

Journey to Easter - Tuesday, March 30 (Day 42)

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 NIV biblegateway.com

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.
Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.
What shall I return to the LORD
for all his goodness to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful servants.
Truly I am your servant, LORD;
I serve you just as my mother did;
you have freed me from my chains.
I will sacrifice a thank offering to you
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD—
in your midst, Jerusalem.

Discussion

On a Tuesday morning we got the call we knew was coming. Mom was in her last hours. Sally and I drove as quickly as we could to Tacoma, Washington, and the group home where she was living. The sisters and their families had gathered there to keep watch. Mom was unresponsive as we talked in hushed tones around her bed.

Around noon as her breathing slowed, I led the family in the Commendation of the Dying. We didn't know if mom was "with" us or not. But the service was a comfort and marked an ending. When we reached the Lord's Prayer, as we prayed together, Mom joined in the second half of the prayer. Those were to be her last words. She died the next day.

Mom's praying that ancient prayer with us was a benediction on a life well-lived. She remembered and shared her "memory" with us. Now, every time I pray the prayer, I remember mom's whispery voice echoing in my ear—"forever and ever. Amen."

Today's Prayer

Loving, gracious God, hold us and those we love during the hard times of life. Help us to face the end with confidence and hope. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Source: Luther Seminary – St. Paul, MN 2021 Lenten Devotional "Awesome Mystery"

Image: Easter Cross with Thorns made by Annie Siebert in memory of brother Robert L. Orndorff, Sr. and given by June Pickett. *(image below)*

Awesome Mystery

