



*Alice Bethka*  
*1933 - 2023*



**Central Lutheran Church**  
1420 Cordova St. Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Rev. Jeff Hackler & Vicar Zach Manzella  
Musician Debbie Pankow  
3 pm Friday, June 2, 2023

**CELEBRATING THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF**

**ALICE MARIE BEBOW BETHKA**

January 29, 1933 - May 21, 2023

*In a Christian funeral, we pray for the one who has died, commending that person to God's care and honoring her memory. We praise God, who in Christ is our hope of healing, the strength of mutual consolation, the destroyer of death and the source of life and salvation.*

PRELUDE

Debbie Pankow

**GATHERING**

**INTRODUCTION**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her baptism, Alice was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she shall be clothed with glory.

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.  
**We glorify you.**

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. **We praise you.**

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

**We worship you.**

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW # 732

"Borning Cry"



- 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."

## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Alice. 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. **Amen.**

## WORD

2 TIMOTHY 4: 7 - 8

<sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 CORINTHIANS 5: 6 - 8

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord — <sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Amazing Grace”  
Joseph Gugel

*Please join us for a reception  
following the service.*

PSALM 121

- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- <sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- <sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**
- <sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out  
and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

ROMANS 8: 37 - 39

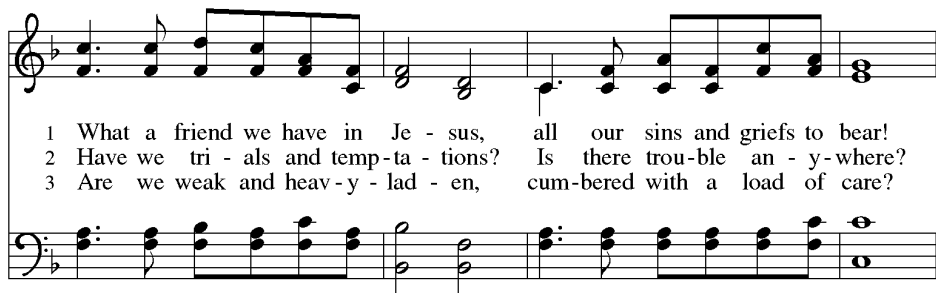
<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HOMILY  
*moment of silence*

Rev. Jeff Hackler

REMEMBRANCES

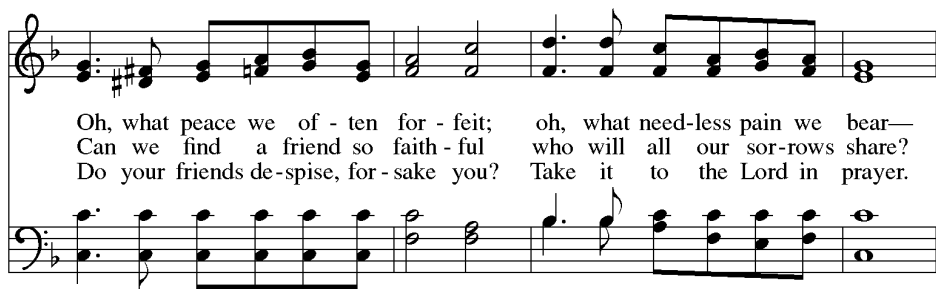
*“For you died to this life, and your real  
life is hidden with Christ in God.”  
Colossians 3:3 (NLT)*




1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**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

Let us pray. Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### 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.**

#### SENDING

#### COMMENDATION

Let us commend Alice to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer. *Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Alice. 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. **Amen.**



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs and bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling high;  
 Son of God and Son on of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace, in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE “God Be With You”

by E. L. Ashford  
Debbie Pankow

**Alice Marie Bebow Bethka** passed away on May 21, 2023, at age 90. Alice was born in St Louis, Michigan in 1933 to Martin and Iva Bebow, the second of five children. While still in high school, she met the love of her life, Richard Bethka, at a roller-skating event. When he enlisted in the Air Force at the end of World War II and was sent to Japan, Alice attended Cleary College Business School. Richard and Alice married in 1955 and went on to have 4 children: Jon, Steve, Teresa and Tracy. They lived in several states moving from Michigan to Washington, then to Alabama, Colorado and finally Alaska. They also hosted a foreign exchange student, Isabelle Evern, who became an “adopted” daughter.

As a newlywed, Alice worked at Michigan State University as a secretary. While her children were growing up, she worked at various schools in the Anchorage School District, so she could be home when they were not in school. Then she became a real estate agent and finished her career as an appraiser for the federal government at Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Alice was best known for her ability to grow plants. She spent many happy hours in her garden, sold plants with her neighbor Paul and was an active member of the Alaska

Wildflower Club. She instilled a love of gardening in her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who loved to pick raspberries and vegetables from her backyard. After moving to Chester Park,



Alice held plant sales to raise money for the gardens, was on the gardening committee and took care of 20 plants in the common areas of her floor.

In her 90 years, Alice held a strong faith in Christ and was a long-time member of Central Lutheran Church. She loved to create many crafts including making quilts, carving, sewing clothes, beading, and tatting. Alice was proud to be a blood donor, giving a record number of pints of blood as she had a rare blood type. She also enjoyed nature, spending many days picking berries, camping, boating and hiking with her family and friends. She was a great fisherwoman, often catching the largest fish.

Alice lived a wonderful and full life, enjoying every minute of her 90 years. She had a generous spirit and was loved by everyone she met. She was often a “mother” to the various friends of her children and a great friend to her neighbors. As the matriarch of her family, she will be missed by her 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 11 great grandchildren. Alice is survived by two of her siblings, Ted Bebow and Kathy Butler, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. In memorial of Alice, the family asks you to plant a flower this summer and remember her every time you see it.

