

Celebration of Life

FOR

KAREN RUTH MEYER

MARCH 9, 1941 - OCTOBER 25, 2026



Zion Lutheran Church

zionappleton.org

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Service of Holy Communion
& Funeral Liturgy
for
Karen Ruth Meyer

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026

The pastor will read the liturgy printed in plain text.

The congregation joins in the liturgy printed in bold text.

♪ *Hymns may be found in the red hymnals located in each pew.*

Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

+Call to Worship

P: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

C: **"Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live."**

P: In Christ, death is not the end but the doorway.

C: **In Christ, love is not lost, and life is not gone.**

P: We gather in sorrow, but not without hope.

C: **For we belong to the risen Lord.**

P: Welcome in the name of Jesus,
the Savior of the world.

We are gathered to worship,
to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,
to remember before God our sister Karen,
to give thanks for her life,
to commend her to our merciful redeemer,
and to comfort one another in our grief.

+Gathering Hymn - ELW 608

"Softly & Tenderly Jesus is Calling"



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

+Thanksgiving for Baptism

- P: When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,
we were baptized into his death.
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 live a new 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.
- P: Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the
dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.
- C: **We glorify you.**
- P: Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all
humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,
we praise you.
- C: **We praise you.**
- P: Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who
sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.
- C: **We worship you.**
- P: To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.
- C: **Amen.**

+Greeting

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

+Prayer of the Day

- P: Let us pray. Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of
comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their
sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

P: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Isaiah 12

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

¹ You will say on that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.



² Surely God is my salvation;
 I will trust and will not be afraid,
 for the Lord is my strength and my might;
 he has become my salvation."

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say on that day:

"Give thanks to the Lord;
 call on his name;
 make known his deeds among the nations;
 proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
 let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
 for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

+Gospel Acclamation - ELW 779

"Amazing Grace"



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to





now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

+Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!



²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Homily

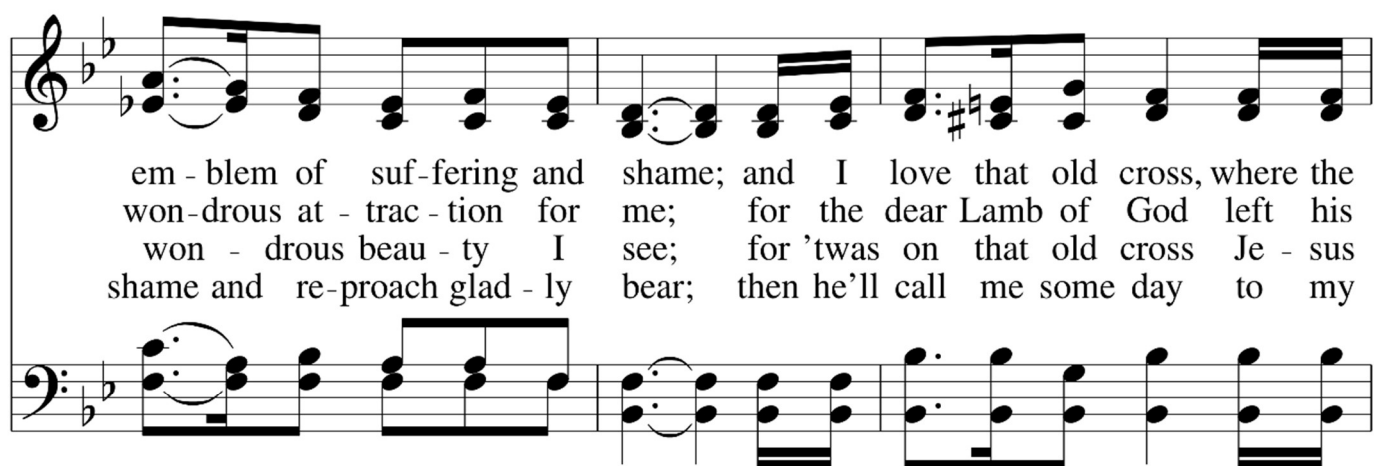
Pastor Jason Poole-Xiong

Hymn of the Day

"The Old Rugged Cross"



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, the
 2 O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, its



em - blem of suf - fer - ing and shame; and I love that old cross, where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his
 won - drous beau - ty I see; for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; then he'll call me some day to my



Refrain
 dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry a - bove to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. So I'll cher - ish the
 suf - fer - ed and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



old rug-ged cross, till my tro-phies at last I lay down; I will
cross, the old rug-ged cross,

cling to the old rug-ged cross, and ex-change it some day for a crown.
cross, the old rug-ged cross,

WORDS and MUSIC: George Bennard (1873-1958)

OLD RUGGED CROSS
Irregular

Apostles Creed

P: Joined with all the saints in every time and place, and with Karen, who now rests firmly in God's promise, let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: God of mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: ...now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

+Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

+Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory...

...Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

+Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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**

+Invitation to the Table

P: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion Distribution

At Zion, everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. The Presiding Pastor will provide verbal instructions for communion. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring communion to you. Gluten free bread is available. Children or those who wish not to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

+Post Communion Blessing

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace always.

C: **Amen.**

+Post Communion Prayer

- P: Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ's resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son's resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

+Commendation

- P: Let us commend Karen to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Karen. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, 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.**

+Dismissal

- P: Let us go forth in peace,
C: **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

+Recessional



Serving in Worship

Presider: Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong

Accompanist: William Surtees

Sexton & Sacristan: Gwen Schwandt

Following the service, all are invited to
join the family for lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Karen will be laid to rest at
Highland Memorial Park Cemetery – Appleton
on Tuesday, November 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Obituary



Karen was born at her parent's farm in Oconto Falls, WI on a stormy winter day on March 9, 1941. She was born at home with her 2 grandmothers assisting her mother in delivery. She was the first child of the late Walter and Louise Wudtke.

She lived on her parent's farm with her two younger brothers until October 1, 1960, when she married Wayne W. Meyer at Grace Lutheran Church in Oconto Falls, WI. After high school, Karen had worked for 3 years at Northern Shoe Factory in Pulaski, WI. In 1963 they moved from Gillett, WI to Appleton, WI, and Karen worked for Zwicker Knitting Mill in Appleton for 10 years. After which she pursued a degree in nursing. This included an associate degree at the University of Fox Valley University of Wisconsin-Appleton, and next a Diploma of Nursing from Mercy Medical School of Nursing-Oshkosh in 1978. As she worked part time at Outagamie County Health Center, Karen returned to college and attained her BSN degree from the University of Wisconsin's School of Nursing.

She then began a 25+ year career at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, WI, enjoying every moment of it! She served primarily in the rehabilitation and speciality program areas. Retiring in 2006, she enjoyed biking, dancing, traveling and just spending time together with Wayne, until his death in 2012. Karen continued to travel after Wayne died, until her life changed gears with a diagnosis of Myasthenia Gravis in 2014. This started a very challenging health journey for Karen.

Karen was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Appleton, WI since 1963, when Wayne and she had moved there. It was at this church that Karen met Harry Hameister, who she said changed her life and a new journey began. They both opened new chapters in their lives, having both lost their spouses within 6 months of each other. Hence a wonderful friendship evolved. They became each other's joy in life.

Karen will be deeply missed by her many relatives and friends and the love of her life, Harry.