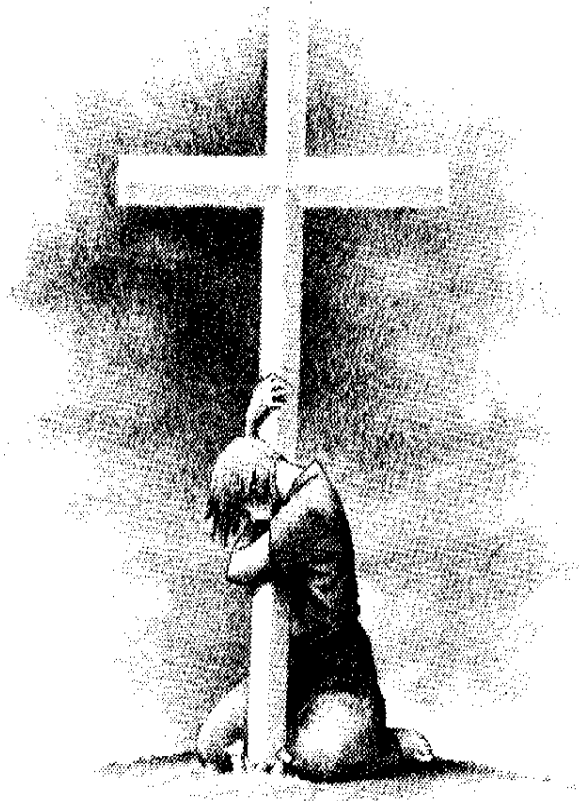


*Just as I Am, without One Plea
But that Thy Blood was Shed for Me*



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER -- DONNA DARRAH MEMORIAL -- APRIL 14, 2013

JUBILATE – The Risen LORD gives His Church unending joy

Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 130 (front of the hymnal p. 153)

The Hymns: 342, 200, 388, 341

Prayer O almighty God, You who made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth, use us as instruments of Your holy Word, and let the light of Your salvation shine to all the ends of the earth. Accomplish this great work first with our family, friends, and close neighbors, then, as You have commanded, to all the world. Ever keep Christ and Him crucified the center of every message we bring, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. For Jesus sake we ask it, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn 342

The Invocation

We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Congregation sings:



A - men.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

Pastor Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



C: Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



C: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Clarkston WA

1107 14th Street

11:00 am Service; 10:00 am Sunday School; 10:15 am Bible Class

www.ClarkstonLutheran.org

Members of the Church of the Lutheran Confession – CLC

Pastor Dave Naumann 1119 14th Street Clarkston, WA 99403

email: ddnaumann@clclutheran.com

Church: 509 758-8261; Home: 509 295-6109 Cell: 920 266-5384

Pastor Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.



C: A - men.

(congregation is seated)

THE INTROIT

Having received the Lord's forgiveness, we are glad to enter into His courts with praise and thanksgiving. This entrance is made in the Introit with the Lord's own Word, often from the Psalms.

P: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord:

C: By the word of the Lord were the heavens made.

P: Oh, give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name:

C: Make known His deed among the people.

P: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:

C: For it is especially fitting for you to sing His praises.

THE GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory to the Father"



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

THE KYRIE

Latin for "O Lord." We approach our Lord with a cry for help in all the needs of our earthly life.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

THE GLORIA

A hymn glorifying and praising our God (Hymn 798:1 – all sing)



1 God, we praise You! God, we bless You! God, we name You



sov - 'reign Lord! Might - y King whom an - gels wor - ship, Fa - ther,



by Your Church a - dored: All cre - a - tion shows Your glo - ry;



Heav'n and earth draw near Your throne, Sing - ing, "Ho - ly,



THE SALUTATION (Greeting)

PASTOR The Lord be with you.



THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.

PASTOR Let us pray.



THE BIBLE READINGS

God speaks to us.

