

Christian Funeral Service for
Hedwig T. Stark



Saint John's Lutheran Church
Summit, New Jersey

Hedwig Tafelmaier Stark

Born

July 29, 1929
Newark, New Jersey

Baptized

April 4, 1931
St. John's Lutheran Church
Newark, New Jersey

Confirmed

May 16, 1943
Christ Lutheran Church
Maplewood, New Jersey

Marriage

Egon Edmund Stark
November 15, 1952
Christ Lutheran Church
Maplewood, New Jersey

Died

February 24, 2023
Morris Plains, New Jersey

Funeral Service

March 25, 2023
Saint John's Lutheran Church
Summit, New Jersey

Family

Children: Peter Stark, Son, Kathy Rubendall, Daughter-in-law
Laura Snyder, Daughter, Raymond Snyder, Son-in-law
Grandchildren: Emily Snyder, Rachel Snyder, Robert Stark, and Jo Snyder



PRELUDE

How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (*Requiem*)

Jerusalem

Prelude and Fugue in E major LUBW 7

Johannes Brahms;
arr. Christopher Harlow-Jennings
C. Hubert H. Parry
Vincent Lübeck

GATHERING

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 Hedy, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Please stand.

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

In the name of the Father, the ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made Heaven and Earth

We brought nothing into the world,

And we take nothing out.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away;

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord;

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God the Father, we too might live a new 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.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 449 We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em - braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924
Text © John B. Geyer.

APOSTOLIC 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

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Hedy. 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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46 *Refrain sung first by choir, thereafter by all. Congregation sings bold verses.*

The LORD of hosts is with us; the
God of Ja - cob is our strong - hold.

- ¹God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.
- ²**Therefore we will not fear, though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths¹ of the sea;**
- ³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble¹ with its tumult.
- ⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation of¹ the Most High.**
- ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it at the¹ break of day.
- ⁶**The nations rage, and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth¹ melts away.**
- ⁷The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.
- ⁸**Come now, regard the works¹ of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up-¹ on the earth;**
- ⁹behold the one who makes war to cease in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the¹ shields with fire.
- ¹⁰**“Be still, then, and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted¹ in the earth.”**
- ¹¹The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob¹ is our stronghold.

SECOND READING Romans 8:31–35, 37–39

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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 reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GRADUAL HYMN ELW 628 Jerusalem, My Happy Home



1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?
2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!
5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional

GOSPEL John 14:1–6

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

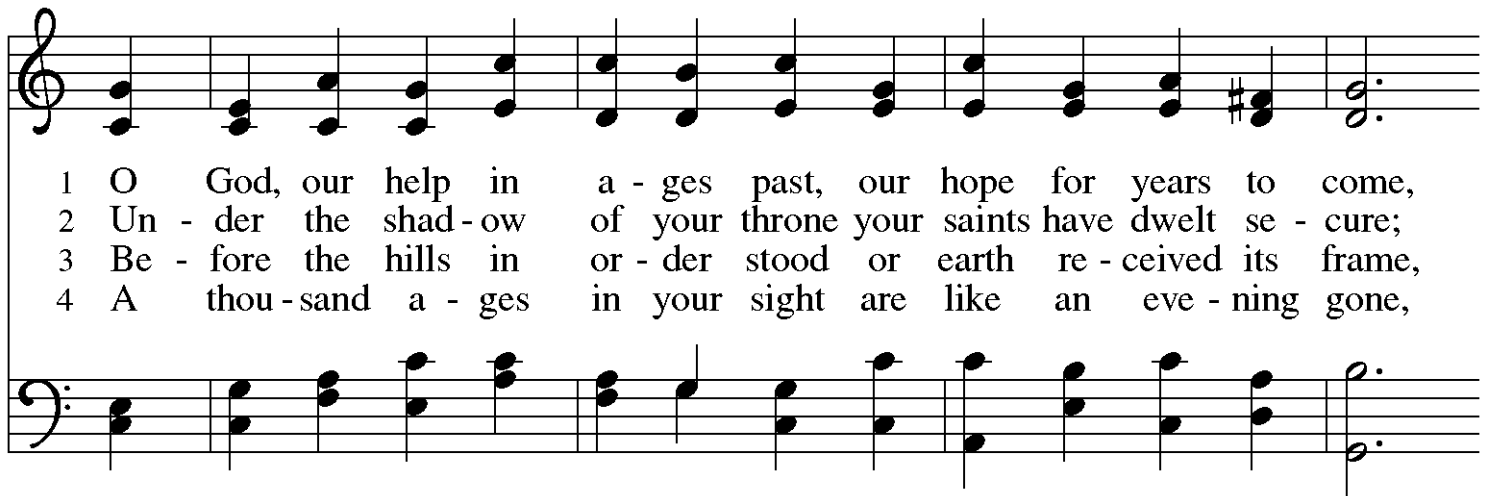
Please be seated.

