

**A Celebration of
Life Service
Loretta Eilers
2-12-24
IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



Missouri Synod

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Texas 78570**

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Rev. Ed Weber,

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***Sunday*
9:00 AM
Worship Service**

**10:30 am
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School**

**Holy Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**

Website

lutheranmercedes.com

**Office Hrs, M-F
8am to noon**



***"My sheep hear My voice,
and I know them, and they
follow Me. And I give
them eternal life, and they
shall never perish;
neither shall
anyone snatch them
out of My hand. "***
John 10:27-28

Celebration of Life Service - Loretta Eilers

January 3, 1931 - February 5, 2024

WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Prayer Upon Entering Church— O Lord, our saving light and our shelter in the day of trouble, turn us not away in anger because of our sins. Calm our hearts, strengthen our faith, and lead us in Your straight paths until we see your surpassing goodness in heaven with all those who live in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Beautiful Savior”

LSB 537

OPENING HYMN

I’m But a Stranger Here

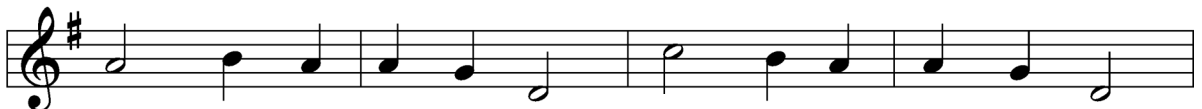
LSB 748



1 I'm but a strang - er here, Heav'n is my home;
2 What though the tem - pest rage, Heav'n is my home;
3 There - fore I mur - mur not, Heav'n is my home;



Earth is a des - ert drear, Heav'n is my home.
Short is my pil - grim - age, Heav'n is my home;
What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home;



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand;
And time's wild win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand;



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
Heav'n is my fa - ther - land, Heav'n is my home.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

Pastor: In Holy Baptism our dear sister Loretta was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says, "*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*"

People: We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you all.

People: And with your spirit. Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Loretta and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.

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

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

4 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.

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

6 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Revelation 7:14-17

"These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence ¹⁶ They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷ For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

50 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 10:27-29

Pastor: The Holy Gospel from St. John chapter ten

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus answered, " My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
 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
 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;
 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



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

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SERMON "Victory through Jesus, the Good Shepherd!" Revelation 7:17

PRAYERS

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead: Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Through the Holy Spirit, give us comfort in our sadness and a sure confidence of Your loving care that, casting all our sorrow on You, we may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Receive our thanks for Loretta and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

People: **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.**

Nunc Dimittis

Pastor: "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

People: **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations 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.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Let us pray: Lord God, our Shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

People: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Abide With Me

LSB 878



1 A - bid e with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bid e.
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
Ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bid e with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bid e with me.
I tri - umph still if Thou a - bid e with me!
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bid e with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace in the name of the risen Lord Jesus,

People: **Amen**

Serving in Today's Service

Officiating minister: Rev. Ed Weber

Organist: Doris Pickering

†Loretta Eilers†



Loretta Vogel Eilers went home to be with our Lord on February 5, 2024. Loretta was born in Jacob, Illinois, to A. G. Vogel and Mathilda (Moeckel) Vogel on January 3, 1931. Loretta was the youngest of 8 children. She moved with her parents to Mercedes, TX, in 1943 after a devastating flood in Illinois. She graduated from Mercedes High School in 1949 and was then employed by Hidalgo County Bank. Loretta married Robert Eilers, the love of her life, on October 15, 1950. They were partners in every way for 71 years, and both felt their greatest accomplishment was raising their two children, Kenneth and Connie. They were actively involved with all their formative years instilling in them the importance of faith in God, a good education and the value of hard work.

Loretta joined Robert in the hardware ^{business} in 1966 as secretary and bookkeeper, and in 1969 they became the new owners of Borderland Hardware of Mercedes. Side by side they worked together for 55 years.

Loretta was a lifelong active member of Immanuel Lutheran Church serving as Sunday-School teacher, member of choir, Altar Guild, Mary Martha Guild and church bookkeeper. Aid Association for Lutherans was dear to her, an organization helping various individuals and groups in Mercedes.

She was a volunteer serving on the Mercedes Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, and the RGVLivestock Show where she compiled scrapbooks for 25 years. New friendships were made when she joined Beta Sigma Phi. Loretta loved sewing clothes for her family, making embroidery and cross-stich keepsakes, and compiling yearly family scrapbooks and photo albums.

She was blessed to watch her 4 grandchildren grow into responsible adults and then had the thrill of being a great-grandmother and enjoy the 7 little ones.

She felt life was a gift, and left a legacy of faith, love, caring, and a Godly example. Loretta is preceded in death by her husband, parents, and 7 siblings-brothers- Eugene, Marvin, Eddie, and Herb Vogel, sisters-Ruth Neuhaus, Lela Hempy, and Ruby Dillon.

She is survived by children, Kenneth (Debbie) Eilers of Mercedes and Connie Gatlin of Dallas, grandchildren, Terese (Mike) Volkmann, Kyle (Candice) Eilers, Greg (Ashley) Gatlin and Doug Gatlin, great-grandchildren, Claire and Samuel Volkmann, Camden, Kade, and Peyton Rose Eilers, Ember Leigh and Londyn Rayne Gatlin.

The family would like to thank Valley View Assisted Living, Harlingen Medical Center, Sun Valley Rehab and DHR Hospice Hospital for their help in Loretta's recent illness. Lisa Campos was her loving caregiver these past 2 months. Pallbearers are Kyle Eilers, Greg Gatlin, Doug Gatlin, Mike Volkmann, Don Vogel and Earl Neuhaus. Honorary Pallbearers are present employees of Borderland Hardware of Mercedes.

Memorials to Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, 703 W. 3rd Street, Mercedes, TX, 78570, would be most welcome.

All services are under the direction and care of Rudy Garza Funeral Home of Mercedes, Texas.

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On behalf of the family of the Eilers family, we thank you for your spiritual comfort and prayers today. We celebrate the victory of the crown of life, graciously given to Loretta through faith in her Savior Jesus Christ. For our Lord promises, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)