



**CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR**

**Gail Rathgeber**

**August 11, 1943—December 15, 2023**

Gail was baptized into the Christian faith in 1943, and she was confirmed in the Lutheran faith in 1957 at Zabaoth Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI, by Pastor Arthur Tacke.

**Service Notes:**

M: Minister speaks

C: Congregation responds

**HYMN**

**Amazing Grace, How Sweet The Sound**  
*CWH 576*

**REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

In Holy Baptism, Gail was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul affirms, "In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

The apostle also writes, "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Christ is risen!

**He is risen, indeed!**

**LAMB OF GOD**   
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[www.lambofgodlafayette.com](http://www.lambofgodlafayette.com)

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## GOD'S COMFORT

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

The wages of sin is death,  
**but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!  
**He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

When Christ, who is our life, appears,  
**then we also will appear with him in glory.**

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn the loss of Gail, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts; dispel our doubts and fears. We thank you for bringing Gail to faith and giving her the gift of eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word and sacraments, and keep us in the saving faith until we are united with you and all the saints where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## READING

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
<sup>3</sup>he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for his name's sake.  
<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
<sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## READING

<sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23

## 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.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and  $\text{||}$  give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## HYMN

**He Will Hold Me Fast**  
*CWH 813*

***\*\*Please join us after the service for a meal and fellowship.\*\****

## PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, you are always with us, especially when our hearts are heavy with grief. Send us your Spirit so that even as we grieve we are filled with hope. You have convinced us that your Son Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that our loved ones who have fallen asleep in Christ are resting in peace with you. Let nothing shake our confidence in your promise that we will be united with you and them in glory forever. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

What great mercy you have shown us, Father in heaven! Through your Son's resurrection, our hope is alive and our inheritance is certain. The bliss and security we will enjoy in your presence are blessings that will never perish, spoil, or fade. Shield us with your power and give us faith to trust in you in every trial until we inherit the glorious riches you are keeping for us in heaven. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we see your abiding love in the kindness shown to us by family and friends. As we receive comfort and encouragement from others, we are experiencing your care. Help us bear all our burdens patiently. Be the strength of your people, now and in difficult days to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## READING

**Revelation 21:1-4**

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING

**John 14:1-6**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going."

<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

**Nearer, My God, to Thee**

1. Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee  
E'en though it be a cross, that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.
2. Though, like a wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness comes over me, my rest a stone;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be, nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.
3. There let the way appear, an open heaven;  
All that thou sendest me, in mercy given;  
Angels to beckon me, nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.
4. There in my Father's home, safe and at rest,  
There in my Savior's love, perfectly blest;  
Age after age to be nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee.

**SERMON**

**John 14:1-6**

***Jesus — the Way, the Truth and the Life***

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN**

**I'm But A Stranger Here**

*CWH 853*