



For we believe that
Jesus died and rose again,
and so we believe that
God will bring with Jesus
those who have
fallen asleep in him.

1 Thessalonians 4:14, NIV



January 25th, 2025

Organist: Kathy Conway
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Victory Service for Vicki Lynn Still

Pre-service Meditation:

Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn:

TLH 277 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Invocation:

P We begin this victory service in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord, we do not gather today to mourn that the Lord has taken Vicki out of this world of sin. Today, we rejoice in what was given to Vicki, first promised in baptism and now attained in full: eternal life through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Though Vicki was sinful, as are we all, we trust by faith that through God's Word Vicki received the blessed Gospel of salvation and the promise of heaven. Now that God's promise of paradise is fulfilled for Vicki, we turn our attention to God's Word so that through it we might also be blessed in the same comfort and confidence. May God's Law remind us of our need, and may His Gospel pour out His abundant grace to meet that need.

First Reading:*Ezekiel 18:25-32*

Our temptation is to think when a loved one dies that God is not being fair.

But He reminds us that it is because of our sin that we perish and pleads with us to turn to Him in repentance and live.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? ²⁶When a righteous *man* turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. ²⁷Again, when a wicked *man* turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. ²⁸Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”

Second Reading:*Romans 6:5-11*

God shows His love for us in our Lord, Christ Jesus. Because He died for our sins on the cross and rose again, all who believe in Him will rise to new, unending life in heaven.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hymn*TLH 616 – Forever with the Lord*

God's Word of Comfort:
***Comfort One Another With
These Words***



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 - *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Hymn

WS 777 - Amazing Grace

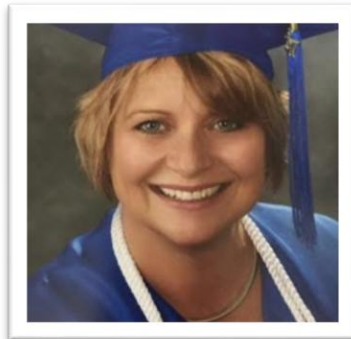
Prayer + Lord's Prayer

Solo – Kathy Conway

Benediction

Closing Hymn

TLH 613 – Jerusalem the Golden



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