

Funeral Gerry Rock

June 22, 2019

First Reading Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines. 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: "Indeed, this is our God; we looked to him, and he saved us! This is the LORD to whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

Responsorial Psalm 23

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

1. God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace. [Refrain]
2. Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth, my spirit shall sing the music of your name. [Refrain]
3. Though I should wander the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are at my side, your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. [Refrain]
4. You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred, crowning me with love beyond my power to hold. [Refrain]
5. Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. [Refrain]

Marty Haugen, © 1986

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

Gospel Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. The Gentle Mastery of Christ. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

There are few things in our lives that will challenge and overwhelm our faith like death does. The Scriptures today are about death and yet we are not touched by a morbid theme with no hope. Intellectually we know death is the fate of all of us. We thought that we were ready...in fact, we prayed with Mom that God would take her. Yet when it struck, it crushed us with sadness. Even Jesus wept. We are helpless to rise up out of the death that afflicts us. It seems like death won. For this very reason, we need to reflect on God loving us so much that He alone transforms death into life...eternal life.

Isaiah today says: *The Lord of Hosts will provide for all peoples...He will destroy death forever...He saved us.* He put a spirit into us so we may live...His spirit dwelling within us since our Baptism gives us life. St. Paul tells us today to be aware about those *who have fallen asleep* so that we will believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. And so, we have been called to console each other ...to remind each other that we are not here grieving without hope. But how do we know that this is true and not just some words to make us feel better? How can we be truly consoled and confident that that Mom is with Jesus, and with her beloved Bob and her family?

Our faith does not rest on proof of what we see...it rests in our hearts with what we know is true. I believe everyone who met Gerry Rock ended up loving her. I saw it day after day, week after week these last 18 months where she lived at The Arlington rehab center in Florida and Arbor Terrace in Georgia. Mom always had a smile to share and a thank you to give to everyone she met. People loved her like no one I have ever seen. If that how strangers felt about her, imagine how she impacted her family! Mom's grandson Pete said it well: *...your grandparents are sorta the least human of all humans. like i said, they mostly exist. for your whole life. but then one day they laugh to tears, and you're shook. you can't unsee it. and what you really can't unsee is all their pain. and fear. and loss. and, of course, their joy. and comfort. and security. and puzzlement. and their intelligence. and loss of such. and their wisdom. and loss of such. ... it all comes at*

once...my grandma was human, i learned. and i was inspired to be good. and happy. and to have a purpose. and a way big perspective. on everything. ...my grandma changed my life. in that moment. that's one of her likely many stories. it's now the main one i know about her. i just wish she knew it about herself. before she left...I am glad she met my wife. Mom's legacy of love and life is not over...it lives on in us, her family, and everyone who knew her!

The Lord of Hosts will provide for all peoples...He will destroy death forever...He saved us. These readings are given to us today so that we will make a choice...so that we will choose resurrection and life! So that we will choose Jesus! Today we are asked to trust a promise made to us, that even though we die, we will come back to life in the love of Jesus who is our resurrection. Imagine if you will that this whole church is filled with hundreds of angels and saints surrounding Mom, welcoming her to be with Jesus in heaven and to glorify God with Him. If we live and die in that belief, then it is with the Apostles; with the ancient saints; with our loved ones...Mom you are gone from here, but you will never be forgotten...you are who we pray for daily...if we live and die in the belief that we come to life in the love of Jesus, nothing Mom of your goodness and grace will be lost and forgotten in a grave somewhere.

Because of you Mom, we will never forget that God loves us so much that He alone transforms death into life. Death did not win.

Mom, your legacy of love and life will live on, we promise! Rest in Peace...Live in Peace.

Our Rock



The Mighty Quinn

Our family
is a circle of strength,
Love and unity.
Every birth and every marriage
adds joy.
Every crisis faced together
commits us to each other.
It is Love
that strengthens our circle
and joins us as One.