SERMON

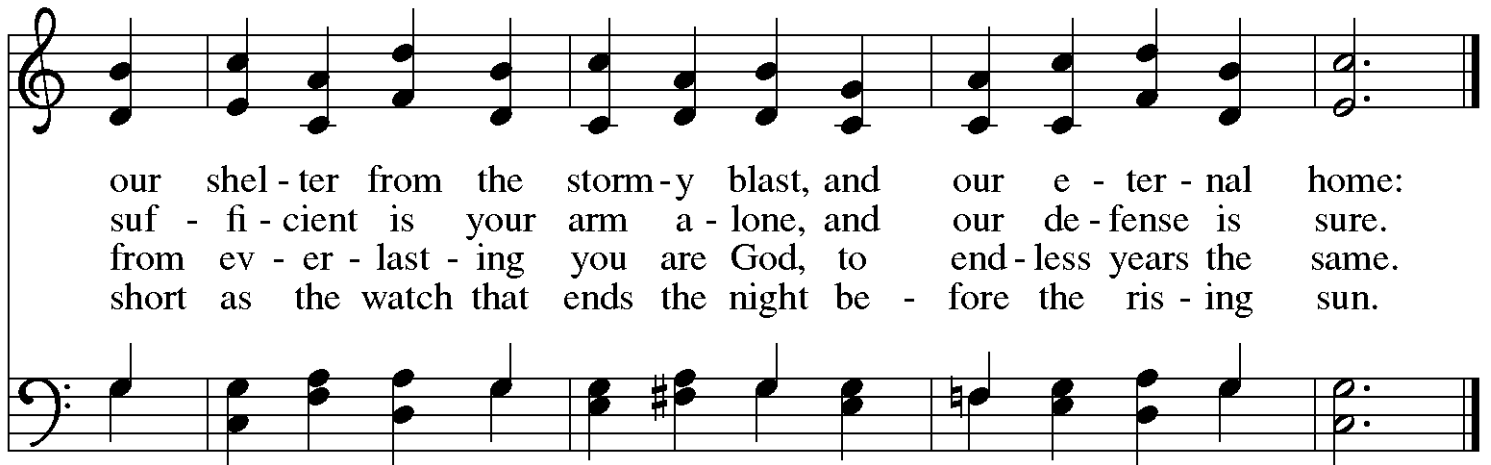
The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 632 O God, Our Help in Ages past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

APOSTLES CREED

Let us confess the faith of the Church, the faith of our Baptism, our trust in life and death:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us, 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, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he 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, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring (from *Cantata 147*)

J.S. Bach

Jesu, joy of my desiring! In my heart I hold him fast.

Jesus comes with grace untiring till all cares and grief are past.

Well I know that Jesus loves me, and his very life he gives me.

Jesus I will not forsake, though on earth my heart should break.

– Martin Jahn, ca. 1661, tr. Martin A Seltz

Please stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.



Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

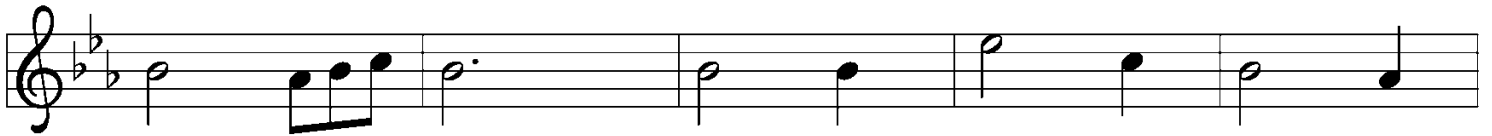


sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

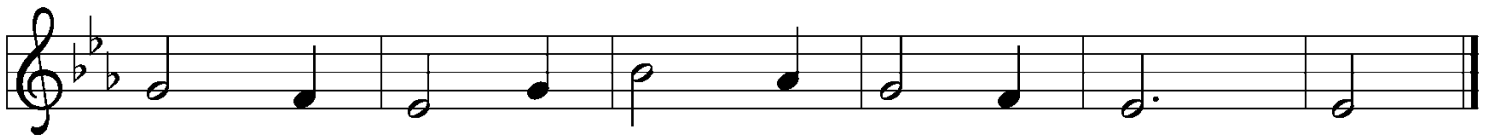
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thine unction grace bestoweth;
and, oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 838 Beautiful Savior



