

FUNERAL MASS

JUDITH B. ELFERING

Born February 21, 1938
Born to Eternal Life May 21, 2026



June 12, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
St. Joseph Catholic Church
Libertyville, Illinois

CELEBRANT

Fr. Emanuel Torres-Fuentes, Associate Pastor

ACCOMPANIST

Claire Birmingham

CANTOR

Maria Schneider

Judith B. Elfering, 88, a lifelong resident of Lake County, passed away peacefully on May 21, 2026. Born in Waukegan to Louis and Evelyn Behm, Judy grew up in Grayslake. She graduated from Rosary College in River Forest and dedicated 23 years to shaping young minds as a teacher at St. Mary of the Annunciation for 17 years and 4 years with the Kildeer Countryside School District. Judy raised her family in Libertyville, in the very home hand-built by her late husband, "Bud."

A woman of diverse passions, Judy traveled the world—exploring Europe, Africa, and South America, with Ireland holding a particularly special place in her heart. Closer to home, she found joy in tending her garden, researching family genealogy, attending theater performances, sewing, crocheting, and wearing her treasured jewelry collection. A talented artist, she lovingly sent personalized greeting cards with her photographs for her family and friends.

Music and faith were the cornerstones of Judy's life. She was an accomplished pianist, played the organ at St. Gilbert Catholic Church, and was a devoted member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, where she participated in the

Women's Guild, the Senior Club, and the Bell Choir.

Judy's warmth extended globally. She hosted three exchange students through Carmel High School and possessed a rare, innate ability to maintain lifelong friendships across the world. Notably, she kept in touch with a pen pal in Scotland for over 50 years. To know Judy was to be a friend for life, and she had a unique gift for making everyone feel uniquely special.

Judy was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Judy is survived by her children Christopher (Diane), Sandra (Timothy) and Gregory (Jennifer); her grandchildren Katlyn, Maggie, Emily, and Nicholas; her great-grandchildren Hadley, Rylee, Everly and Oakley; her brother Louis Behm, and her three beautiful nieces. She is preceded in death by her husband of 56 years Leo "Bud" and her parents.

Interment at St. Mary of the Annunciation Cemetery in Fremont Center. In lieu of flowers, memorials made to Catholic Charities <https://www.catholiccharities.net/> or Lighthouse for the Blind <https://chicagolighthouse.org/> would be greatly appreciated.

THE ORDER OF THE MASS INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Procession — Here I Am, Lord

(Dan Schutte)

The Assembly sings:

Verses

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.

1. All who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save. I, who
2. I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will

1. made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
2. break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.

1. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
2. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Text: Based on Isaiah 6. Text and music © 1981, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

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Greeting

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **R** And with your spirit.

Sprinkling with Holy Water

Priest: In the waters of Baptism, Judy died with Christ and rose with him to new life. May she now share with him eternal glory.

Collect — **R** Amen. *All sit*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading — Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

Proclaimed by Emily Elfering

He will destroy death forever.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from

the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord. **R** Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm — Psalm 23

(Owen Alstott)



R. The Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth-ing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul. **R**

He guides me in right paths
for his name sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
that give me courage. **R**

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
for years to come. **R**

Music: Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.
Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL).

Second Reading — Romans 14:7-9, 10c-12

Proclaimed by Katlyn Elfering

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Brothers and sisters: No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why

do you look down on your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written: *As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.* So then each of us shall give an accounting of himself to God.

The word of the Lord. **R** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation — Mass of Creation

(Marty Haugen)

All stand



Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

**“I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live forever.”**

Gospel — John 14:1-6

In my Father’s house there are many dwellings.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may

be. Where I am going you know the way.” Thomas said to him, “Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus 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, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *All sit*

The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)— ✠ Lord, hear our prayer. *All stand.*

