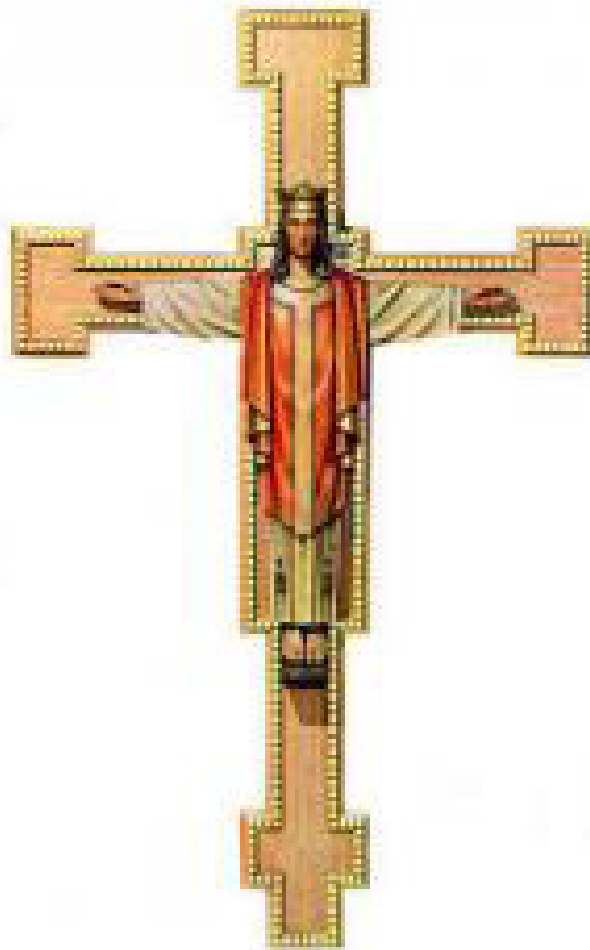


A celebration of the life of
Sarah Ellen Sax
7 October 1925 - 2 March 2025

Saint Francis in the Valley
Episcopal Church,
Green Valley, Arizona

Saturday, 12 April 2025 at 11 AM



THE BURIAL OFFICE: RITE TWO

ORGAN PRELUDE

I call to thee, Lord Jesus Christ

J.S. Bach

OPENING HYMN 8 *(for music see page 10)*

All standing, the Celebrant says

1. Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where his feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's re-creation
of the new day!

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives and that at the last he will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord. So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest
from their labors.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Ellen, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People *Amen.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

A Reading from the Book of Lamentations.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

THE PSALM: 23

The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green
pastures; * he leadeth me beside the
still waters.

He restoreth my soul; * he leadeth me
in the paths of righteousness for his
Name's sake.

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.

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

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.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians:13

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand for

THE GOSPEL: John 14:1-6

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

THE HOMILY: The Rev. Ted Holt

MEMORIES OF ELLEN

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Celebrant In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism,
 let us proclaim our faith and say

Celebrant and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS

For our Sister Ellen, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life." Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us

who mourn for Ellen, and dry the tears of those who weep.

People Hear us, Lord.

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

People Hear us, Lord.

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

People Hear us, Lord.

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

People Hear us, Lord.

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints.

People Hear us, Lord.

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

People Hear us, Lord.

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

(Celebrant) Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Ellen, who was re-born by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

AT THE OFFERTORY, Hymn 662 *(for music see page 11)*

1. Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

3. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

(continued next page)

4. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people may stand, sit, or kneel.

Celebrant Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

(Celebrant) We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven...

...for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The elements are offered at the Communion Rail and may be received either kneeling or standing. Wine is received by intinction only. If you would like to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

People Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Lift high the Cross

Paul Manz/Hal Hopson

During the Postlude the congregation moves to the Memorial Garden for the Committal.

THE COMMITTAL

Celebrant Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me;
I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
will also give new life to our mortal bodies
through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices;
my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

The Celebrant continues

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our sister Ellen, and we commit her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Together Our Father, who art in heaven...
...for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord.

People And let light perpetual shine upon her.

Celebrant May her soul, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICE

The Very Rev. Dr. Warren Leibovitch, *Celebrant*

The Rev. Ted Holt, *Homilist*

The Rev. Becky Williamson, *Deacon*

Family and Friends, *Eulogists*

Bobbi Tucker, *Lector*

Glenn Matto, *Crucifer & Acolyte*

Gloria Cadwalader, *Sound Technician*

Carla Loesch, Nancy Helgath, *Ushers*

Sophia Witte, *Organist*

Memorials in honor of SARAH ELLEN SAX may be made to
the Altar Guild of Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church,
600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley, AZ 85614,

You are invited to a reception in the Parish Hall following the service.
Please sign the Guest Remembrance Book located at the back of the Church.

OPENING HMN 8

Unison or harmony

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
 born of the one light E - den saw play! _____

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

OFFERTORY HYMN 662

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

