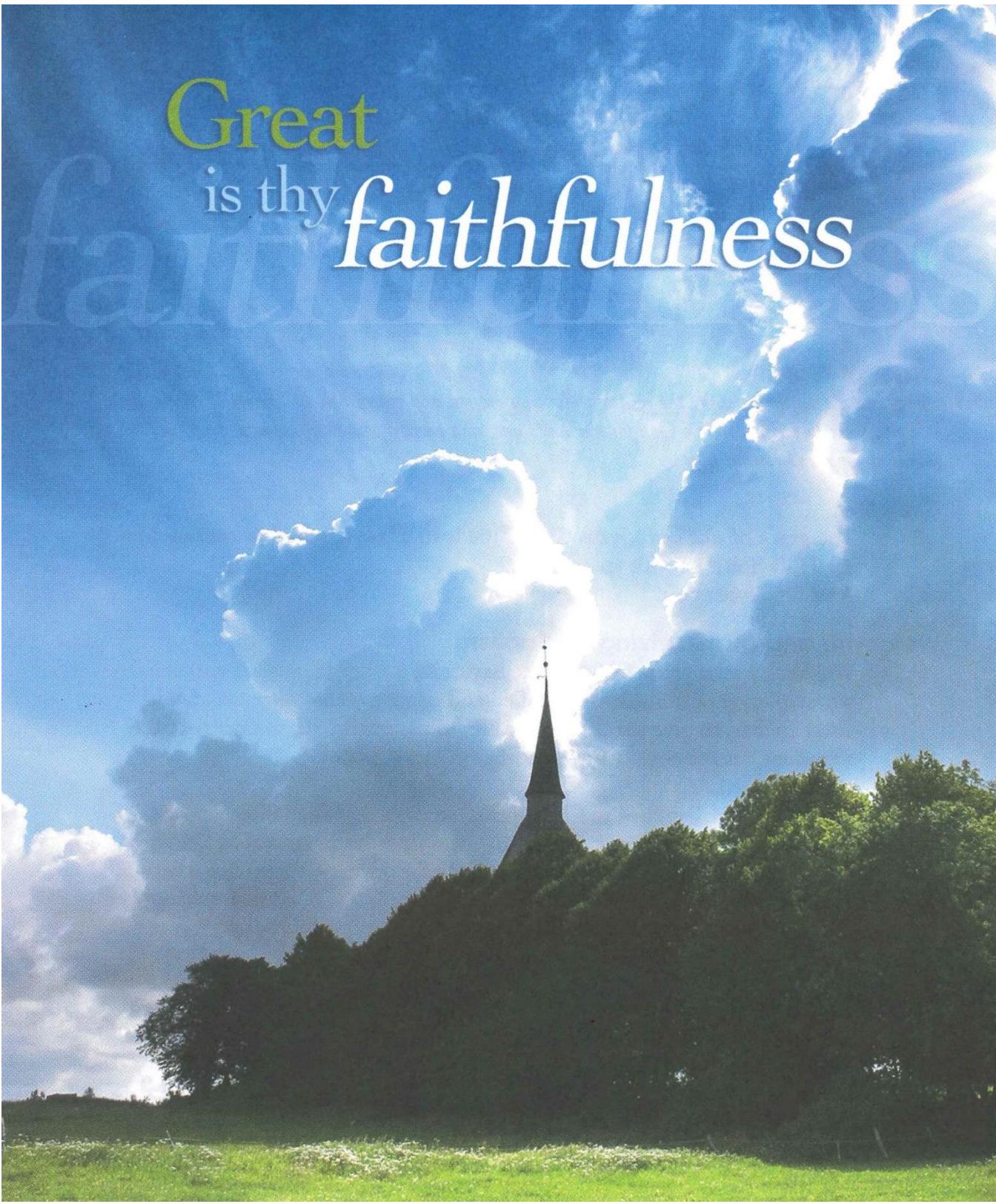


Great  
is thy *faithfulness*



# Esther Lorraine Rusk

*October 23, 1928 – April 8, 2020*

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April 17, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

## Order of Worship

*At a person's death, we share the grief of those who mourn and remember the brevity of life on earth. We give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God and eternal life.*

## 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.**

## Welcome and Thanksgiving for Baptism

**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 Esther, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our sorrow.

**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.

## Acclamation

**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.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory,  
we remember before you today our sister Esther. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **Family Remembrances**

Terri Maniscalco – Eulogy

Shannon Grimes – Memories

Alex Grimes – Poem

Makayla Rusk – Memories

Debra Faint – Poem

Rick Rusk, Stacey Sparks, and LaTarius Johnson – Poem “Are All the Children In?”

## **Scripture ♦ 1 Timothy 6:12–15**

<sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our

Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which he will bring about at the right time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

L      The word of the Lord.      C      **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

*Spoken in unison*

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

**<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:**

**he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

**<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**

**<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;**

**thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.**

**<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**

**thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and**

**I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

## **Scripture ♦ Psalms 139:1–6**

**<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me.**

**<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

**<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.**

**<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.**

**<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

L      The word of the Lord.      C      **Thanks be to God.**

**+Hymn***Jesus Loves Me* (verses 1 and 2)

ELW 595



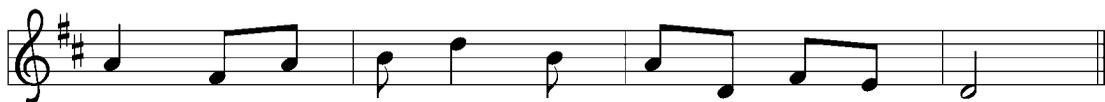
1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.

