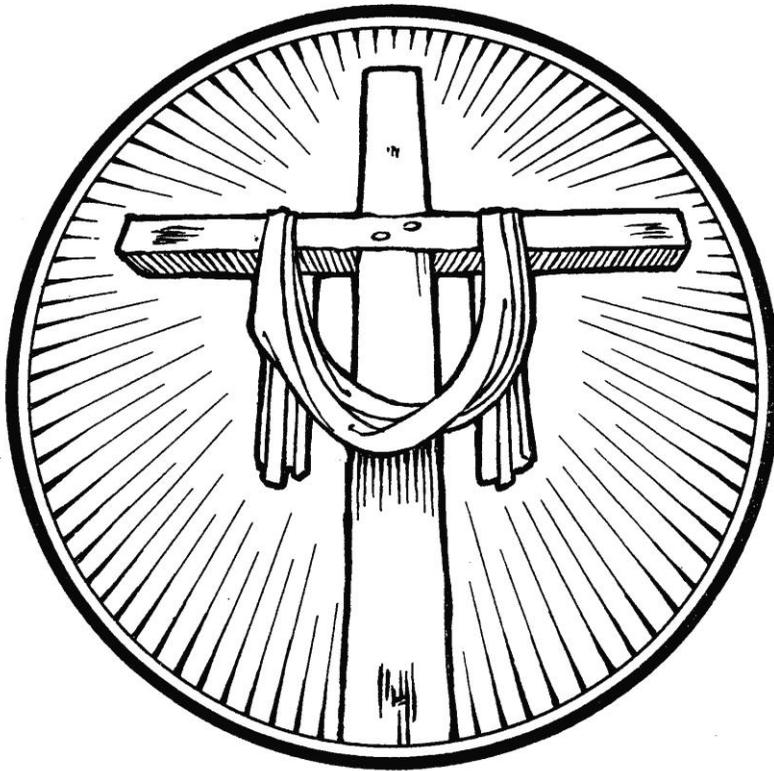


**THE FUNERAL SERVICE
FOR**

KAREN FRANCES STREI

SEPTEMBER 11, 1945 — MARCH 21, 2026



MARCH 28, 2026

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
LESTER PRAIRIE, MINNESOTA**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC "IN THE GARDEN" "I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY"

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"HOW GREAT THOU ART"



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002988

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

P Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

P Blessed be the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.

C He comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Karen was covered with Christ's righteousness
in Holy Baptism on **October 7, 1945.**

P In Holy Baptism, **Karen** was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all **her** sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.

PSALM 23 [spoken in unison]

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to **Karen** and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

I KINGS 17:7-16

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

I PETER 1:3-9

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

KAREN'S CONFIRMATION VERSE

EPHESIANS 2:8,9

For by grace are you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 13:44-46

¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



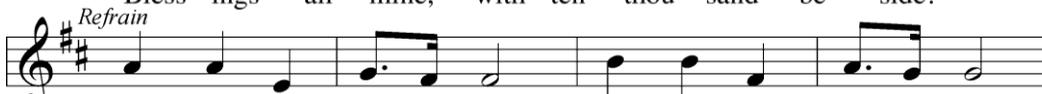
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.
 Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



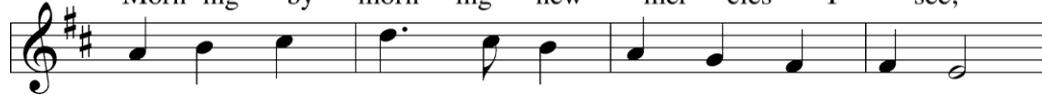
As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain
 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

NUNC DIMITTIS

- P** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”
- C** Lord, now You let your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die.”

CONCLUDING COLLECT

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.
- Lord God, our shepherd, You gather the lambs of Your flock into the arms of Your mercy and bring them home. Comfort us with the certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with **Karen** and those we love who have died in the faith; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Karen's family thanks you for the outpouring of your love, support, and presence this morning. Following today's service, all are invited to the committal at St. Paul's Cemetery. Afterwards, we will come back to church and head downstairs for a fellowship meal.

BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace. **C** Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“ABIDE WITH ME”



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 I need Thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
But kind and good, with heal - ing in Thy wings;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like Thy - self my guide and stay can be?
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea.
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
Come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.

- 5 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!
- 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text and tune: Public domain

POSTLUDE



Karen Frances (Lemmerman) Strei, age 80, of Lester Prairie passed away on March, 21st, 2026 at Glenfield's Living with Care in Glencoe.

She was born on September 11, 1945 to Carl and Cordella (Luedke) Lemmerman at The Cottage Hospital in Watertown, Minnesota.

Karen was baptized on October 7, 1945 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Watertown, Minnesota by Reverend W.L. Stellwagen.

She was confirmed on March 22, 1959 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie, Minnesota by Reverend A.F. Vemhof. Her confirmation verse was: For by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2: 8,9

Karen graduated from Lester Prairie High School in 1963.

On September 21, 1963 Karen married Kenneth Strei at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie, Minnesota. Pastor A.F. Vemhof officiated. They made their home on a farm only a mile or two from town. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters. Tamara on July 8, 1964 and Tanya on April 25, 1970 and one granddaughter Nicole on June 19, 1986, a great grandson Grayson Lee Otto on April 29, 2023.

Karen had many part time jobs in many different fields over the years in addition to being a wife, mother, grandmother, and farmwife and homemaker. Each job was unique and interesting. A learning experience to be sure! She was always "busy" but still found time to teach Sunday School for sixteen years, sing in the choir and small groups over the years.

She like to read, play games, work on puzzles. Karen enjoyed "antique" excursions and of course lunch out with friends. She loved dinner out for lobster and often prepared that at home too. Karen enjoyed walking for many years either alone or with friends.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents Carl & Cordella Lemmerman, father-in-law & mother-in-law Walter & Evelyn Strei, step mother Pauline Paul, brother-in-law Dennis Menth, daughter Tamara Robinson, and husband of sixty-one years Kenneth Strei on January 10, 2025.

Officiant: Reverend Joseph J. Barlau

Organist: Lynn Mueller