

*A Service of
Celebration of the Resurrection
In Memory of Elaine Lestor*



*St. James Lutheran Church,
Rock Island, Illinois*

June 26, 2025

PRELUDE

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister, Elaine, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In her baptism, Elaine was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she shall be clothed with glory.

The presiding minister may lead this acclamation.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *“Lift High the Cross”*

#660

grandchildren, Amanda (Daniel) Belknap of Bloomington, IL and Andrew (Samantha) Lestor of Greer, SC; and great-grandchildren, Henry and Owen Belknap and Everett and Calvin Lestor.

Elaine was preceded in death by her husband, parents and brother, Larry Olson.

The family would like to give a special thank you to the staff at Friendship Manor, Silver Cross, and UnityPoint Hospice.

Memorials may be made in care of St. James Lutheran Church for ELCA World Hunger.

Elaine Edith Marie Lestor

September 11, 1929 – June 18, 2025

Elaine was born in Chicago, IL, the daughter of Rev. Gottfrid and Edith (Thulin) Olson. She earned her bachelor's degree from Upsala College in New Jersey and later pursued graduate work at Boston University. Elaine married Rev. Albert D. Lestor on June 28, 1952 in Lynn, Massachusetts and he preceded her in death on September 12, 2014. She worked as an elementary school teacher for many years in Chicago and continued to substitute teach after moving to the Quad Cities area.

Elaine was very grounded in her Lutheran faith and it was exactly this that brought her and Al together. The two met while serving as lay delegates at the Augustana Synod Convention in Galesburg, IL. She stood by her husband through the various assignments he had as a pastor over the years. They spent time in Walnut Creek and Pico Rivera, both in California and Chicago, Andover, North Henderson and Henderson Grove in Illinois. After her husband's retirement, they became members of St. James Lutheran Church in Rock Island. Elaine was heavily involved in St. James over the years and a proud member of WELCA (Women of the ELCA).

Elaine and Al dedicated a lot of time to various organizations over the years, including Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Literacy is for Everyone, World Relief and Holden Village. Elaine was also very passionate about Augustana College and served on their endowment board for many years.

Those left to cherish Elaine's memory include her children, David (Diane) Lestor of Orion, IL and Martha Lestor of Coal Valley, IL;

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister, Elaine. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

REMEMBERING ELAINE – A Time of Reminiscence

Amanda Belknap
Andrew Lestor

SOLO *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

Sarah Hepner

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

- ² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:103-105

¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.
¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

COMMENDATION

The ministers take their places at the coffin. The presiding minister leads the commendation.

Let us commend Elaine to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.
Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Elaine.
Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb
of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her into the
arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into
the glorious company of the saints in light.
Amen.

Let us go forth in peace,
in the name of Christ. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

#773

At the conclusion of the service this morning the family invites everyone
downstairs for lunch and a time of fellowship.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding Minister.....Rev. Donald Knowles
Accompanist Dr. John Hildreth
Eulogy Amanda Belknap, Andrew Lestor
Soloist Sarah Hepner
Communion Assistant..... Stacy Miles

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive communion. We believe that Christ is truly present for us through the bread and cup. An usher will invite you to come forward down the center aisle to the rail. Please take an individual communion cup at the head of the center aisle. Grape juice is also available in the prefilled cups in the tray. **Gluten-free wafers** are available. Please indicate to the pastor if you would like the wafer instead of the bread. After receiving communion you may return to your seat by the side aisle. Used communion cups may be placed in the basin at the head of the side aisle.*

Those who do not wish to receive the bread and cup are invited to come forward for a pastoral blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest so that the pastor knows this is your desire.

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *I Am the Bread of Life*

#485

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 15:4-9

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

The gospel of the Lord.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.
Amen

A 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. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed
from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A 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. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, 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. God of
mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A 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. God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Grant us grace to entrust Elaine to your never-failing love which
sustained her in this life. Receive her into the arms of your mercy, and
remember her according to the favor you bear for your people. God of
mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of all grace, you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life
and immortality to light. We give you thanks because by his death Jesus

destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection has opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly is seated.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead, and in whom our hope of resurrection dawns. The sting of death has been removed by the glorious promise of his risen life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.