



Memorial Service

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# Colleen Ann Graham

*December 30, 1934 – January 25, 2022*

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February 26, 2022 – 2:00 p.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.*

## Pre-service Music

Performed by Sara Jensen

## +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

*Please stand as you are able.*

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 Colleen, 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 Colleen. 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# Hymn

## *Born-ing Cry*

ELW 732



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
- 2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
- 3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937  
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker  
Text and music © 1985 John Ylvisaker.

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## Family Remembrances

Dave Graham  
Holly Graham  
John Graham

### Scripture ♦ Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23 (KJV)

*Read responsively*

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**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.**

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

**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 ♦ 1 Corinthians 15:35–50

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel ♦ John 14:1–6**

L The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 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? 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Homily**

## +Hymn of the Day

*Just As I Am, without One Plea*

ELW 592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## +Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

*Each petition concludes with the words "God of mercy" and the congregation responds:*

**C Hear our prayer.**

### **+Peace**

*In preparation for Holy Communion, we share a sign of peace with one another.*

**P The peace of the Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with these or similar words:*

**Peace be with you.**

### **+The Great Thanksgiving**

**P The Lord be with you**

**C And also with you**

**P Lift up your hearts**

**C We lift them to the Lord**

**P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God**

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

### **+Preface**

**P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...**

**...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:**

### **+Sanctus**

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## +Eucharistic Prayer

### +Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

### Distribution

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Ushers will direct you by the side aisles to kneel at the communion rail. You will receive a wafer followed by a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please make the pastor or assisting minister aware if this is your preference. Those who wish to receive communion but cannot come to the table will be communed in their seats.*

### Communion Music

*Thy Will Be Done*

Eilers

*Sung by Richard Schnier*

*Inverted Prayers*

Ylvisaker

*Guitar by Ken Barger*

### +Post Communion Blessing

**P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

## **+Commendation**

P Let us commend Colleen to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Colleen.  
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.**

*Please join in closing hymn on next page*

# +Closing Hymn

## How Great Thou Art

ELW 856



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;  
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

### Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



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# Colleen Ann Graham

*December 30, 1934 – January 25, 2022*

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Colleen Ann Graham passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on January 25, 2022. She was 87 years old.

Colleen spent her life giving of herself and genuinely loving everyone she ever came in contact with. She was active, supportive, and involved with her family and friends her entire life. She was a “Nebraska farm girl” who was so strong, in spite of the physical challenges she faced the past few years.

She was one of the original members of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Aurora, becoming a member in the early 1960s. She was actively involved in the children’s programs, Bible study groups, working in

the front office, serving on the board and councils, and numerous church “circles.” She received almost daily calls as a member of the “Prayer Tree” to pray for those in need. The numbers of people she prayed for was many thousand considering the more than 50 years she served in this role. Her service to others also included, but was not limited to, over 30 years of volunteer service at Camilla Care and Sable Care Nursing homes. She was blessed to have lifelong friends through the church whom she cherished.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Gerald (Sonny), three children and their spouses (Pam, Dave/Karla, and John/Jan), two sisters (Laree/Dick, Willa), two grandchildren (Holly and Johnny), and two great grandchildren (Oliver and Grayson). In addition, extended family members related through marriage included grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We remember her as the epitome of kind, selfless, caring, and every word you can use to describe an amazing human being. Her hugs and smile are legendary. We will miss her terribly but are comforted that she is no longer struggling with COPD and has entered eternal rest with our Lord Jesus in heaven.

*Immediately following the service, you are invited to join the family for a small reception.*

*You are invited by Colleen's family to share your condolences, memories, stories, and greetings  
on the Newcomers website at*

*<https://www.newcomerdenver.com/Obituary/210863/Colleen-Graham/Denver-CO>.*

In lieu of flowers, donations in Colleen's honor can be made to  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church's Memorial Fund.



## Participants in Today's Service:

Musicians	Stephen Geisler, Sara Jensen, Ken Barger, Richard Schnier
Pastor	Rev. Nic Leither
Lector	John Graham
Honorary Pall Bearers	Holly Graham Johnny Graham Brandon Merchinsion Jared Merchinsion
Sound	Sarah Marino Bill Stephenson

*P = Pastor, C = Congregation,  
ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal (red book)  
“+” 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**