

“I will come again and receive
you to Myself; that where I am,
there you may be also.”

John 14:3



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As We Gather

As we gather today to mourn the passing of our dear sister in Christ, Gail Sedberry, our hearts are naturally heavy with the sorrow of separation. Death brings a very real and stinging pain. Yet, as we sit in the quiet of this sanctuary, we do not sorrow as those who have no hope. In the face of our earthly loss, the Savior's gentle but certain voice speaks directly to our troubled hearts. Where do we turn when the road ahead seems shadowed by grief? How do we find lasting peace when saying goodbye? Today, we quiet our minds to hear the comforting, unshakable promise of Jesus, who points Gail—and each of us—toward The Only Way Home.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

463 – For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Remembrance of Baptism

P In Holy Baptism, our sister Gail was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

P "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death..."

C "...certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection."

P "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We give thanks to God who has granted Gail the victory through water and the Word.

C Amen.



Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23

- P** The LORD is my shepherd;
C **I shall not want.**
P He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
C **He leads me beside the still waters.**
P He restores my soul;
C **He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.**
P Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
C **For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**
P You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
C **You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.**
P Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life;
C **And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.**

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

- P** O God the Father in heaven,
C **Have mercy upon us.**
P O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **Have mercy upon us.**
P O God the Holy Spirit, true Comforter,
C **Have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray...
... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**



Old Testament Reading

Job 19:23-27

²³ “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!
²⁴ That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever!
²⁵ For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;
²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself, And my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ 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.

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

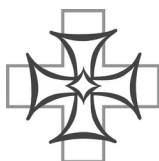
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

660 – I'm But a Stranger Here



Sermon Text

John 14:1-6

¹ “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.
² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.” ⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.



Sermon

The Only Way Home

General Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

☐ 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.

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

- ☐** Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
- ☐** According to Your word;
- ☐** For my eyes have seen Your salvation
- ☐** Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,
- ☐** A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
- ☐** And the glory of Your people Israel.
- ☐** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- ☐** As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



The Commendation

- P** God the Father, who created you; God the Son, who redeemed you by His precious blood; God the Holy Spirit, who sanctified you in the waters of Holy Baptism, keep your soul in eternal peace until the day of His glorious return.

Now that the Lord in His infinite wisdom and mercy has called the soul of our sister, Gail Sedberry, out of this sorrowful world and to Himself in heaven, we commend her entirely to His gracious care. We leave her earthly remains in the keeping of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life. For He will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Let us go forth in peace.

- C** In the name of the Lord. Amen.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

618 – Jerusalem, My Happy Home

