

## **A SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF**

**Barbara Radefeldt**

Born September 19, 1940

Died May 2, 2020

### **OPENING HYMN "Abide With Me"**

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, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

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.

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!

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.

### **GREETING OF PEACE**

**L:** Grace to you – and Peace – from God our Father and Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

### **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

**L:** In Holy Baptism Barb Radefeldt was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all his 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.

## PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with You in joy and blessedness. We give You heartfelt thanks for the grace You have bestowed on Your servants who have finished their course in faith, and now rest from their labors. May we, with all who have died in the true faith, have perfect fulfillment and joy in Your eternal and everlasting glory; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

## READINGS

**Isaiah 25:6-9 (ESV)** On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

**Psalms 23 (ESV)** 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 will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint 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.

**Romans 8:31-39 (ESV)** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**John 10:11-18 (ESV)** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 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. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. 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. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

## HOMILY

Linda, Ken, Richard, Sharon, Wayne, Susie, nieces, nephews, extend family and friends, I'm sorry about your loss. I'm sorry about the loss of a sister, aunt, friend, and mother figure. Barb was a fun person who will be missed. Barb was always one of my favorite visits. She always seemed to be able to put a smile on your face. When I would go see her, she was always easy to find: she was never in her room but in

the social and activity rooms. I never knew where her room was at Lyngblmosten was because I always found her up front. She was easy to spot with her fun, flashy hats, and it was not uncommon to find her with a Diet Coke in hand. On one visit, one of the caretakers, Caryn, showed me the paintings that Barb did that were hanging outside her office. They were beautiful, hand painted nature scenes. When I saw her room at the Shores of Lake Phalen, the one with the water wheel always stuck out to me. Barb loved to paint and was an artistic person.

With that in mind, I would like to organize my message today around Scripture's most famous painting: Psalm 23. Whenever these words are read or spoken, they instantly paint in your mind's eye beautiful sceneries, don't they? The images that David creates here with his words jump to life and present you with these beautiful images in your mind. As I reflected on Barb and her life, I thought this famous painting depicted her life well. If Barb's life was a painting, this would be it!

In verses one to three, David picks up his brush and begins to paint: **"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."** You can just picture this, can't you? It even sounds and seems like a scene that Barb would paint! You have teal quiet streams, green rolling hills, a yellow beaming sun, a tan weathered staff, and a shepherd hooded in a greyish robe. David uses these opening verses and metaphors to describe God's care. God is like a shepherd that cares for His sheep. God cares for each and every one of us both physically and emotionally. He did that for Barb, too, didn't He?

He blessed with her loving parents and caring siblings. God gave Barb two special men to enjoy her life with, Jim and Danny. God created her with that fun personality that was quirky, bubbly, sassy, adventurous, and that loved to be the center of attention. He got her through High School with a B + average, even though no one ever saw her bring home books or homework. He provided her with hats of every color, and a seemingly endless supply of earrings and jewelry. He gave her a love of hockey and a passion for the Saint Paul Saints Hockey team (by the way, I'm bummed I just found out Barb was a huge hockey fan). God gave her special times at the cabin at Balsam Lake with her family and loved ones. God cared for Barb physically and emotionally, just like He does for you and me!

He also provided for her spiritually. In John 10, Jesus uses this imagery to describe His care and love for His people. He takes it to the next level. He says, **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."** Jesus is the Shepherd! He is the Good Shepherd Who loves His people so much that He laid down His life for them. At the cross, Jesus died for our sin in our place so that we could be His own. Three days later when He rose from the dead, what He said here came true: **"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."** Wanna know another charge He received? The authority to give eternal life and forgive sins. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, cares for His people spiritually by forgiving their sins and giving life eternal. By faith, He gives these gifts to you and me. By faith, He gave these gifts to Barb. Jesus is our Good Shepherd Who cares for us in body and soul, just like He did for Barb.

