

THE FUNERAL:  
A SERVICE OF WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION  
Ruth Schmidt

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December 16, 2015 1:00 p.m.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcoming Remarks

Sentences of Scripture

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus,  
we were baptized into his death. We  
were buried therefore with him by bap-  
tism into death, so that as Christ was  
raised from the dead by the glory of  
the Father, we too might live a new  
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. (Rom. 6.3-5)

Opening Hymn: *A Mighty Fortress* Hymnal  
260

Prayer

Eternal God, we bless you for the great  
company of all those who have kept the  
faith, finished their race, and who now  
rest from their labor. We praise you  
for those dear to us whom we name in  
our hearts before you...Especially we  
thank you for Ruth whom you have now  
received into your presence. help us

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to believe where we have not seen,  
trusting you to lead us through our  
years. Bring us at last with all your  
saints into the joy of your home,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray together:  
Dear God: you know our needs before we  
ask and in our asking you prepare us to  
receive the gift of grace. In this  
moment we open our lives to your  
healing presence and we forsake all  
that separates us from you and our  
neighbor.

We are mindful not only of our personal  
evil but also our communal sins of  
family, class, race, and nation.

We lift up to you God whatever has  
wounded us and brought injury to others  
that we may receive your mercy and  
become for each other channels of your  
grace.

And now, Lord, draw close to every per-  
son in this room. Help each of us find  
his or her own way to welcome you into  
our inner being. And taking up your  
rightful place in our hearts speak to  
us your word of forgiveness, healing,  
and new life. We pray through Jesus

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Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

AMEN.

Old Testament Lessons

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want;  
he makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters,  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil;  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff,  
they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me

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in the presence of my enemies;  
thou anointest my head with oil,  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever. (Ps. 23)

For everything there is a season, and a time  
for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be  
born, and a time to die; a time to plant,  
and a time to pluck up what is planted; <sup>3</sup>a  
time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to  
break down, and a time to build up; <sup>4</sup>a time  
to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to  
mourn, and a time to dance; <sup>5</sup>a time to throw  
away stones, and a time to gather stones  
together; a time to embrace, and a time to  
refrain from embracing; <sup>6</sup>a time to seek, and  
a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time  
to throw away; <sup>7</sup>a time to tear, and a time to  
sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to  
speak; <sup>8</sup>a time to love, and a time to hate; a  
time for war, and a time for peace. <sup>9</sup>What  
gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I  
have seen the business that God has given to  
everyone to be busy with.

11 He has made everything suitable for its  
time; moreover he has put a sense of past  
and future into their minds, yet they cannot

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find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. <sup>14</sup>I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. <sup>15</sup>That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

New Testament Lessons

<sup>50</sup>What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When this perishable

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body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'<sup>55</sup> 'Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?'<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.<sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. (I Corinthians 15.50-58)

Ruth 2.4-12

4 Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you." They answered, "The LORD bless you."<sup>5</sup> Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "To whom does this young woman belong?"<sup>6</sup> The servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the Moabite who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab."<sup>7</sup> She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now, without resting even for a moment."<sup>8</sup> Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women.

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<sup>9</sup>Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." <sup>10</sup>Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" <sup>11</sup>But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. <sup>12</sup>May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!"

Apostles' Creed

Remembering Ruth

Prayers of the People

O God of grace, you have given us new and living hope in Jesus Christ. We thank you that by dying Christ destroyed the power of death, and by rising from the grave opened the way to eternal life.

Help us to know that because he lives,

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we shall live also; and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

O God, before whom generations rise and pass away, we praise you for all your servants who, having lived this life in faith, now live eternally with you.

Especially we thank you for your servant Ruth, for the gift of her life, for all in her that was good and kind and faithful, for the grace you gave her, that kindled in her the love of your dear name, that enabled her to serve you faithfully.

We thank you that for Ruth death is past and pain is ended, and that she has now entered the joy you have prepared through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you promised many rooms within your house. Give us faith to see beyond touch and sight some sure sign of your kingdom, and, where vision fails, to trust your love which never fails. Lift our heavy sorrow and give us good hope in Jesus, so we may bravely walk our earthly way, and look forward to glad reunion in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our

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Lord. Amen.

\*The Lord's Prayer

Hymn:           *Here I Am, Lord*                           Hymnal  
525

Commendation

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we  
commend your servant, Ruth. Acknow-  
ledge, we humbly pray, a sheep of your  
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 of light.  
AMEN.

Blessing

May the peace of the Lord which passes  
all understanding, keep your hearts and  
minds in the knowledge and love of God  
the Father, God the Son, and God the  
Holy Spirit. Amen.