Read by Bernadette Elfering

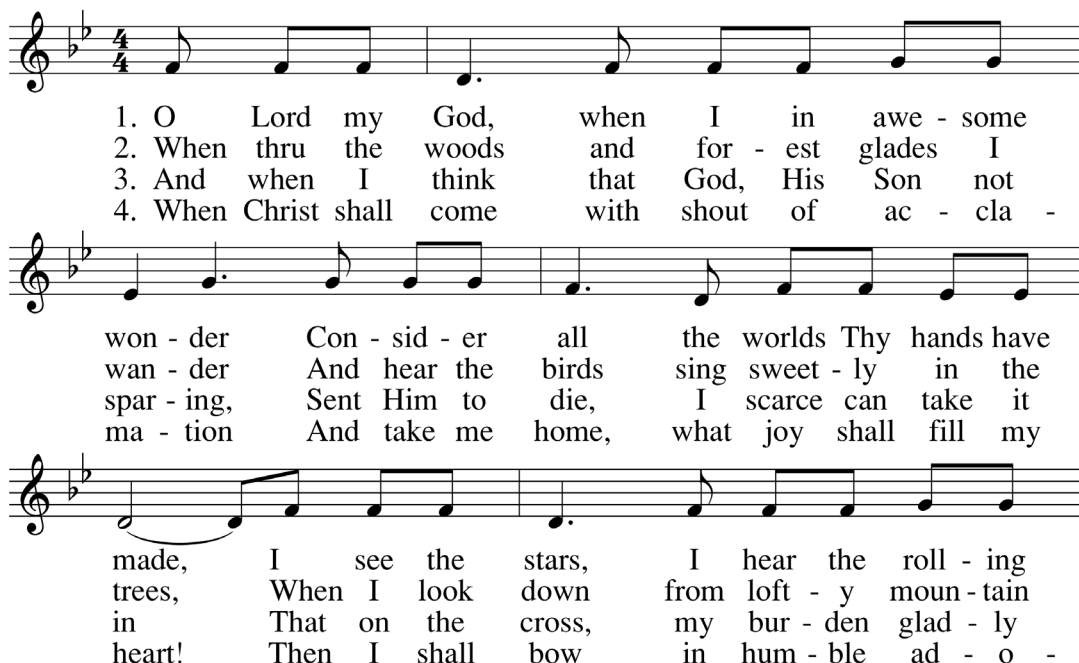
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Gift Bearers — *Nicholas Elfering, Maggie Elfering*

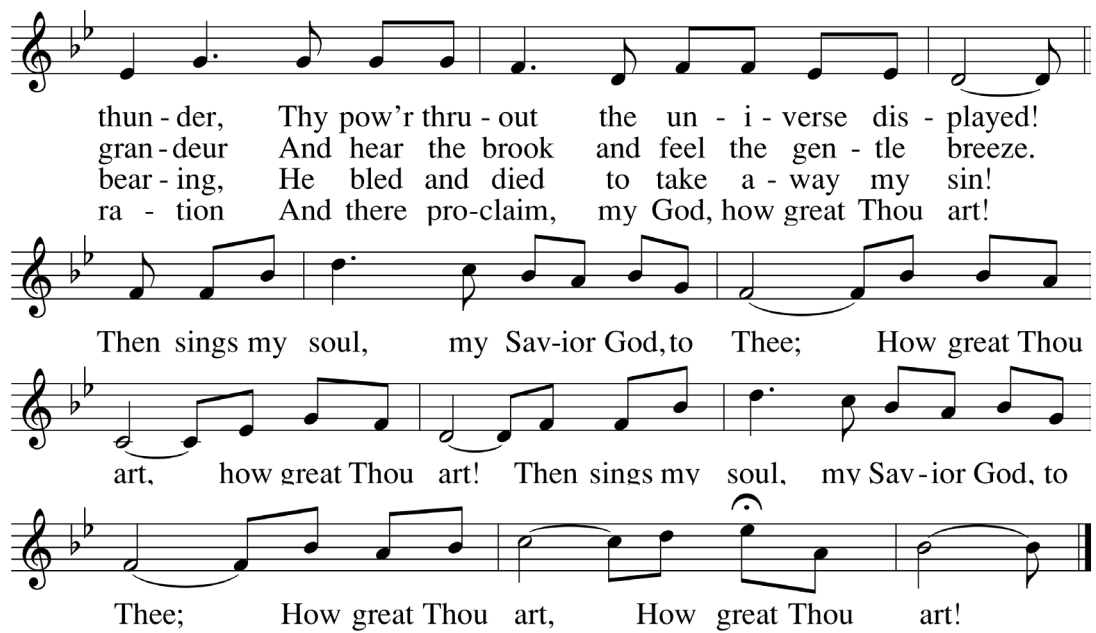
Offertory Song — How Great Thou Art

(Stuart K. Hine)