David continues his painting. His brush creates some different strokes now. He moves from green hills to a deep, dark, and death colored valley that has a ray of light. **"Even 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."** David uses this picture to describe God's presence with His people. When we look at Barb's life, we see this well. As many of you know, Barb wasn't a great driver and was rumored to go through brakes twice as fast as the average person. Riding with her might have been a drive through the valley of the shadow of death. But, all joking aside, God was with her through it all. Throughout her life, God was with Barb as she battled various chronic and acute disease conditions. God comforted her and consoled her as she tragically suffered the loss of two men she loved dearly, her husband Jim, and her son, Danny. God especially walked next to her as she wrestled with Alzheimer's over the past decade plus. Barb may not have always recognized that face and presence that walked beside her. She might not always have recalled that rod and staff that guided and comforted her. But, remember, our Shepherd is a good one. That didn't stop His walk beside her at all.

Paul puts it this way: **“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation (Alzheimer’s included!) will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** That illness might have separated Barb from her cherished memories. It might have separated her from us at some moments. It could not separate her from God. It could not separate her from His eternal, undying, self-sacrificing, loyal, strong, and unmerited loved! Nothing in all creation can separate us from that. Nothing could for Barb, and nothing will for you because of Christ. Nothing will come between you and the love that our Creator, our Savior has for you! Nothing did for Barb! And what is more is that He got her through that valley of the shadow of death, and will for you, too. Jesus got her through the valley and will get us through it, too.

As David paints that scene, his brush now moves out of the valley and to an unexpected place: a table. **“You prepare a table before me in the presence of all my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.”** In her life, Barb knew all about tables. As a mother and wife, dinner was always hot, ready, and ate together with her boys, blessed by the common table prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.” Barb also knew who joins at the table: family and friends. She also knew what graced the table: food! Maybe it was some canned vegetables and fruit from the garden that she grew with her husband. Maybe it was what I’ll call “The Barb Special” from Dairy Queen, a strawberry blizzard hotdog Sunday. Any meal that Barb had was probably almost certainly accompanied with her drink of choice: Coca-Cola, whether it was the normal recipe, Coke Zero, Diet, or caffeine-free. Barb knew all about tables: what accompanied them and who accompanied them.

She also knew another table: her Lord’s. From a young age, Barb was invited to His table where she was fed, strengthened, and nourished with His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The prophet Isaiah uses this banquet imagery when he writes, **“On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And He will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever; and the LORD GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of His people He will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.”**

Barb also knows who is at this table: all of her departed loved ones in the faith. This spot is in the presence of a defeated death, devil, and sin because of Jesus’ death and resurrection. By faith, we have a spot at the table, ready, open, and reserved for you. Our enemies of sin, death, and the devil have been defeated by Christ and we have a seat with Barb and the departed saints.

With his closing words, David puts on the finishing strokes. **“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”** As Barb began to lose her memory more, I was told she used to say, “I know I’m not going to remember this, but if I am enjoying it while I’m doing it, that’s all that matters.” Well, Barb is in for a real surprise, isn’t she? Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, she dwells with Him forever, fully experiencing the fullness of that goodness and mercy, with Him, and the departed saints. What a great summary of her life...and yours, because of Christ, and in Christ.

With that, David signs his painting, putting on his name in the lower left corner. We follow suit by ending with another name, a better name: Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe** in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe** in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **PRAYERS**

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together in one communion, in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and Your peace.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

L: Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass with Him to our joyful resurrection.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

L: Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that Your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

L: Grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve You with a quiet mind.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

L: Grant to all who mourn a sure confidence in Your loving care, that casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

L: Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, the family and friends of Barb Radefeldt, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

L: Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting.

**C: Hear us, Lord.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

## **NUNC DIMITTIS (Song of Simeon)**

L: "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 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.**

L: "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."

## **BENEDICTION**

L: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with His favor and give you His eternal peace.

C: Amen.

## **CLOSING HYMN "Amazing Grace"**

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!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

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.

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