

Christian Funeral

In loving memory of

Bernice R. Wilkens (nee Gerner)

Born: December 29, 1929

Entered Eternal Life: June 30, 2026

Invocation

M: "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever."

Galatians 1: 3 - 5

C: Amen

Remembrance of Baptism

M: Know that "all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through Baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of God the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection."

Romans 6: 3 - 5

Bernice was baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. St. Paul promises: "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ."

Galatians 3: 27

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters."

Galatians 6:18

C: Amen



- 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 sol - ace there.

Words of Comfort

M: We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "*Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Bernice, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought her to faith. In your rising from the dead,

you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

Lesson

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

- ¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
- ² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.
- ³ You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
- ⁴ A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
- ⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:
- ⁶ In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.
- ⁷ We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.
- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- ⁹ All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a moan.
- ¹⁰ Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ If only we knew the power of your anger!

Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.

¹² Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

¹³ Relent, LORD! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.

¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.

¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.

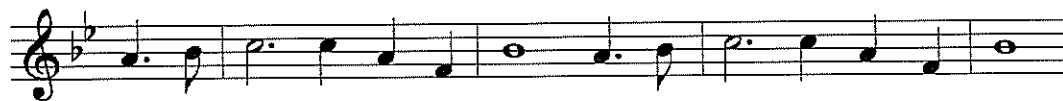
¹⁷ May the favor^{of} the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CW 839



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

³ Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

⁴ "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit....

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him."

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

"Moses asks... Jesus answers"

PRAYER

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus gives us this comfort: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: **Then we also will appear with him in glory.**

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: **And serve him day and night in his temple.**

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: **Never again will we thirst**

M: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd. He will lead us to springs of living water,

C: **And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

M: Almighty God, by the death of your dear Son you overcame death. By his rising from death you restored everlasting life, that by the power of his resurrection, our mortal bodies may also be raised from the dead to eternal life. Grant that we may ever confidently believe this and, finally, with all your saints, be partakers of this joyful resurrection. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: Receive our humble thanks for all the mercies You granted to Bernice during her time on earth and for taking her to Yourself in heaven. Strengthen us according to Your holy will. Keep your children in Your grace that when our last hour comes we may depart in peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **Hear our prayer.**

M: You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and Sacrament and the Church. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer

M: Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray as Your Son has taught us

**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.**

READING OF THE OBITUARY

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
 glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.
 Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.