The Assembly sings:



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thun - der, Thy pow'r thru - out the un - i - 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!

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: Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989
 Tune: O STORE GOD, 11 10 11 10 with refrain; Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989
 © 1953, 1981, Manna Music, Inc.

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Preface Dialogue

Priest: The Lord be with you.

R And with your spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

R We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

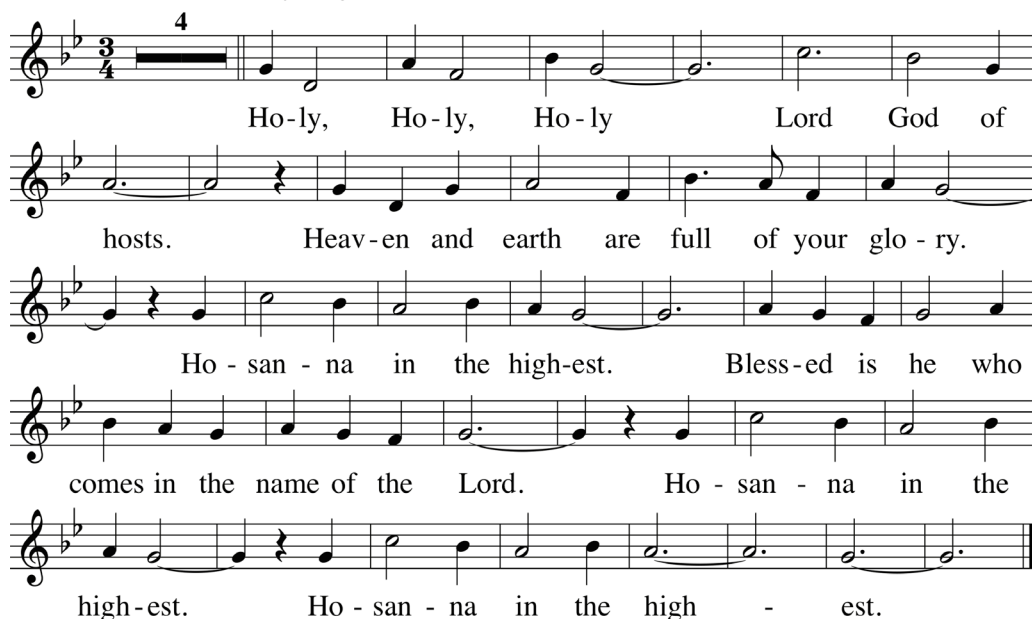
R It is right and just.

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS — Mass of Creation

(Marty Haugen)

TEXT: ICEL, © 2010. MUSIC: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, © 1984, 1985, 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

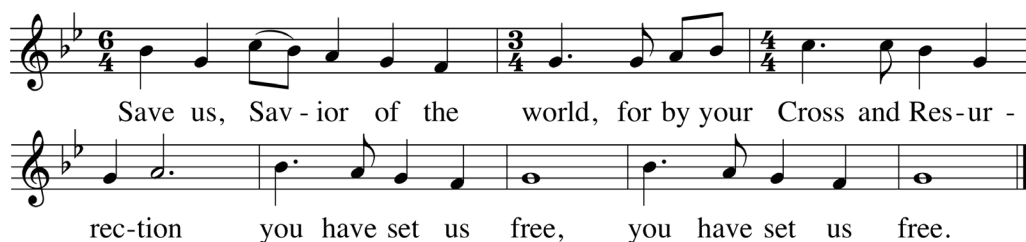
Holy



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
 hosts. Heav-en 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. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

All kneel

Mystery of Faith



Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Res-ur-
 rec-tion you have set us free, you have set us free.

