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THE ORDER OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE

† *ESTHER KRISTINA LINNEA SCHUETZLER* †

Invocation & Prayer:

Hymn:.....*TLH 464: Blest Be the Tie That Binds (Alt. Melody)*

1. Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one,
Our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.
4. When here our pathways part,
We suffer bitter pain;
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,
We hope to meet again.
5. This glorious hope revives
Our courage by the way,
While each in expectation lives
And longs to see the day.

- 6. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.**

Brief Biography: *With WS 785: Children of the Heavenly Father*

The pilgrimage of Esther Kristina Linnea Schuetzler through this world of sin and sorrow into the victorious glory of heaven may be summed up as follows: Her earthly pilgrimage began when she was born on November 16, 1921, in Wyoming, Minnesota, the daughter of Carl and Esther (nee Swanson) Wahlgren. Shortly thereafter Esther became a child of God by the power of the Holy Spirit through Holy Baptism. She was confirmed in her baptismal grace, trusting in Psalm 18:2, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

**SING(J): Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.**

Prior to World War II, Esther met Robert Schuetzler at their church's youth group meetings. They eventually married on September 23, 1945, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wyoming, MN. The Lord blessed their marital union with 67 years of Christian companionship and with five children: Robert, Diane, Patricia, Laurie, and Susan. Esther worked at Northern Wood as a jigsaw cutter during the war years. She loved cooking, baking, and gardening. Her family was much of her focus in life, enjoying the time she had with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Both Esther and Robert were steadfast in their confession of Christian faith as they remained committed to the truth of God's Word, being active members at Grace Lutheran Church in Fridley, MN. Esther glorified her Lord Jesus throughout her life, understanding the payment her Savior made for her sins: "*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's*" (1 Corinthians 6:20).

**SING(♫): God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish
From all evil things He spares them
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

Esther's soul was summoned to be with her Lord this past Wednesday evening, April 17, 2013, her time of grace here on earth being 91 years. Her earthly remains will be laid to rest at Crystal Lake Cemetery in north Minneapolis, MN, awaiting the Last Day of the world when our Lord will invite all of His believers: *"Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (Matthew 25:34).

**SING(♫): Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.**

Esther was preceded in death by her parents and all of her other ten siblings, she being the last living member of her immediate family of eight brothers and two sisters. She is survived by husband, Robert; children, Robert (Pat), Diane (David) Syverson, Patricia Wyman (Richard, deceased), Laurie (David) Benkowski, Susan (Thomas) Brennan; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

We thank the Lord for blessing us with Esther and allowing her to touch our lives in the way that she did as a wife, mother, grandmother, sister-in-Christ, and friend. *"The LORD gave, the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD"* (Job 1:21).

**SING(♫): Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.**

Solo (Barb Fleischer): In the Garden



Responsive Psalm of Comfort:Psalm 23

P: The LORD is my shepherd;

C: I shall not want.

P: He makes me to lie down in green pastures;

C: He leads me beside the still waters.

P: He restores my soul;

C: He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

P: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;

C: For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

P: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

C: You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;

C: And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Scripture Readings of Comfort:

Hymn:..... TLH 552: Abide with Me!

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me!
3. Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.
6. I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me!
7. 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.
8. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Sermon:Matthew 14:25-33

²⁵ Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." (NKJV™)

"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me!"

Opening Hymn:..... TLH 657: Beautiful Savior

1. Beautiful Savior, King of Creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

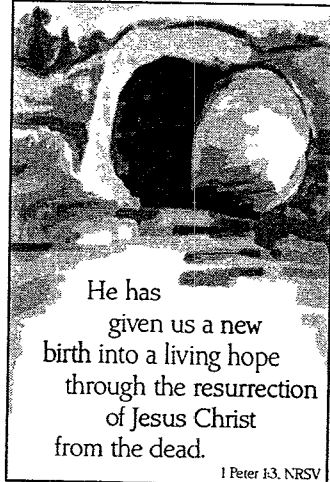
Prayer and Lord's Prayer:

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.

Benediction:

Closing Hymn:..... TLH 370: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
3. His oath, His covenant, and blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When every earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
4. When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.



Pall Bearers: Dave Benkowski, Tom Brennan, Tim Syverson, Rick Wyman, Scott Wyman, Eric Schuetzler

Announcements:

- † Following the funeral service there will be a committal service at Crystal Lake Cemetery (3816 Penn Avenue N; Minneapolis, MN, 55412).
- † A luncheon will follow in the church's fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to come.
- † Memorials may be directed to Grace Lutheran Church. The family would like to support the Sunday School program.
- † The family extends a word of thanks to all who have been supportive and encouraging during this time of their temporary loss yet Esther's great gain.

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

John 10:28-30 NKJV