

A Celebration of Thanksgiving
For the Life of
- Margaret Sharrow -



June 21, 1930 – September 2, 2025

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

PRESIDER: The Rev. Michael Burke

CLERGY: The Rev. Israel Portilla-Gomez • The Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp

The Rev. Hannah Moderow • The Rev. Ross McKay

READERS: Maggie Wilkinson and Penny Cowan

REMEMBRANCES: Sharrow Family and Friends

THE ST. MARY'S CHOIR, directed by Annie Nilsson

ORGAN: Suzette Scialfa

CELLO: Nanette Lundell

A SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

PRELUDE • *Come Sweet Death* • BWV 478 • Johann Sebastian Bach

PRELUDE • *Es is vollbracht* • Cantata, BWV 159 • Johann Sebastian Bach

PRELUDE • *Sheep May Safely Graze* • Cantata, BWV 208 • Johann Sebastian Bach

PRELUDE • *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* • Cantata 147 • Johann Sebastian Bach

OPENING HYMN • *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* • Hymnal #680

As able, all stand

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
 5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
 2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
 and our eternal home.

OPENING ANTHEM

As able, all remain standing

Priest I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.

Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though she die.

And everyone who has life,
and has committed herself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.

I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in herself,
and none becomes her own master when she dies.

For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.

So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on
are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit,
for they rest from their labors.

Celebrant We have come here today to remember before God our sister Margaret,
to give thanks for her life; to commend her to God our merciful
redeemer and judge; and to comfort one another in our grief.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE COLLECT

Priest May God be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Priest Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory,
 we remember Margaret before you
 and thank you for giving her to us to know and to love
 as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth.
 In your compassion, console those who mourn.
 Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up
 in the victory of Christ
 so that we may live in confidence and hope
 until, by your call, we are gathered
 into the company of all your saints;
 by the power of your Holy Spirit we pray. *Amen.*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding:
 Deal graciously with Margaret's family and friends in our grief.
 Surround us with your love,
 that we may not be overwhelmed by our loss,
 but have confidence in your goodness,
 and strength to meet the days to come;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FIRST READING • Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

Reader A reading from Lamentations

²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
 his mercies never come to an end;

²³they are new every morning;
 great is your faithfulness.

²⁴"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
 "therefore I will hope in him."

²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
 to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
 for the salvation of the Lord.

³¹For the Lord will not
 reject forever.

³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING • Romans 14:7-9

Reader A reading from Romans

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

THE GOSPEL • John 14:1-6

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

HOMILY • The Rev. Michael Burke

REMEMBRANCES

Sharrow Family and Friends

HYMN • Blest Be the Tie That Binds • Johann Hans Georg Nägeli and John Fawcett

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love; The
 2. Be fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers; Our
 3. We share each oth - er's woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear; And
 4. When we a - sun - der part it gives us in - ward pain; But

fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

THE APOSTLES CREED

As able, all stand

Celebrant In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim the faith
 and say,

Celebrant and People

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.*

THE PRAYERS

For our sister Margaret, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life."

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Margaret, and dry the tears of those who weep.

Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister Margaret eternal life.

Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

Hear us, Lord.

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give Margaret fellowship with all your saints.

Hear us, Lord.

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant Margaret a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Silence may be kept

Priest Father of all, we pray to you for Margaret, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

You are invited to contribute to any charity of your choice in Memory of Margaret Sharrow, or donations can be made in her memory to:

The Outreach Fund of St. Mary's

by texting StMarysAK to 73256, by scanning the QR code, by donating via the "Give" link at www.GodsView.org, or by donation in the basket located in the back of the Sanctuary.



SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all Bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea-tures here

6

be - - low, Praise God a - bove ye heav'n - -

9

ly hosts, Praise Fath - er, Son, & Ho - ly Ghost!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

As able, all stand or kneel

Priest The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name:

SANCTUS • Wonder, Love, and Praise #854

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est. San - to,

san - to, san- to es el Se-ñor. Ho- san - na, ho- san - na, ho- san- na en el

cie - lo. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en el cie - lo.

A Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: This is my Body,
which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” 

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

“Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” 

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People

***We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite

us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, St. Mary's and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.* 

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Celebrant and People

*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 today 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Priest Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion, and to come to the altar rail.
Those who do not wish to receive communion are still invited to receive a blessing.
Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate you would like only a blessing.
If you are unable to travel to the altar rail, communion can be brought to you.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC • *Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees* • Hymnal #325

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

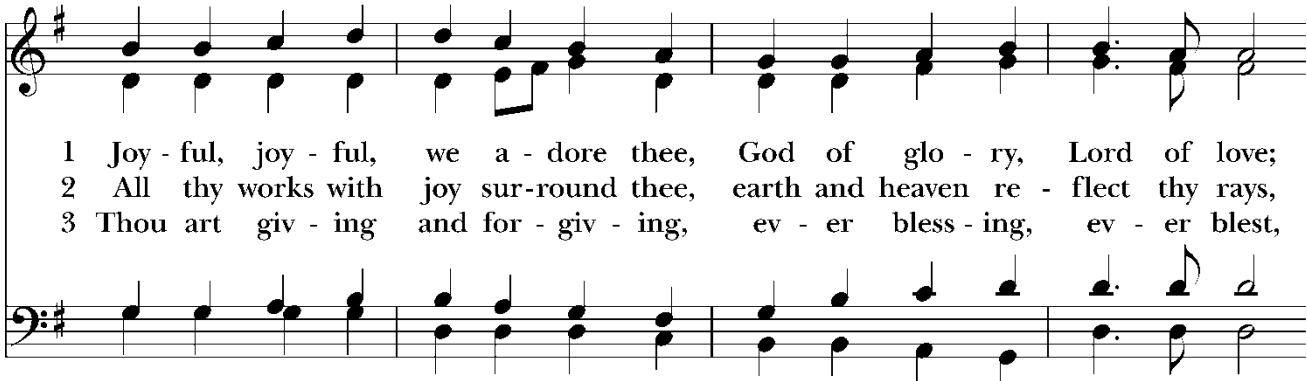
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

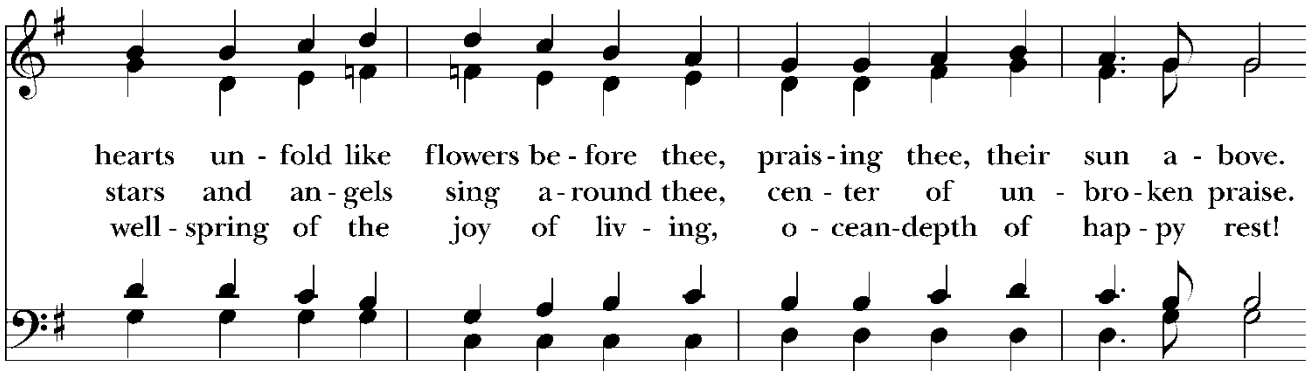
O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