The First Bible Reading:

Acts 2:14a, 36-47 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his

word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

PASTOR Here ends the First Bible Reading. We continue with the responsive reading of:

THE GRADUAL

The Gradual is a "Bridge of praise" that links the Old Testament with the New Testament.

P: Hallelujah! Then was the Lord Jesus known of the disciples:

C: **In the breaking of bread. Hallelujah!**

P: Then said the disciples one to another:

C: **Did not our hearts burn within us? Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

P: I am the Good Shepherd:

C: **I know My sheep, and am known of mine. Hallelujah!**



PASTOR The Second Bible Reading comes from Luke chapter 14, beginning there in the 35th verse.



The 2nd Bible Reading

Luke 24:13-35 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. 17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" 18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." 25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. 28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

The 3rd Bible Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS

In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him. While the ushers present our offerings at the Lord's Altar, we stand and sing the offering hymn 788:1:

***Lord, You love the cheerful giver Who with open heart and hand
Blesses freely, as a river that refreshes all the land.
Grant us, then, the grace of giving with a spirit large and true.
That our life and all our living we may consecrate to You.***

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 12)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

The Memorial Service
of
Donna Marie Unkie Darrah



April 14, 1933

April 3, 2013

THE PRAYER

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Donna Darrah and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Strengthen us in the confidence that because Jesus 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 which is in Christ Jesus our LORD. Finally do what You in love have done for Donna; deliver us from this vale of tears and take us to Yourself in heaven, there to receive the crown of eternal life You have promised Your believers. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 200:1-2

THE EXHORTATION (with Hymn 200:3-8)

THE SERMON

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we

shall all be changed; 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Theme: THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Given to Donna Darrah

Given to you

Prayer (all)

*Father, God of all consolation,
In Your unending love and mercy for us
You turn the darkness of death
Into the dawn of new life.*

*Show compassion to Your people in their sorrow.
Be our refuge and our strength
To lift us from the darkness of this grief
To the peace and light of Your presence.*

*Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
By dying for us, conquered death
And by rising again, restored life.*

*May we then go forward eagerly to meet Him,
And after our life on earth
Be reunited with our brothers and sisters,
Where every tear will be wiped away.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - (All)

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 388

Congregation stands for:

THE BENEDICTION

The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

The Closing Hymn 341

*** silent prayer ***



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cremation and burial have taken place. Donna's earthly remains will be laid to rest at a later time at Vineland Cemetery in Clarkston. On behalf of the family, we wish to express appreciation for your many kindnesses evidenced in word and deed, and for your attendance at this memorial service of victory in Christ Jesus.

Please join us for a light lunch here in the fellowship room.

A WORD TO THE MOURNING FAMILY

"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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

The above words of the Apostle Paul apply to you as they have to all Christians of every generation. You are saddened when you think of losing your loved one. But you are not without hope. By faith you believe that Jesus rose again from the dead. And you have God's own assurance that He will raise up all who trust in Jesus as their LORD and Savior. So today you will not be saying "good-bye" to Donna, but rather, "till we meet again" in the eternal joy and bliss of our heavenly home. May God comfort you with that message of truth.

A WORD TO THE WORSHIPPERS

You have come to show your last respects to a fellow Christian who has departed this life. You have come to share the sorrows of the grieving family. But above all, you have come to worship the LORD our God Who has given us the victory through the death and resurrection of our LORD Jesus Christ.

As the Triune God welcomes a person into His fellowship through Holy Baptism and sustains their faith through the preaching of the Word and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, so at death the voice of our Savior God is heard again. In the Christian funeral service the church proclaims its glorious assurance of the resurrection of the dead through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus promises us;

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" John 11:25-26

Church Announcements

"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15

WELCOME ...to all our guests who are sharing the Good News of the Gospel with us this morning. Please sign our guest register before leaving, and we invite you to join us regularly for worship services. Every Sunday you will find words of life and peace through Jesus Christ - and a warm welcome from fellow believers - here in God's house. We're saving a place for you!

