

**Homily** – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & John 11:17-27

**In The Lord's Hands; In The Lord's Time.**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Almighty God, we praise You for the great company of Saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, *Melinda Colp*, whom You have redeemed by the Blood of Your Son and received as Your dear child through Baptism. We thank You for giving her to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. However, since we miss her presence among us, Lord, in Your compassion, comfort all who mourn and are sad in this hour.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P: All merciful Lord, we praise You for Your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and in death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and Hope in the Resurrection to eternal Life.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, You do not leave us without comfort but strengthen and care for us through Your Means of Grace. You also give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Lord, brighten our future with a firm trust in Your loving promises and care.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

P: Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as Our Savior has taught us . . . *(The Lord's Prayer)*

**C: 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.**

**The Benediction**

P: 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 His peace.

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn (552) Abide with Me! Fast Falls (Words on Front Cover 7)**

***Blessed be the memory of Melinda Colp.  
Blessed are those who die in the Lord.***

Officiant: Rev. Andrew Burmeister Organist: Mrs. Janice Thomas



*(...Time for some family members to say a few words)*

*After the Memorial Service, a meal will be served in the fellowship hall by the ladies of Our Savior. Please everyone join us for this.*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, the Father here below;  
Praise Jesus Christ in Heav'n above; Praise Holy Spirit, God of Love.***

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL USA

Memorial Service  for *Melinda Colp*

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 ✕ 3:00 pm



**Closing Hymn (552) Abide with Me! Fast Falls the Eventide**

**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, Oh, abide with me!**

**2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim, Its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see.  
O Thou, who changest not, Abide with me!**

**7. 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.**

**8. 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! - Amen.**

**OCTOBER 27, 2014**

**PRAYER FOR PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word and to offer You our praise and worship. We pray, open our hearts by means of Your Holy Spirit so that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

**Pastor Greeting & Welcome**

**Pastor:** *In the Name of the Father, and ✻ of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Congregation:** Amen.

**Opening Hymn (660)** I'm But a Stranger Here

1. I'm but a stranger here, - Heav'n is my home;  
Earth is a desert dread, - Heav'n is my home.  
Danger and sorrow stand - Round me on every hand;  
Heav'n is my fatherland, - Heav'n is my home.
2. What though the tempest rage, - Heav'n is my home;  
Short is my pilgrimage, - Heav'n is my home;  
And time's wild wintry blast - Soon shall be overpast;  
I shall reach home at last, - Heav'n is my home.
3. There at my Savior's side - Heav'n is my home;  
I shall be glorified, - Heav'n is my home;  
There are the good and blest, - Those I love most and best;  
And there I, too, shall rest, - Heav'n is my home.
4. Therefore I murmur not, - Heav'n is my home;  
Whate'er my earthly lot, - Heav'n is my home;  
And I shall surely stand - There at my Lord's right hand.  
Heav'n is my fatherland, - Heav'n is my home. - Amen.

**Pastor:** (Opening) *Dear friends, -- Thanks be to God for the comfort of His Word!*



**Let Us Pray:** (Pastor) With honor and affection we remember, O everlasting God, those who have gone before us, in particular today we remember our dear friend *Melinda Colp*. Keep us united with them through faith and love toward you, that hereafter we may enter into Your presence and be numbered with those who serve You and look on Your Face in glory everlasting, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation:** Amen.

Page 1

**Scripture Lesson – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; 3 ... A time to break down, And a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; 5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; 7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; 8 A time to love.*

**Hymn (- - -)**

**Amazing Grace**

1. **Amazing grace how sweet the sound - That saved a wretch like me!**  
**I once was lost but now am found, - Was blind but now I see.**
2. **The Lord has promised good to me, - His Word my hope secures;**  
**He will my Shield and Portion be - As long as life endures.**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares - I have already come;**  
**'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, - And grace will lead me home.**
4. **When we've been there ten thousand years, - Bright shining as the sun,**  
**We've no less days to sing God's praise - Than when we'd first begun.**

**Scripture Lesson – John 11:17-27** *On His arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give You whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the Resurrection at the Last Day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, Who was to come into the world."*

**Hymn (376)**

**Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

1. **Rock of Ages, cleft for me, - Let me hide myself in Thee;**  
**Let the water and the Blood - From Thy riven side which flowed**  
**Be of sin the double cure, - Cleanse me from its guilt and power.**
2. **Not the labors of my hands - Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;**  
**Could my zeal no respite know, - Could my tears forever flow,**  
**All for sin could not atone; - Thou must save, and Thou alone.**
3. **Nothing in my hand I bring, - Simply to Thy Cross I cling;**  
**Naked, come to Thee for dress; - Helpless, look to Thee for grace;**  
**Foul, I to the fountain fly,-- Wash me, Savior, or I die!**
4. **While I draw this fleeting breath, - When mine eyelids close in death,**  
**When I soar to worlds unknown, - See Thee on Thy judgment-throne,**  
**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, - Let me hide myself in Thee! - Amen.**