-Second Communion Hymn on Next Page-

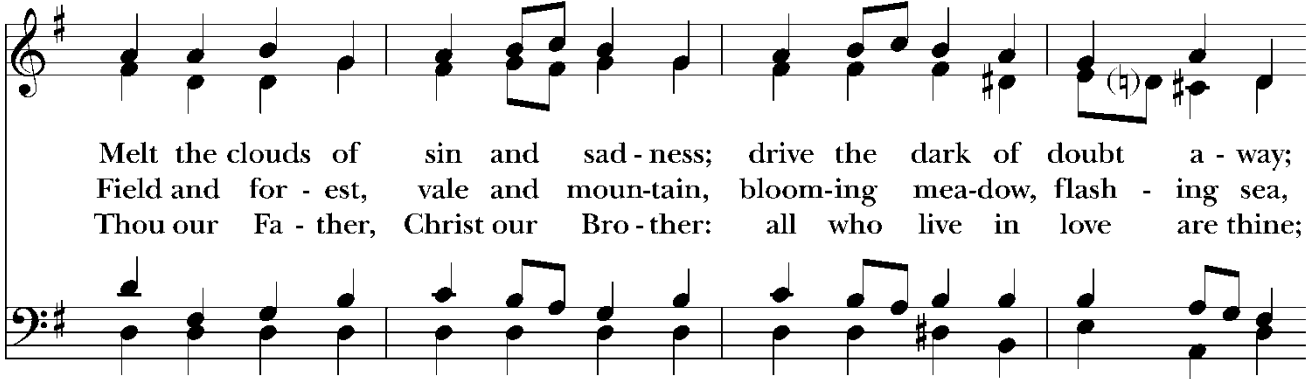
COMMUNION MUSIC • *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* • Hymnal #376



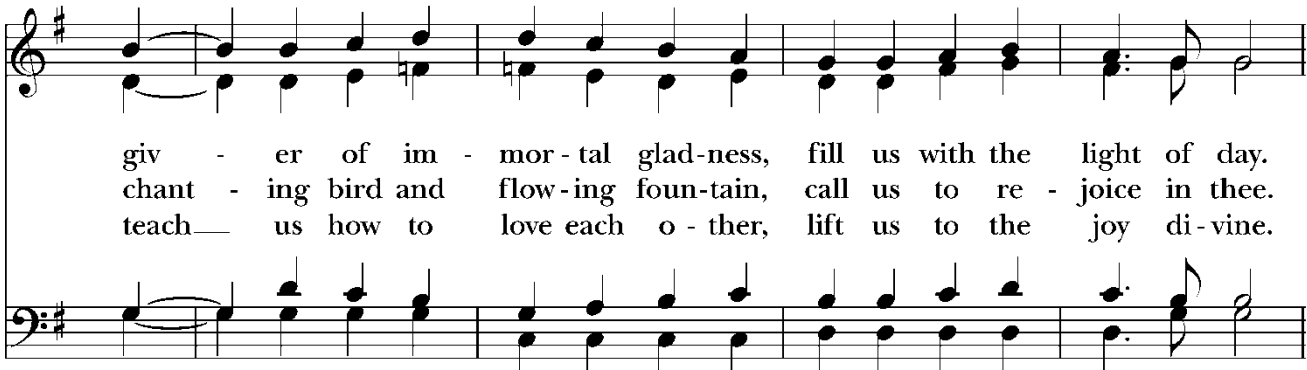
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach — us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us with the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, giving us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. We pray that this Sacrament may be for us a comfort in affliction, and a sign of our inheritance in that place where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the joy of true homecoming, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

THE COMMENDATION

Let us commend Margaret to the mercy of God.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,

*where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return.

For so you ordained when you created us, saying,
“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

All of us go down to the dust;
yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,

*where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.*

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

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.