WITH THE LORD On the morning of April 3, Donna Darrah went to be with her LORD in the eternal home prepared for all God's saints. A memorial is planned during the regular morning service today at St. John's. Cremation has taken place and a graveside service will take place at a later date.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints." Psalm 116:15

CLC COORDINATING COUNCIL Pastor Naumann was in Eau Claire, WI this past week participating in the CLC Coordinating Council. A report on the work of our synod, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, is forthcoming.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL FUND Contributions to this recently established fund will go toward the opening of a Christian Day School in Clarkston. Initial funds will go toward the purchase of the 1331 Chestnut property with the intent of using the building as the school. Just mark your envelope or check memo line as "School Fund". To date the LORD has graciously opened hearts to give a total of about \$15,700. God is good!

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE If you'd like to read them ahead of time at home, the Bible readings for next week are: Acts 6:1-9, 7:2; John 10:1-10; and 1 Peter 2:19-25 (the sermon).

DORM SUPERVISOR NEEDED AT ILC At the conclusion of this school year Immanuel Lutheran High School and College in Eau Claire, WI, will be in need of a boys' dormitory supervisor. Men who are CLC members and are able and willing to fill this position should ask the pastor for more information about the responsibilities and compensation for this position. The dormitory has a ground-floor apartment for its supervisor, which can house a married couple and even small family. Those who are interested in

applying may contact the ILC president, Prof. Steve Sippert (steve.sippert@ilc.edu; 715-831-9104; 715-836-6620), for an application.

Arise and Shine Retreat – Grace Lutheran of Valentine, NE is sponsoring a four-day retreat in Pillager, MN, June 13–16. The retreat is designed for men and women in their 20s & 30s. Singles, couples, and families are welcome. The cost is \$135.00 per adult, which includes a t-shirt, lodging, meals, snacks, and activities. This year's theme is "JOY. Jesus. Others. You." based on Philippians 2:1-16. If you are looking for a faith-strengthening weekend with young adult Christians that is focused on the Word of God, this retreat is for you! You can find more information and register on their web site: www.AriseAndShineRetreat.com. The contacts are Alana Ahrens (402) 322-9064 alanaahrens@yahoo.com and Pastor Luke Bernthal (402) 389-2147 lbernthal@live.com.

CLC NEWS <> Peace thru Christ Lutheran, Middleton WI, has called Neil Bernthal, Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven FL, to teach in their school. <> The CLC Board of Missions has called the Rev. Mark Tiefel, Morris MN, to be missionary in India. <> Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids MI, has called the Rev. David Koenig, missionary in India. He has declined the call. <> Teacher Quinn Sprengeler, Lynnwood WA, has returned the called to teach at Holy Cross Lutheran school, Phoenix AZ. <> **Anniversary Service** On Sunday, June 23, 2013, Zion Ev. Lutheran Church in Ipswich, SD, will celebrate 90 years of grace as a congregation at a special worship service at 5:00 p.m. Pastor Mark Tiefel of Bethel Lutheran Church in Morris, MN, will serve as guest preacher. Pastor Tiefel is the grandson of the deceased Pastor Leland Grams who served Zion for over 30 years. Ladies of the congregation will serve a meal following the service. In preparation for the meal, the ladies would like to know how many guests to plan for. Please let Pastor Mark Gullerud know of your plans to attend (Tel. (605)285-6379 or markgull76@hotmail.com)

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

"And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isaiah 35:10

Exhortation of Bible Readings for funeral

These passages are meant for your comfort. All of us will one day stand before the judgment throne of God, where we know there will be a reckoning for every wrong we've ever done. What a blessing to hear from Isaiah that Jesus has already paid in full the price of our sin!

Isaiah 53:5-6 He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

200:3

From the Gospel of John we hear some wonderful promises about eternal life from Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

John 10:14-16 "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 "As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

200:4

On this side of eternity, Jesus knows how our hearts can be troubled. Especially when a loved is separated from us with temporal death. In John 14 Jesus tells us what He knows for our comfort!

John 14:1-3 "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.