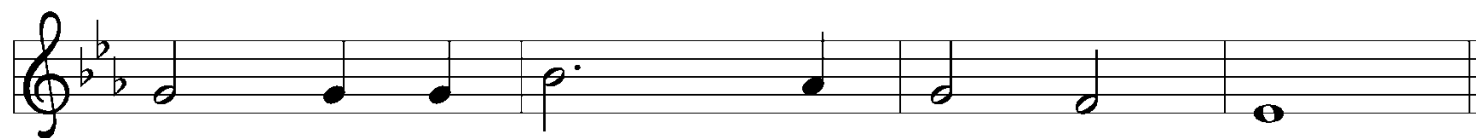
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
bright the spar - kling stars on high;
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
than all the an - gels in the sky.
now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **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 of life eternal where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Hedy to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Hedy. 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.**

CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



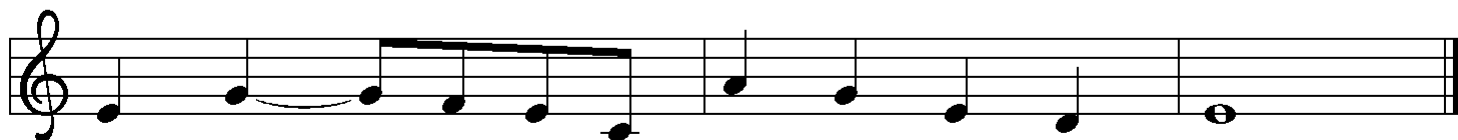
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 422 For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 below
6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the
7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;



we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are the brave a - gain and arms are strong.
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
 Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God

J. S. Bach, arr. Virgil Fox

*The family will proceed to the Memorial Garden for the interment.
 Please proceed to Hinman Hall to greet the family.*

HEDY STARK



Hedwig “Hedy” Helen Tafelmaier was born in Newark, New Jersey on July 29, 1929 to Henry and Hedwig Tafelmaier, recent German immigrants. She grew up in Irvington and Maplewood, New Jersey, graduating valedictorian of Columbia High School in 1946. Hedy attended Upsala College in East Orange before transferring to Middlebury College in Vermont; she graduated Middlebury in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish and worked as a Spanish language translator.

In 1952, Hedy married Egon Edmund Stark. They helped build their first home in Springfield, where they welcomed two children, Peter and Laura, before moving to New Providence in 1965. They were active members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Springfield where Hedy volunteered as choir member, Sunday School teacher, Altar Guild member, and office assistant. She also volunteered with the Overlook Hospital Auxiliary Twig Group #10 until she returned to the work force in the mid-1980s, ultimately becoming part-time office assistant and receptionist at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Summit until her retirement in 1993. Hedy and Egon joined St. John’s in 1990, and Hedy became a member of Adult Choir, Altar Guild, Sixty-Something (social group), and various committees to serve wherever needed. She retired from choir 10 years ago as her vision started to fail, but continued to assist with receptions, Altar Guild, and office work until just a few years ago.

Hedy enjoyed travel, cooking and baking, and sewing and knitting, but most of all, she enjoyed watching her four grandchildren grow up. Hedy moved to Arbor Terrace Memory Care Assisted Living in Morris Plains last fall, and she died there peacefully on February 24, 2023 at age 93.

Egon, Hedy’s beloved husband of nearly 52 years, died in 2004. Hedy is survived by her son, Peter (daughter-in-law Kathy Rubendall), and daughter, Laura (son-in-law Raymond Snyder) as well as grandchildren Emily Snyder, Rachel Snyder, Robert Stark, and Jo Snyder.

In lieu of flowers, please make any memorial gifts to the Thanksgiving and Memorial Fund at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Summit.