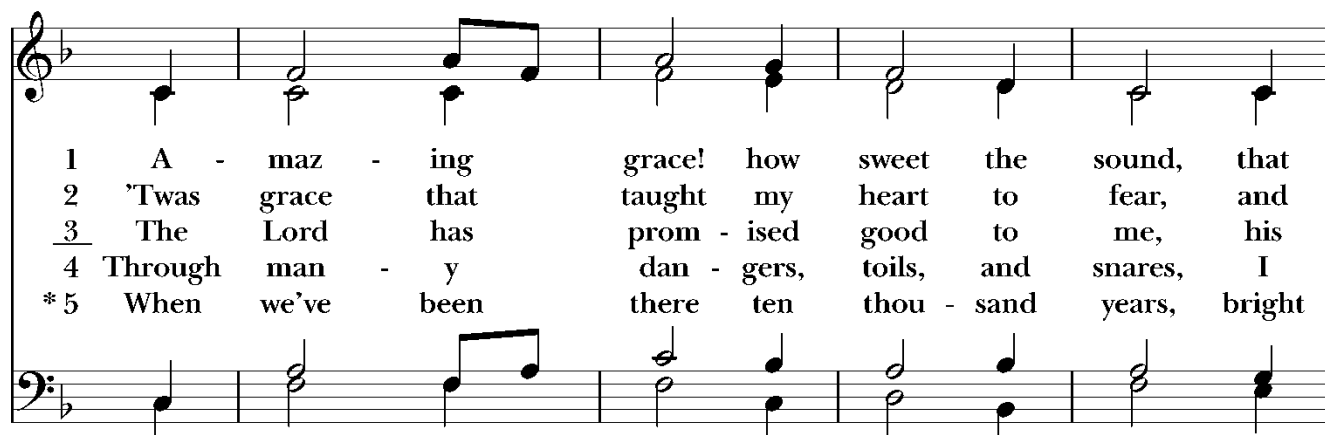
Receive her into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the
glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn can be found on the next page.

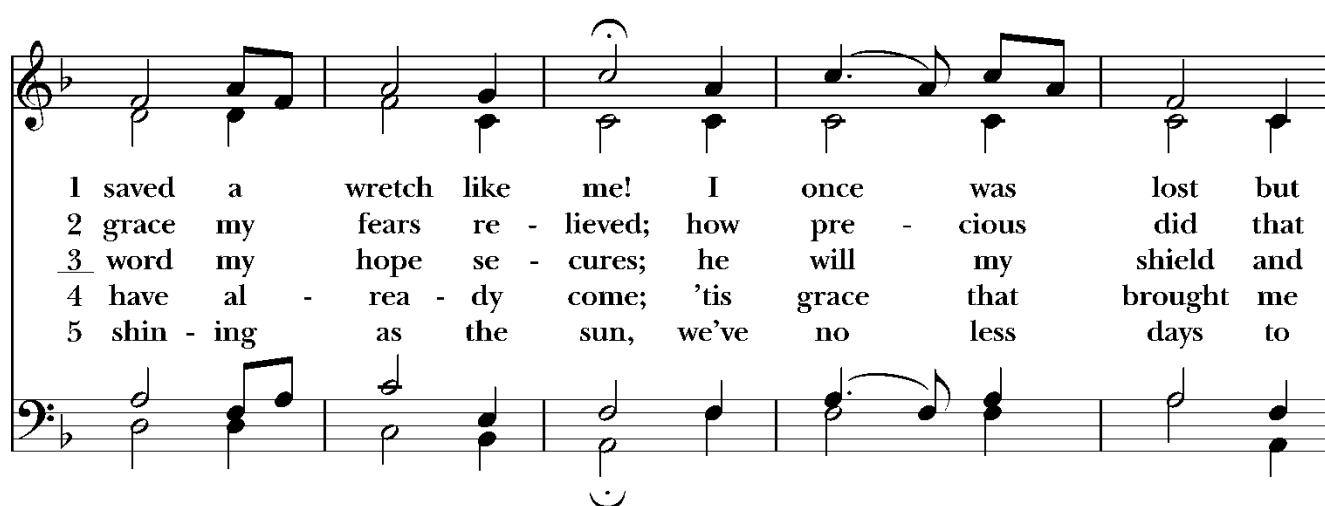
The family invites you to a reception in Waldron Hall after the service today.

