

Funeral of
Elizabeth Mary Pietsch

25 April 1952 – 27 July 2022



**2.30pm, Friday 5 August 2022
St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill**

WELCOME and INTRODUCTION

OPENING

In the name of the Father and of the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

HYMN *Jerusalem the golden*

Jerusalem the golden
With milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation
Sink heart and voice oppressed.

I know not, O I know not
What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory,
What bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion,
All jubilant with song,
And bright with many an angel,
And all the martyr throng;
The Prince is ever in them,
The daylight is serene,
The pastures of the blessed
Are decked in glorious sheen.

There is a throne of David;
And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph,
The song of them that feast;
And they, who with their leader
Have conquered in the fight,
For ever and for ever
Are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
That eager hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us
To that dear land of rest;
Who art, with God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest.

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REMINDER OF BAPTISM

The journey of our life with God begins at our baptism, and Liz was baptised at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Eudunda on 1 June 1952. As we now farewell Liz, we remember with thanks the grace and love of God which sustained her from her baptism and throughout her life on earth, and which now assures us that her life continues in God's presence. St Paul, in Romans chapter 6, says:

“Don't you know that 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. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.”

Jesus said to Liz at her baptism “You are the light of the world. Let your light shine to the glory of God”.

The candles are lit by Liz's grandchildren: Annabel, Lucas, Benjamin, Harriet, Huxley, and Vita.



PRAYER

The Lord be with you
And also with you

O God,
make the door of this house wide enough
to receive all who need human love and fellowship,
and narrow enough to shut out
all envy, pride and strife.
Make its threshold smooth enough
to be no stumbling-block to children,
or to straying feet,
but rugged enough
to turn back the tempter's power.
O God, make the door of this house
a gateway to thine eternal kingdom.
Amen.

(Prayer of Bishop Thomas Ken (1637-1711), prayed with Liz in her final hours)

I SONG *I was there to hear your borning cry*

I was there to hear your borning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptised
To see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well.
In a blaze of light you wandered off
To find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
From dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
With just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your burning cry;
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptised
To see your life unfold.

*Words & Music: © John Ylvisaker, 1985
New Generation Publishers, Iowa, USA*

OBITUARY

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ, has destroyed death and brings immortal life through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving the life that Liz shared with us through the grace of God.

The obituary is read by Liz's children: Tamson, Sam and Nathan, and her granddaughter Annabel.

Followed by a pictorial celebration of Liz's life.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Psalm 121

Read by Liz's lifelong friend, Julie Clark

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
² My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴ He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and for evermore.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Read by Liz's sister, Ju Jenkin

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

I **Gospel: John 14:1-6, 27**

Read by Pastor Neville.

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In 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? ³ And 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. ⁴ And you know the way to the place 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.

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

I **ADDRESS**

I **HYMN** *Praise my soul the King of Heaven*

1. Praise, my soul, the king of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah!
Praise the everlasting king!

2. Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
glorious in his faithfulness.

3. Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
widely as his mercy flows!

4. Frail as summer's flower we flourish
blows the wind and it is gone;
but while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on.
Praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise the high eternal one!

5. Angels, help us to adore him,
you behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space;
praise him, praise him, hallelujah,
praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte 1793-1847 alt.
Based on Psalm 103
In the public domain*

I APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess the faith by which we live and in which we die.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come 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.

*or: Christian; 'catholic' here means 'universal'

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, our Father, in whom we live and move and have our being:

We thank you for Liz and what we have received from her. Sustain us in life and death, and let your everlasting light shine on us and all your faithful people.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Our lives were enriched by Liz's presence, her gifts and intellect, her faith and love. Thank you for all the ways she enriched our lives.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Remember Liz's family and friends. Lighten their sense of loss with your presence, and support them when they feel her absence. Grant them calmness and peace and help them to support one another.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Help us, when we are perplexed and troubled, to believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Be with us in our journey through life and teach us to live wisely, making the most of our time on earth

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Remind us that we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, and prepare us all for the world to come. And when our last hour comes, support us by your power, and take us home to your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

I THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**



SONG OF BLESSING

May the feet of God walk with you

May the feet of God walk with you,
And his hand hold you tight,
May the eye of God rest on you
And his ear hear your cry.
May the smile of God be for you,
And his breath give you life.
May the child of God grow in you,
And his love bring you home.

Aubrey Podlich & Robin Mann.

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COMMITTAL

Our Lord says: I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Since almighty God, our heavenly Father, in his gracious wisdom has called Liz Pietsch from this life, we commit her body to its final resting place: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Dust we are and to dust we shall return. (But we know that as Christ was the first to rise from the dead, he will raise up our mortal bodies to be like his in glory.) We commend Liz to the Lord +, trusting in his infinite mercy. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord give you comfort and peace; and the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit +, be with you always.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Christ has risen.

He has risen indeed.

Go in the peace of the Lord.

Amen.

The minister and the pallbearers take their places at the coffin.

I RECESSIONAL HYMN: Tell out my soul

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name – the Lord, the Mighty One.

3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

*Timothy Dudley Smith 1926-
Based on Luke 1:46-55
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***The family extend their sincere thanks and gratitude to those who
have contributed to this service:***

Pastor Neville Otto and Sue Westhorp (service leaders)

David Pietsch (St Paul's church funeral co-ordinator)

Julie Clark and Ju Jenkin (readers)

Alan Collyer (organist)

Hannah Pietsch (vocalist)

Heritage & Heritage Funerals

and all those who helped care for Liz, especially in her final weeks.