FUNERAL John 11:17-27 "IN GOD'S HAND & IN GOD'S TIME" 10.27.14 OSL

PRAYER: Faithful Father, we come to You in this time of loss to us of Melinda. Truly, there is only a step between each of us and death. What a comfort to know that YOU control that step. We thank you that You have been with our loved one Melinda through her life. Teach us all to know and believe that all things work together for our good. May we all be drawn closer to You. We cheerfully commit our life and Melinda's into Your Fatherly care. Bring us all to the Eternal Home. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

GREETING Dear family, friends, guests, **and in particular you, the family of our departed Melinda Joy Colp...** Our deepest Christian sympathies are with you at this time.

INTRODUCTION Whenever anything or **anyone goes away, it leaves a void.** There is an empty space that was once filled. And we **feel** that void in the loss. In this case, that may be a space in the center of a (large) family get-together, organizing and directing traffic. It may be the void **or silence** created by now the (lack of) **a loud voice that can be heard** from rooms away. Or it may be the void of what was **a helping hand, a daughter, a sister, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt** who was there to reach out and help **not only family, but even total strangers.** (THEME) **ALL IN GOD'S HAND & IN GOD'S TIME**

And when a loved one is taken away from us, leaving a void, not only are we sad for the loss, we may even ask those difficult questions of **"WHY, Lord?" and "WHY, ...NOW?!" "It's NOT the right time." "It's too early."**

Y/Our heads are bowed with grief at the news of losing a dear loved one. Eyes are filled with tears. But we remember that life is not without plan or purpose **and God's plan and time is not always Ours.** God says, "All things work together." God has planned each person's life. As that life unfolds, a beautiful pattern emerges out of that which seemed to be confusion. **All things** – not only the great, but also the trivial – not only the joys, but also the sorrows – are molded by the hands of God into His plan. We may not always see that or understand at the moment, or sometimes even for some time. Taken individually, these experiences may not seem to fit together (to what we think), or may be disappointing, sad, even bitter. But taken together they form a harmonious whole. And God *does* make them work together for good.

Yes, **for good, for your benefit.** We dare not think only of temporary blessings, or what might seem to be beneficial **to us at a particular time.** Remember, there are such higher **spiritual blessings: a deeper Communion with God, a better understanding of His Will, a strengthening of the faith in the Savior, and a cheerful resignation to**

**the (good and gracious) Will of God.** These all have a deep, spiritual value. And often, **they shine most brightly in the dark valleys of tribulation.**

Since we love God **all things work together for our good.** By grace through faith in Jesus and His Resurrection, we have been accepted as God's children and added to the Family of the Lord. Now, we need to learn to place our whole trust in these words and promises of our God that indeed **All things, the happy and the sad, the good and the bad, Work together for good to all them that love God.**

And, How can we have reason for joy on an occasion like this?

How can this be? How can we stand at the edge of death and be so confident, so at peace in the midst of our mourning? Well, God has taken care of our biggest (reason for) sorrow: He has wiped away **our sin, and thereby taken away all the "side affects" of that sin, of which Death is a primary one.** Consider this: the true and living God has **paid the price for our sins.** He has taken up our flesh, been born by way of the Virgin into our living death, suffered at our hands, sacrificed Himself upon the cross as the guilt offering in our place, and been raised up again victorious from the dead. He was innocent, **but He died for our guilt.** So that we, who were guilty, are declared innocent, with His life and death is a substitute for ours.

And, He didn't stop there. **Jesus did NOT STAY in the grave.** He conquered death for us by **Rising from the Dead!** He took away the sting of death and broke the chains of Hell, which would be our final destiny and destination without the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' Easter Resurrection proved that our bodies (like Melinda's) will not remain in the grave, but will awaken to Eternal Life. Our body and soul will be **rejoined and we will be awakened in a glorified, perfect body** that can never be affected by sin again, never have any of the sorrows and sadness of this vale of tears and be ready to live in heaven with Jesus forever.

Yes (indeed as God said through **Solomon**) *"There IS a time for everything A time for every purpose under Heaven: 4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; 2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to mourn, And a time to be exceedingly joyful;"* And, there **will be A Time of Eternal Joy and Bliss in the Never-ending "Season" of Heaven's Eternal Joy!** *Thanks be to God who gives us the Victory through Our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in...*