Amen



All stand

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer & Sign of Peace

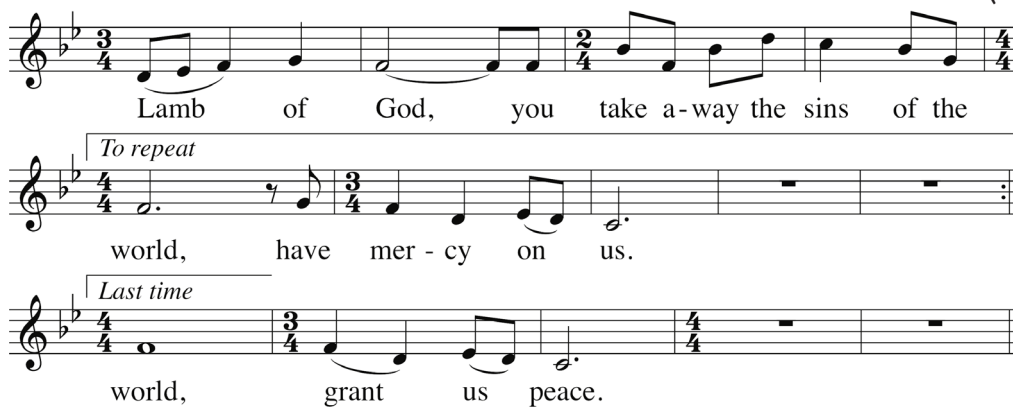
Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

✠ And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Lamb of God

(Marty Haugen)



All kneel

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

✠ Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

We warmly invite all who are non-Catholic or unable to receive Communion to either come forward with arms crossed for a blessing or remain in your pew for silent prayer or personal reflection during the Rite of Communion.

Communion Song — Precious Lord, Take My Hand

(Thomas A. Dorsey)



Continued on next page

night, Lead me on to the light. Take my
 call, Hold my hand lest I fall. Take my
 stand, Guide my feet, hold my hand. Take my

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

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993
 Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, 66 9 D; George N. Allen, 1812-1877; adapt. by Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993; arr. by Kelly Dobbs-Mickus, b.1966
 © 1938, (renewed), arr. © 2011, Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

Communion Meditation — Amazing Grace (St. Joseph Bell Choir)

Prayer after Communion — ~~R~~Amen.

Words of Remembrance — *Sandy Elfering*

FINAL COMMENDATION

Invitation to Prayer *All stand.*

Song of Farewell — May the Angels Be Your Guide

(MacAller & McGrath)

Refrain

May the an - gels be your guide, may they lead you in - to par - a -
 dise, and take you home to the new Je - ru - sa - lem.

Verses

1. There is one thing I ask of God; for this I
 2. When I cry out, _____ hear my voice. Have mer - cy,
 3. I shall see God's _____ good - ness, for - ev - er

1. long, _____ for this I hope: _____ to dwell in the house of
 2. Lord, _____ and an - swer me. Do not cast me a - way in
 3. dwell with the liv - ing. Hope in God, _____ and take
 to Refrain

1. God ev - 'ry day of my life.
 2. an - ger, for _____ you are my help.
 3. heart; place your trust in the Lord.

Text based on *In Paradisum* and Psalm 27:4, 7, 9, 13-14.
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Prayer of Commendation — ~~R~~Amen.

Recessional Song — Amazing Grace

(NEW BRITAIN)

The Assembly sings:

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound That saved and
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my
 3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His word my
 4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I have al -
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing

1. set me free! I once was lost, but
 2. fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 3. hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 4. read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 5. as the sun, We've no less days to

1. now am found, Was blind but now I see.
 2. grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 3. por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 4. safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 5. sing God's praise Than when we first be - gun.

Text: CM; verses 1-4, John Newton, 1725-1807; verse 5, anon., fr. A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790.
 Music: Columbian Harmony, 1829.

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