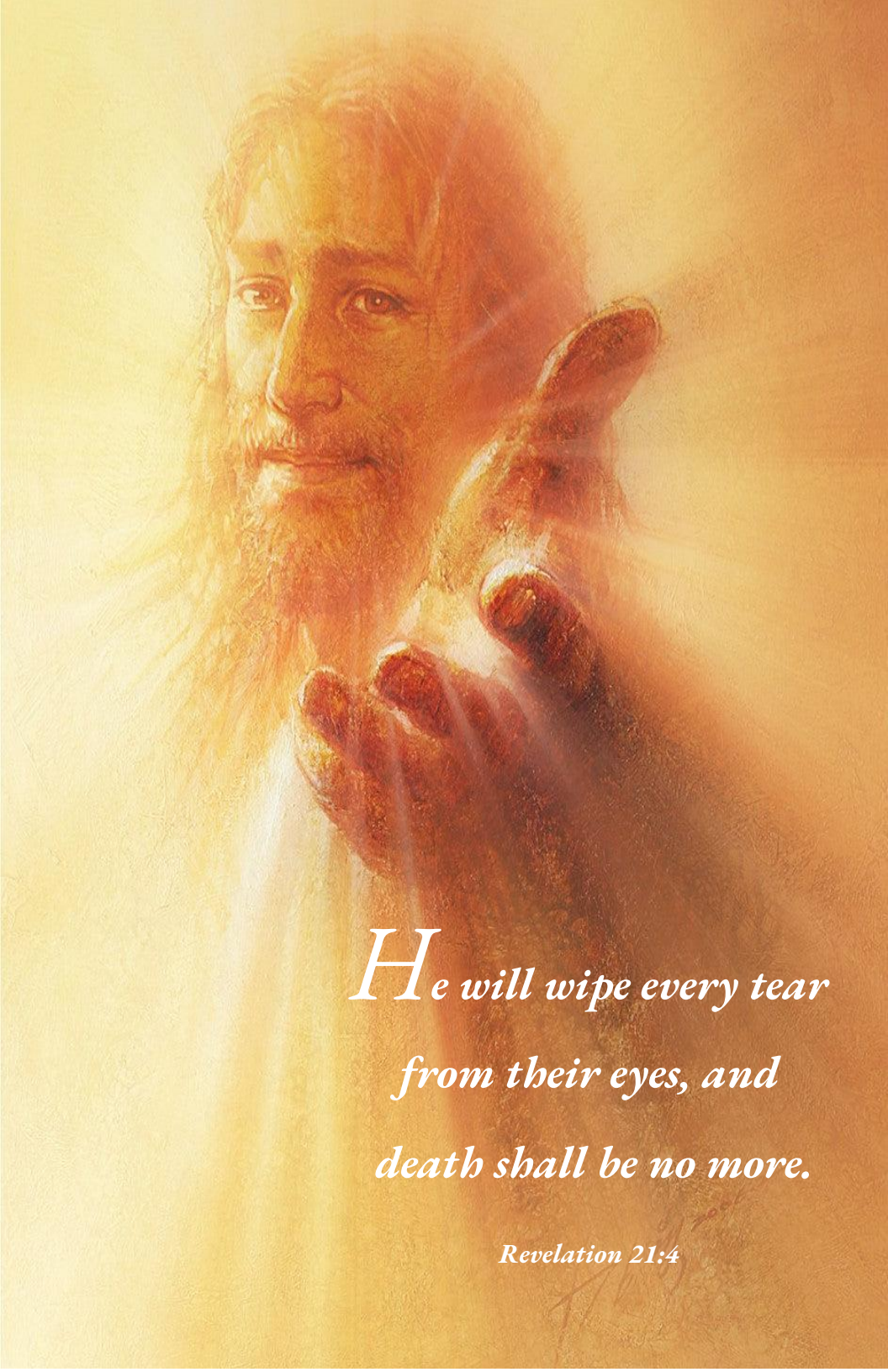




*He will wipe every tear
from their eyes, and
death shall be no more.*

Revelation 21:4

The Victory Service for Jane Smith-Cowan

January 9, 1950 – June 19, 2026

*Celebrating the victory of Jesus Christ
over sin and death for all His believers.*



Saturday, June 27, 2026 – 11:00 AM
Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN
Officiant: Pastor Tom Naumann
Organist: Stephen Kuehne



Psalm 23 ✝ Greeting ✝ Opening Prayer

Hymn *How Great Thou Art*

1 *O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

[Refrain]: *Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee,
"How great thou art! How great thou art!"*

2 *When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, [Refrain]*

3 *And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. [Refrain]*

4 *When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]*

✠ The Reading of the Obituary ✠

Jane Marie Smith-Cowan, 76, of Blaine, MN, passed away June 19, 2026, lovingly surrounded by all of her children and grandchildren from complications while undergoing treatment in her fight against cancer. Her faith was in the Lord and trusted in Him to bring her home.

Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Jane was born on January 9, 1950, to Harold and Elnora Smith on a farm outside of Plankinton, SD. She entered God's kingdom of grace through the waters of Holy Baptism on March 19 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Plankinton. Her family moved to Beresford, SD, where she grew up for most of her life. On June 13, 1965, Jane confirmed her Christian faith at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Beresford.

***Psalm 127:1,3 Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Children are a heritage from the Lord.***

Jane had two children, Kuyle and Kendra, with her former spouse Robert Christensen, whom she met while attending technical school. She later met the love of her life, Richard Cowan, and they were married on April 25, 1998, at Grace Lutheran Church in Fridley, MN, where they remained faithful members for the rest of their earthly lives. They led a full life together of 17 years until Richard passed away in 2015.

