



In loving memory of

Debra Jean Rees

Sunrise February 11, 1955 – Sunset July 31, 2024

August 21, 2024 | 1 p.m.

Saron Lutheran Church

Jeanne Larsen, Interim Pastor

1656 Main St | Mail: PO Box 964 | Strasburg CO 80136

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Prelude

Kurt Elliott

Welcome

Gathering

The Reverend Jeanne Larsen

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 Debra Jean Rees, to give thanks for her life, to entrust 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, Deb was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she shall be clothed with glory.

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.

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.

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

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

Hymn | ELW 773: Precious Lord, Take My Hand



- 1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
- 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
- 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,



Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.



Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993

Music: PRECIOUS LORD, George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey

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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 Deb. 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.

A Life Remembered | Eulogy

Gale Johnson

Others are welcome to share their memories.

Hymn | **Farther Along**

1. Tempted and tried we're oft made to wonder,
Why it should be thus all the day long;
While there are others living about us,
Never molested though in the wrong.

Refrain:

- Farther along we'll know all about it,
Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, my friends, live in the sunshine,
We'll understand it all by and by.
2. When death has come and taken our loved ones,
It leaves our home so lonely and drear;
Then do we wonder why others prosper,
Living so wicked year after year. *Refrain*
 3. Faithful till death said our loving Master,
A few more days to labor and wait;
Toils of the road will then seem as nothing,
As we sweep through the beautiful gate. *Refrain*
 4. When we see Jesus coming in glory,
When He comes from His home in the sky;
Then we shall meet Him in that bright mansion,
We'll understand it all by and by. *Refrain*

Source: *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism: an African American Ecumenical Hymnal*

Reading | 1 Corinthians 13

Music | "I Can Only Imagine" –Bart Millard

Gospel | Luke 23:32–43

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

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

Homily | The Reverend Jeanne Larsen

Hymn | ELW 638: Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Prayers

The 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.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Commendation

Let us entrust Debra Jean Rees to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

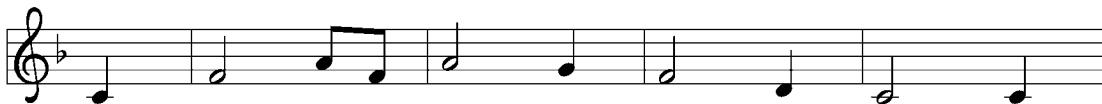
Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we entrust your servant Deb. 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.**

Sending

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight. **Amen.**

Hymn | ELW 779: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Blessing

And now as you go on your way:

May Christ go with you.

May he go before you to show you the way;

 behind you to encourage you;

 beside you to befriend you;

 above you to watch over you;

 and within you to give you peace.

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

Dismissal

Let us go forth in peace.

Postlude

Military Honors

Strasburg American Legion, Post 183

*Following the Military Honors, you are invited to greet Deb's family and friends
at a reception in Saron's Fellowship Hall.*

Worship Ministries

Preacher: Pastor Jeanne Larsen

Eulogy: Gale Johnson

Reader: JJ Johnson

Solo: Karen Fagan

Pianist: Kurt Elliott

Sound: Mike Kumick

Debra Jean Rees

Debra J. Rees born was born February 11, 1955, in Denver, Colorado. She passed on July 31, 2024, at the VA Hospital in Aurora, Colorado.

Debra graduated in 1977 from Arapahoe Community College with an associate degree. She served in the United States Navy 1983–1989. Deb was a member of the American Legion, President of the Senior VIP group in Strasburg, and worked at both Strasburg and Bennett Food banks. She delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas meals purchased by the American Legion, and there were several seniors she checked on on a weekly basis.

Deb never met a stranger. She was always willing to help anyone who needed it.

Deb is preceded in death by her parents, Harold Kirkegaard and Lee and Gerry Rees, and her sister Diane Pugh. She is survived by her brothers, Mark Kirkegaard (Wanda), Glen Kirkegaard (Vicky) and her sister, Gale Johnson (Jim).

Memorials may be designated to:

ALS Rocky Mountain Chapter | alsrockymountain.org.

Strasburg American Legion, Post 183 | 56423 Westview Ave, Strasburg CO, 80136

Saron Lutheran Church – celebrating 110 years!

Mission Statement:

*Saron Lutheran welcomes all in the name of Christ:
to know Christ's love | to grow in Christ's love | to go in Christ's love*