathy Custer, Carol's daughter

Others who wish to offer a brief remembrance or greeting

Serving today: Pastor Derek Roberts (officiant), Mr. Caleb Hesse (organist, visitation pianist and soloist)

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Carol Ann Ehrens (nee Kackman) passed away Dec. 9 2025 at home surrounded by family. She was born August 17 1938 to Raymond and Pearl Kackman. She attended Kindergarten in Pine Island MN, and 1st and 2nd grade in Lidgerwood ND before the family moved to Wahpeton ND where she graduated from high school in 1956. Carol moved out of state after high school but returned in 1966 to attend college at NDSCS. She then worked as a legal secretary in Wahpeton for many years. She met Charles "Butch" Ehrens during that time and they married in 1968. Carol and Butch made their home in Maryville TN since 1996. They have enjoyed traveling together, taking cruises with family, playing cards, watching sports, visiting family and the occasional casino. Carol leaves behind her husband Butch, her sister Renee, 6 children and 3 step children. Paula Bjerk, Joni Alfson, Catherine (Terry) Custer, Robert Hiles, Curt (Michelle) McConnell, Kristin (Lance) Boyanton, Patricia Myntti, Phillip (Terri) Hiles and Terrie Bright. 16 Grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind special friends Bonnie and GB Schneider, Gene Plummer, Bev Breuer, Theresa Lindsay and the luncheon ladies of Praise Lutheran Church. She was preceded in death by her parents Ray and Pearl, her brother Lyle and son in law Gregg Bjerk.



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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Office Administration: Elissa Upward, officeadmin@praiselutheran.com, (865) 977-5810

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

Director of Worship Arts: Caleb Hesse, caleb@praiselutheran.com

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, **Vice President:** Tim Nunnink

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Director: Caleb Hesse, **Choir Pianist:** Susan Johnson

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Additional Information: Please submit prayer requests by 9:00 a.m. each Thursday to ensure they are included in the upcoming service. If your contact information has changed, kindly notify the church office. Large-print hymnals are available upon request. Please speak with an usher for assistance.