

We long to be...



...at home with the Lord.

(2 Corinthians 5:2,8)

September 18, 2021 - Irma M. Mahler



Christian Memorial Service

IRMA M MAHLER

9:30am Sept. 18, 2021 - Rock of Ages Lutheran Church 204 W. Airport Rd. Payson, AZ

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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.

Greeting and Prayer

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

Amen.

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." *Let us pray.* Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Irma and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought her to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting.

Amen.

Hymn

I'm But a Stranger Here *CW 417*

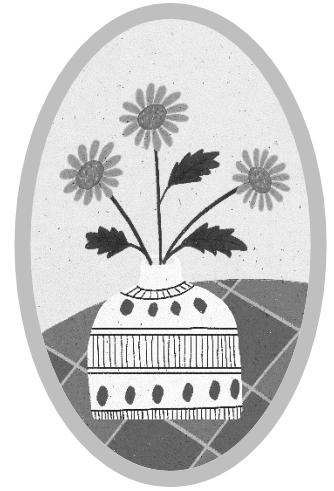
♪ I'm but a stranger here; Heav'n is my home.
Earth is a desert drear; Heav'n is my home.

**Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev'ry hand.
Heav'n is my fatherland; Heav'n is my home.**

**2. What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pilgrimage; Heav'n is my home.
And time's wild, wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last; Heav'n is my home.**

**3. There at my Savior's side -- Heav'n is my home.--
I shall be glorified; Heav'n is my home.
There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best,
And there, I, too, shall rest; Heav'n is my home.**

**4. Therefore I murmur not; Heav'n is my home.
Whate'er my earthly lot, Heav'n is my home.
And I shall surely stand There at my Lord's right hand.
Heav'n is my Fatherland; Heav'n is my home.**



Resurrection Comfort

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Christ, who is our life appears,
Then we also will appear with him in glory.

We will be before the throne of God.
And serve him day and night in his temple.

Never again will we hunger;
Never again will we thirst.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the desert will be glad. The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus. ²It will bloom lavishly, and there will be great joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it. It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make the shaky knees steady. ⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart: Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance. With God's own retribution, he will come and save you. ⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged. ⁶The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay. ⁸A highway will be there, a road that will be called the holy way. The impure will not walk there. It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but only the redeemed will walk there. ¹⁰Then those ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with a joyful shout, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Happiness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:15-5:8

For we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence. ¹⁵In fact, all this is for your benefit, so that as grace increases, it will overflow to the glory of God, as more and more people give thanks.

¹⁶Therefore we are not discouraged. But even if our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷Yes, our momentary, light trouble produces for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond any comparison. ¹⁸We are not focusing on what is seen, but on what is not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.

5 Now we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal home in heaven, which is not made by human hands. ²In fact, the reason we groan is that we long to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. ³If we do indeed put it on, we will certainly not be found naked. ⁴To be sure, while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as the down payment.

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸But we are confident and would much prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Hymn

How Great Thou Art *CW256:1-2*

♪ **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

*Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee, "How great thou art! How great thou art!"*

**2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, [Refrain]**

Gospel

John 14:1-6

"Do not let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am. ⁴You know where I am going, and you know the way."

⁵"Lord, we don't know where you are going," Thomas replied, "so how can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

Hymn

How Great Thou Art *CW256:3-4*

♪ **And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. [Refrain]**

**4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]**

WE ALL LONG TO BE AT HOME

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

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb *CW432*

Irma loved to daily recite the words this hymn is based on, Psalm 23

♪ **I am Jesus' little lamb; Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me, Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.**

**2. Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, he bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.**

**3 Who so happy as I am, Even now the shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By his angel hosts attended,
He shall fold me to his breast, There within his arms to rest.**

Prayers

Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Irma, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving her to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

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.

Hymn

Amazing Grace

♪ **Amazing grace -- how sweet the sound-- That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**

**3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.**

**4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Presiding Minister: Pastor Tom Barthel

Music: Keyboard, Jeni Strickland, Recessional Hymn Violin: Lydia Barthel

Welcome Loved Ones of Irma

With the Word of God, the Christian church comforts the bereaved family and friends and confesses its lasting hope in the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

Irma M. Mahler was born June 17, 1934. She recalled the pains of World War II and her early childhood memories living in a war-torn country. But most importantly she recalled the Lord's hand in safely guiding her throughout all the challenges which she faced in life.

Irma lived in various places across the United States including Wisconsin, Florida, and Arizona. She loved her two sons and continually prayed for them to share with her in knowing and trusting the grace of God. She enjoyed growing plants and treasured her daily walks to enjoy the beauty of God's creation. She continually desired to point others to know the goodness of the Lord and loved her church family in all the places which she had lived.

God called her to be his child in holy baptism and graciously kept her in the faith and carried her through many dangers and trials. She regularly fed on the Bread of Life in Word and Sacrament. When her vision began to diminish, she continued to enjoy getting rides to church, visits from her church family and friends, listening to Christian music, Christian radio, and her audio Bible.

She knew that she did not deserve the gift of eternal life, but she often shared tears of joy because of the good news of Jesus. She greatly treasured the gracious gift of eternal life.

She longed for the day she would see her Savior God and forever be at peace and at home with him. Her Lord called her home to be with him in paradise on August 30th 2021.

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and bring us (together with you) into his presence.

-2 Co 4:14-15.