There will be a reception line in the Narthex, upon leaving the sanctuary.

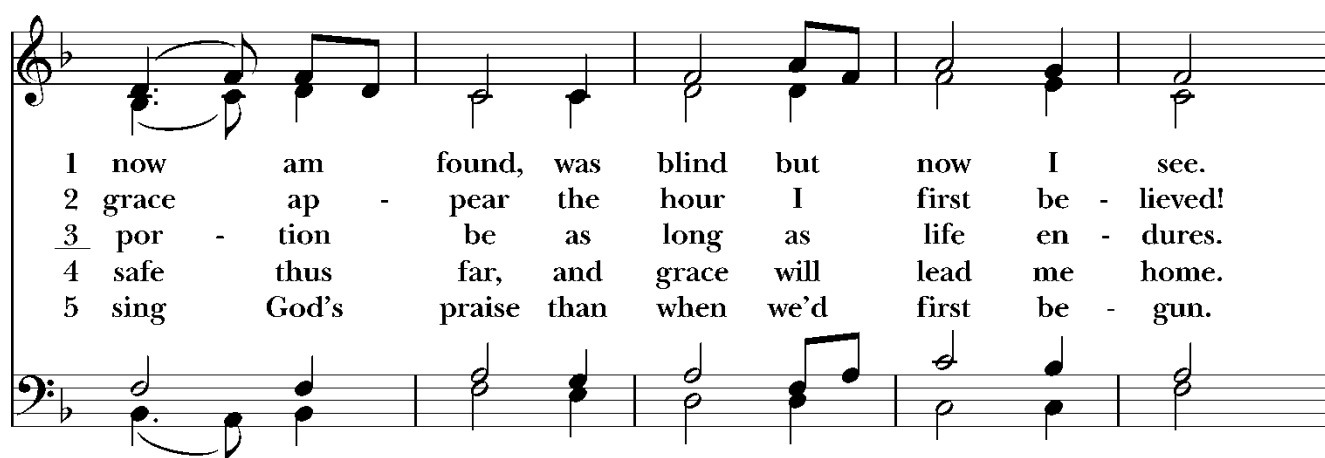
RECESSIONAL HYMN • *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound* • Hymnal #671



1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 * 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
 5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
 2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE • *Christ Lag in Todesbanden* • BWV 4 • Johann Sebastian Bach

Suzette Scialfa, organ

Margaret Sharrow

June 21, 1930 – September 2, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Margaret June Sharrow on the 2nd of September 2025 at the age of 95. She passed peacefully in her sleep at the Thomas Center for Senior Leadership with her son Steven nearby.

Margaret was born in Holly, Michigan on June 21st 1930. She started her early years on the farm of her parents and her six siblings. They were all educated in a one room schoolhouse until their high school years. She attended and graduated from Nursing School in Lansing, Michigan in September of 1951.

Following her wanderlust that continued through her entire life, she and two of her fellow graduates packed up their belongings in an old Studebaker and traveled the Alcan to start their nursing career in Palmer Alaska.

In 1952 she met a strapping young soldier, Bill Sharrow, who was stationed in Alaska during the Korean War. She would marry him in July of 1955 and start a nearly 70 year partnership. They moved to Anchorage prior to the birth of their 3rd son and, with the exceptions of few trips to the lower 48 for Bill's military career, would remain there the rest of their lives.

Margeret was passionate about her faith and would be heavily involved with the church for her entire life. A caring and empathetic person, she helped with social outreach, pastoral care, grief counseling and always had time for anyone who needed a caring ear.

She leaves behind Duane, her surviving brother, countless nieces and nephews, three sons, David, Philip and Steven, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Along with her family she leaves behind a close religious community.

To know her was to love her.

Donations are requested in lieu of flowers to:

"The Endowment for the Thomas Center" % St. Mary's Episcopal Church,
2222 E Tudor rd., Anchorage Alaska 99507

or to

"The St Mary's Outreach Fund" % St Mary's Episcopal Church.