*Refrain*

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

**Gospel ♦ Matthew 6:25-34**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>25</sup>“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you

—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

<sup>34</sup>“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

L The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

## Homily

Pastor Ken Thurow

## Hymn of the Day

*When Peace Like a River (It Is Well With My Soul)* (verses 1, 3, 4) ELW 785



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



## Commendation

P Let us commend Esther Lorraine Rusk to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Esther. 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. The Lord bless her and keep her. The Lord's face shine on her with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon her with favor and ✠ give her peace.

C Amen.

## Benediction

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit  
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## Closing Hymn

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee*

ELW 697

*Refrain*

Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;  
dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the refrain, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.



1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;  
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?  
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

*Immediately following the service, beginning at 12:30 p.m., you are invited to join the family in procession to Olinger Eastlawn Cemetery (19600 E Smith Road) for interment.*



The family requests memorial donations be sent to:  
Denver Hospice, 501 S. Cherry Street, Suite 700, Denver CO 80246 or  
[www.thedenverhospice.org](http://www.thedenverhospice.org) in memory of Esther Rusk.

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# Esther Lorraine Rusk

*October 23, 1928 – April 8, 2020*

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Early Wednesday morning, April 8, 2020 the loving hand of God along with her husband, Rich, reached down and lifted Esther Lorraine Rusk, 91, to her Heavenly home. She passed peacefully in her sleep with one of her granddaughters, Shannon, by her side, at her Aurora home of 58 years. Esther was born in Winterset, Iowa to Charles and Belle Rogers. She was the last of eight children—4 boys and 4 girls—who have all preceded her in death. Her family were share farmers in Iowa. She graduated from Winterset High School, Winterset, Iowa. Esther and Rich were married the following year, June 6, 1948, in Winterset, Iowa. Esther said that people had remarked it would never last. Well after 71 years, they proved them wrong. Esther and Rich moved to Loveland, Colorado in 1950. Teresa was born there in 1951.

They then moved to their first home in Aurora the spring of 1952.

While still in their first home in Aurora, their second child, Richard II was born in 1954 followed by their last child Debbie in 1957. Esther and Rich then moved the family to their second and final Aurora home in 1962, where they lived till they passed.

Esther worked at P.I.E. Trucking Company in Denver in the office before becoming pregnant with their son. After that, Esther was a stay at home mother who would take in ironing to supplement the family income. Esther was truly the matriarch of the family. As her children grew she made sure that the girls knew how to sew and all three children to cook along with knowing all basic household chores. After Debbie started kindergarten in 1963, Esther started to work for Aurora Public Schools as the “Lunch Lady”. She only wanted to do that for one year. Well, she enjoyed it so much, she retired after 25 years.

Esther was a woman that not only gave her time to her family but to other volunteer organizations. She was known for her smile that would light up a room when she entered, her helping hand, honesty, and love for her family and friends. She was active in the Aurora Police Officer Wives Association for several years, holding the position of President for two years in 1967–68. Esther was also a “Pink Lady” volunteer at the Medical Center of Aurora North for 28 years and at Banner Health Hospital in Mesa, Arizona for 15 years. She also held the position of President at both places.

As family orientated as they were, Rich and she would always would take the children on camping vacations or road trips yearly. After the children had grown Esther and Rich continued to camp, travel, and fish until health made them stop.

Esther and Rich were “snowbirds” in Mesa, AZ from 1990 till last April. Declining health prevented them from returning to Mesa in October of 2019 for their 28<sup>th</sup> season. They were both highly respected in Silverridge Resort. They totally thrived there with all their friends and activities. Esther and Rich were members of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Aurora, Colorado since 1965. In the winter they were members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Mesa, Arizona.

She leaves behind her daughter, Teresa (Ronald) Maniscalco, son, Richard II all of Aurora, Colorado and daughter Debbie (Steve) Faint of Las Vegas Nevada, along with six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter. Due to the pandemic, there will be a funeral service but for the immediate family. It will be broadcasted through ZOOM meeting app on your phone or computer.

There will be a grave side service at 1 p.m. at Olinger Eastlawn Cemetery, 19600 E Smith Road, Aurora, CO. All are welcome to attend, but you will have to stay in your cars as the service will be broadcasted through a family telephone conference call setup.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations be sent to: Denver Hospice, 501 S Cherry St., Suite 700, Denver, CO 80246 in memory of Esther Rusk or at [www.thedenverhospice.org](http://www.thedenverhospice.org).

## **Participants in Today's Service:**

Pastor	Rev. Ken Thurow
Lector	Amber Shepard
Pall Bearers	Aaron Shewmaker
	Alex Grimes
	LaTarius Johnson
	James Shepard
	John Glas
	Landon Sparks

*P = Pastor, C = Congregation, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal  
“+” in the bulletin indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able*



**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**111 Del Mar Circle, Aurora CO 80011**