

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

for the life of

Norma Ann Vest

November 24, 1946 – October 14, 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church
Alexandria, Virginia

*Tuesday in the Twenty-first Week after Pentecost
October 24, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.*

✠ ✠ ✠

Pre-Service Music

“Ave Maria” (Schubert)

Welcome

Opening Rite *(please stand and face the back of the church)*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The casket is covered with the funeral pall, reminding us of how in holy Baptism we are clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

P In holy Baptism, Norma 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, so that 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.”** *(Romans 6:3-5)*

P Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Processional Hymn

"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 -
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to
7 He lives and grants me dai - ly breath; He lives, and
8 He lives, all glo - ry to His name! He lives, my



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
wipe a - way my tears; He lives to calm my
I shall con - quer death; He lives my man - sion
Je - sus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.
to pre - pare; He lives to bring me safe - ly there.
sen - tence gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.

Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793

Text and tune: Public domain

Opening Sentences

P Through Holy Baptism, our gracious God forgives sin and creates new life. In Baptism, we are reborn to a new life where we know God as loving and forgiving Father. While we live, this new life is nourished by God's Word and the Sacraments. As we grow in God's grace, our faith becomes more mature. Understanding and wisdom are coupled together with compassion and servanthood, and with the help of the Holy Spirit are able to follow Christ's example as we love God and serve each other.

The hope and joy which we have in Christ does not end at the grave. God's loving purposes for God's people are not destroyed by death. Rather, death becomes the gateway to eternal life with God in heaven.

Today, we are gathered here to remember and to celebrate the life given to our sister Norma, who now lives with Christ in heaven. We grieve, and yet we hope. We are sad, yet we are able to celebrate and give thanks for the hope of resurrection. Our faith in Christ reminds us that no matter how painful death may be, it is victory, not defeat. Because Christ lives, Norma lives. This is our faith, our hope, and our joy.

Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

O God of grace and mercy, we give you thanks for your loving-kindness shown to Norma, and to all your servants who, having finished their course of 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.**

A Life Remembered

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-8

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And the Lord will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸the Lord will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of the people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Hymn

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" (Based on Psalm 23)

The musical score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

Second Reading

Revelation 21:1-5a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² 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^[a] of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,^[b] and God himself will be with them as their God.^[c] 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." ⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 14:1-7, 18-23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my

commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?”²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Hymn of the Day

“Nearer My God to Thee”

1. Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee! E'en though it
 2. Though like the wan - der - er, The sun gone down, Dark - ness be
 3. There let the way ap - pear Steps un - to heav'n; All that Thou
 4. Then, with my wak - ing thoughts Bright with Thy praise, Out of my
 5. Or if on joy - ful wing, Cleav - ing the sky, Sun, moon, and
 be a cross That rais - eth me; Still all my song shall be, Near - er, my
 o - ver me, My rest a stone; Yet in my dreams I'd be Near - er, my
 send - est me In mer - cy giv'n; An - gels to beck - on me Near - er, my
 ston - y griefs, Beth - el I'll raise; So by my woes to be Near - er, my
 stars for - got, Up - ward I fly, Still all my song shall be Near - er, my
 God, to Thee, Near - er, my God, to Thee, Near - er to Thee. A-men.

Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

C 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 into hell. 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.

Prayers of the People

- P** Trusting in the promise of eternal life given to us in Christ's death and resurrection, we come before our Lord in prayer:
- P** O God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy on us.**
- P** O God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy on us and grant us your peace.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, dying, you destroyed our death; rising, you restored our life. We give you thanks and praise for the hope of the resurrection and the life to come which we have in you. Give us your comfort in our need. Lord, in your mercy;
C **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Loving Father, give your gracious presence and your saving peace to Norma's family: her husband, Raivo; her children and their spouses: Erika and Grayson, Karl and Rachel; her grandchildren: Grayson, Jackson, Izzy, Coralynn, and Daphne; her brother, and his wife, Donald and Linda, and their children, Kira and Kate; and to all her relatives and friends. Surround them with your love and comfort them with your strength to meet the days ahead knowing that you are with them always, even to the end of the world. Lord, in your mercy;
C **Hear our prayer.**
- P** Merciful God, you sent your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his

death Jesus destroyed the power of death, and by his resurrection he has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Lord, in your mercy;

C Hear our prayer.

P O God, the generations rise and pass away before you. You are the strength of those who labor, and the rest of the blessed dead. We rejoice in the company of your saints. We remember all who have lived in faith, all who have peacefully died, and especially those most dear to us who now rest in you. Give us, we pray, our portion with those who have trusted in you and have lived out your gracious will in their lives. To your name, with the Church on earth, and the Church in heaven, we give all honor and glory, now and forever. Lord, in your mercy;

C Hear our prayer.

P Gracious God, hear our prayers and receive them for the sake of the crucified and risen One, our Savior Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.

Commendation

P Into your hands, merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Norma. Acknowledge, we pray, 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.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

The blessing of Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always.

C **Amen.**

P Let us go forth in peace.

C **In the Name of Christ.**

(Recessional Hymn, next page)

Recessional Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Postlude

"Prince of Denmark March" (Jeremiah Clarke)
(played at Norma and Raivo's wedding on 10/28/1967)



Following the service, you are cordially invited to a luncheon
in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's.

Interment will take place tomorrow (Wednesday, October 25) at
12 noon at:

Garden of Faith Memorial Garden
5598 Trumps Mill Road,
Baltimore, MD 21206

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to:

St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22310

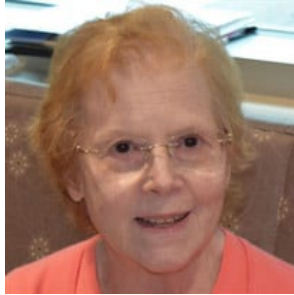
*Please indicate that your memorial is in memory of
Norma Vest.*

Serving This Day:

Officiant/Preacher	Rev. John S. Meehan
Organist	David Leahey
Greeters	Cathy Schreiner Pat Wangeman
Ushers	Barbara Pate Mike Waring
Crucifer	Michelle May
AV Team	Mark Gilbertson Jurgen Gobien



Norma Ann Vest



Norma Ann Vest, 76, of Alexandria, Virginia passed away in the night on Saturday, October 14th, 2023. Beloved wife of Raivo Vest; cherished mother of Karl Vest and his wife Rachel, and Erika Topping and her husband C. Grayson; sister of Donald Brenner and his wife Linda Olsheska Brenner; aunt of Kira and Katherine, loving grandmother of Grayson, Jackson, Isabelle, Coralynn, and Daphne.

Norma fought cancer for eight years, with strength, grace, and rarely a complaint. She wanted nothing more than to be there for her husband of 57 years and the family and friends she so dearly loved and cherished. Norma grew up in Sewickley, PA and was the oldest of 3 children. She attended Penn State University, where she met the love of her life. Moving to Alexandria, VA she continued her career as a Home Economics teacher. She was an active member of the Potomac Home Economists, continuing to join monthly meetings until her passing.

She was also very active at St. John's Lutheran Church and a member of the St. John's Creative Fellowship. Norma loved crafting, sewing, and baking for the annual craft fair.

She lived her life in service to others and was a constant example of selflessness.

Norma's favorite role of all was that of devoted Mother and Grandmother. Nothing brought her more joy than time spent with her grandchildren.

She will be remembered fondly and with great affection as a humble, strong, and joyful woman loved by all who called her friend, sister, aunt, mom, grandma, and dearest wife.

Acknowledgments

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