200:5

Without the kind wisdom from our heavenly friend Jesus Christ, we would be ignorant – unknowing about the soul sleep believers receive under His care in heaven. He also tells us about the Last Day..

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 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 (as) 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.

200:6

Jesus has gone ahead of us, and He is preparing great things!

John 14:2-3 "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.

200:7

Our living Jesus, still the same, gives us a preview of heaven in the book of Revelation - a vision He sent to the Apostle John.

Revelation 21:2-7 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

200:8

Obituary of Donna Darrah

She was born 80 years ago today, April 14, 1933, here in Clarkston, God's gift to Charles and Frieda (Gogl) Unkie. The LORD gave Donna the gift of saving faith and washed away her sins through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on April 30, 1933, the E. F. Kirst officiating at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church. Her Baptismal Sponsors were Francis (Walk) Weaver, and L. M. Kirst. The LORD confirmed Donna in the Christian Faith in a Confirmation ceremony held on June 29, 1947 at St. John's, the Rev. G. Frey officiating.

Donna grew up and attended school in Clarkston. She attended college at Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma. On December 27, 1952, she married Earl L. Darrah at St. John's, the Rev. Leonard Bernthal officiating, with Earl N. Darrah and Donna's sister Joan Vorous serving as witnesses. The Lord blessed the marriage with four children.

Donna was employed by Lewis-Clark State College for 28 years. Since retiring she volunteered as a Tri-State Blue Angel; this she continued until ill health forced her to limit this activity. Her life was one of quiet dignity and serenity in her love of God, family and her church. She was a shining light in many lives. Her strength was in her humbleness and faith. Donna was a member in good standing here at St. John's and her love for the Word of God was shown in her faithful attendance and participation here at church. Through the years Jesus our Good Shepherd fed her with the green pastures of His powerful Word as well as the nourishing forgiveness of sins found in the real presence of His body and blood under the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

Toward the end of her earthly life, Donna went through some difficult health issues. And on Wednesday morning, April 3rd, according to the LORD's own good and gracious timing, Donna, surrounded by family at the Hospice House in Spokane, stepped from this life into eternal life and the blessed care of her dear Savior Jesus Christ. The length of her earthly pilgrimage was 79 years, 11 months and 20 days.

She leaves behind yet in this time of grace her four children: her eldest daughter Linda Bogata and family; her son, Bill Darrah; her

son, Thom Darrah and his daughter Hannah; and her daughter, Holly Hocum of Clarkston and her husband, Brian and their children Brian Hocum and wife Shantel, Darrah McCall and husband Kyle, Jonah Hocum, Sierra Aguilla, Gabe Hocum, Oliva Hocum; and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters: Lil Negrey from Oregon and Joan Vorous from Clarkston.

The children's father, Earl, passed away Feb. 14, 2005. Also preceding her in death were her parents, Charles and Freida Unkie; three brothers, Albert, Fred, and Charles Jr.; one sister-in-law; one son-in-law; her sister Helen; and two nephews.

The First Bible Reading:

These verses from Acts illustrate well the life of the Church which arose after Jesus rose from the dead that first Easter. We read...

Acts 2:14a, 36-47 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

THE GRADUAL

P: Hallelujah! Then was the Lord Jesus known of the disciples:

C: In the breaking of bread. Hallelujah!

P: Then said the disciples one to another:

C: Did not our hearts burn within us? Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: I am the Good Shepherd:

C: I know My sheep, and am known of mine. Hallelujah!

The Second Bible Reading

Have you ever found yourself wallowing in sorrow and despair and self pity... as if the powerful Word of God has no effect? Listen to how the resurrected LORD Jesus restored joy to two disciples and taught them again that Christ HAD to die and rise in triumph over the grave. We read...

Luke 24:13-35 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. 17 And He said

to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" 18 Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" 19 And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. 21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. 22 "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. 23 "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. 24 "And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." 25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. 28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. 29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. 30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" 33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

The 3rd Bible Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you 21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.