***John 15:12-14 Jesus said, "This is my commandment,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.
You are my friends if you do what I command you."***

Jane worked selflessly to provide for her children in the convenience store business as a store manager across the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, eventually taking a job at Deluxe Checking. She retired at the age of 63 to care for her mom and dad in their older years.

Jane was a loving, devoted mother and grandmother to her children and grandchildren. She loved to have her grandchildren at her house; spoiled by their grandmother, shopping trips were a regular occurrence

no matter the occasion. They often shared meals and favorite treats, played cards, watched movies, and had sleepovers. Jane enjoyed being outside in her yard whether tending to her flowers or repainting something to make it more beautiful. She indulged in hobbies such as decorating her house, inside and out, and collecting items she found great joy in to pass down to her family members. Despite anyone's situation, Jane always kept her doors open to whoever needed a place to stay, a place to talk, or a supportive friend; she would go out of her way to help her family and friends. Her friends became part of her family.

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Jane is survived by her brother, Kent Smith, son Kuyle (Jeni) Christensen, daughter Kendra (Chris) Enochson; grandchildren: Veronica, Brooklyn, Kennedy, Avery, Caroline, Grant, Devyn, Riley. She held a special place in her heart for her grandchildren's fiancées and significant others, while looking forward to their future weddings.

She was preceded in death by her spouse Richard Cowan, parents Harold and Elnora Smith, and her sisters Rosie, Connie, and Melanie.

Jane's earthly remains were cremated according to her wishes. A private interment will take place at a later date in Plankinton, SD, next to her husband, mother, father, and sister.

There will not be a day that goes by that we will not miss her, but we are so grateful she was our mother. Until we meet again Mom, we love you forever and always.

John 14:19 Jesus said, "Because I live, you also will live."

✠ Scripture Readings ✠

The following words from God have been chosen for our comfort, strengthening, and encouragement.

First Reading: All of us will one day stand before the judgment throne of God, where we know there will be a reckoning for every wrong we've ever done. What a blessing to hear that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has already laid down His life for us and paid the full price of our sin.

Isaiah 53:5-6 *He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Second Reading: On earth we have endless doubts, tragedies, and fears. Jesus tells us about life and death and why believers have nothing to fear.

John 11:25-26 *"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."*



Third Reading: Worldly grief is empty because it focuses on what was. Christian grief is hopeful because it focuses on what *is* and what *will be*.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.*



Fourth Reading: Children of God do not endure sorrow and grief alone. The Lord who created us and redeemed us promises to be with us always.

Isaiah 43:1-3 *But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.*



Fifth Reading: Because Jesus has cleansed us from sin, believers have the promise of a perfect life with Him in heaven forever.

Revelation 21:2-4 *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling*

place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

- 1 *What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!***
- 2 *Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.***
- 3 *Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.***

✠ The Sermon: *Isaiah 43:13* ✠

*For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand
and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.*

THEME: "HE HOLDS MY HAND"

✠ The Apostles' Creed ✠

We boldly confess what we believe.

- ☐ 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.

Pastor's Prayer ✠ The Lord's Prayer

P Dear Heavenly Father. . . we ask this through Christ our Lord, who taught us 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.

✠ The Benediction ✠

The blessing given by God for His people (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!

Closing Hymn I'm But a Stranger Here

1 I'm but a stranger here, Heav'n is my home;

Earth is a desert drear, Heav'n is my home.

Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand;

Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

2 What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;

Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;

And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;

I shall reach home at last; Heav'n is my home.

3 There at my Savior's side Heav'n is my home;

I shall be glorified; Heav'n is my home.

There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best;

And there I, too, shall rest, Heav'n is my home.

4 Therefore I murmur not; Heav'n is my home;

Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home;

And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand.

Heav'n is my fatherland, Heav'n is my home.

✠ Announcements ✠

Everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship meal in the church's fellowship hall following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church or School.

A Word to the Mourning Family

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

The above words of the Apostle Paul apply to you as they have to all Christians of every generation. You are saddened when you think of losing your loved one. But you are not without hope. You know that Jesus died for your sins and rose again from the dead. And you have God's own assurance that He will raise up all who trust in Jesus as their LORD and Savior. So today you are not be saying "good-bye" to Jane, but rather, "till we meet again" in the eternal joy and bliss of our heavenly home. May God comfort you with His powerful Word.

A Word to the Worshipers

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11:25-26

You have come to show your last respects to a friend who has departed this life. You have come to share the sorrows of those who grieve. But above all, you have come to worship the LORD our God Who has given us the victory through the death and resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ. As the Triune God welcomes a person into His fellowship through Holy Baptism and sustains their faith through the preaching of the Word and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, so at death the voice of our Savior God is heard again. In the Christian victory service, the church proclaims its glorious assurance of the resurrection of the dead through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Word to All

These words are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Much has been said today about salvation and eternal life. If you are unsure of your eternal future, if you have questions about life after death, or if you simply want to learn more about God's Word, please speak with Pastor Tom Naumann. He would be pleased to meet with you. He also offers a free Bible study on the basics of Christianity. Where & when? Your convenience.

Livestream @GraceLutheranChurchFridleyMN  **YouTube**

Sermon Podcast @GodsWordFromGraceFridley  **Spotify**  **Apple Podcasts** 

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