Pat, Kathy, Ginny, Peggy
Roger, Joe, Phil, Nora

A Celebration of The Life of Geraldine P. Rock



Born To This Life
July 1, 1924

Born into eternal life
June 13, 2019

Mass of Christian Burial

for

Geraldine P. Rock

St. Mary Church

June 22, 2019

Celebrant

Father Dindo Billote
Deacon Roger Fraser

Pall Bearers

Tim Bennett	Christopher Fraser
Douglas Deacon	Matthew Fraser
Joseph Deacon	Nate Rock
Tony Deacon	Peter Ternies



Think of me,
think of me fondly,
when we've said goodbye.

Remember me
once in a while...
please promise me you'll try.

Prelude

On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord:

"My refuge, my Rock in whom I trust."

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.

You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you,
Near you it shall not come.

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Entrance Hymn

Be Not Afraid

You shall cross the barren desert, but you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety, though you do not know the way. Y
You shall speak your words in foreign lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid, I go before you always,
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.

If you pass through raging waters in the sea, you shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames, you shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell and death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all.

Blessed are the poor, for the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh,
And if wicked tongues insult and hate you all because of Me,
Blessed, blessed are you.

First Reading

1st Reading Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

Read by Madelyn Ternes

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples. A feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. 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. The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Shepherd me, O God

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

Second Reading

2nd Reading: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Read by Courtney Murphy

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.
The Word of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 11: 25-30

At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves! For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Homily

Prayers of the Faithful

Read by: Michelle Marousek, Lisa Travaglini, Lindsay Utte Stephanie McIntyre, Gretchen Ternes

For Gerry, mother, grandmother, great grandchildren, mother-in-law, aunt and friend to all: that she has found peace and happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord...
Lord, hear our prayer...

For her children, Pat, Kathy, Ginny and Peggy, that they may find comfort in the memory of their mother's love for them, let us pray to the Lord...
Lord, hear our prayer...

For her 16 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren, that they know Grandma's love is never ending, and she will always be their guiding light, let us pray to the Lord...
Lord, hear our prayer...

For her many relatives and friends especially Lory Parker, that the happy thoughts and fond memories they have of Geraldine may forever keep a smile on their faces, let us pray to the Lord...
Lord, hear our prayer...

For all the deceased members of the Rock family especially her husband Bob, sons Danny and Robbie, granddaughter Kristin Deacon, son-in-law Don Bennett, Sister and brother-in-law Joan and Jerry Dumpert, niece Mary Ellen Sisk, nephew Wally Hilger and great grandson baby Taelor Utte that they may finally be celebrating with her in everlasting glory with God in Heaven, let us pray to the Lord...
Lord, hear our prayer...

For all those that still face the challenges of physical suffering, that they may feel the healing power of Jesus and bless those who give them care and comfort, let us pray to the Lord...
Lord, hear our prayer...

Presentation of Gifts

Joe Deacon, Phil Ternes, Nora Rock

Presentation of Roses

Great Grandchildren

Offertory Hymn

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,

The Lord is with Thee.

Blessed are you among women,

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners now.

And at the hour of death, Amen.

You were chosen by the Father,

You were chosen by the Son.

You were chosen from all women,

And for women, shining one.

Blessed are you among women,

Blest in turn all women too.

Blessed they with peaceful spirits,

Blessed they with gentle hearts.

Gentle woman, quiet light

Morning star, so strong and bright.

Gentle Mother, peaceful dove,

Teach us wisdom, teach us love.

Sign of Peace

Communion Hymns

Surely the Presence of the Lord

*Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His Mighty Power and His Grace
I can hear the brush of angel wings, I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of
the Lord is in this place.*

Surely the spirit of the Lord is here in love,

And it brings God's peace as quiet as a dove.

*I can see the glow of angel's wings shining brightly from above, Surely the spirit of
the Lord is here in love.*

Surely the blessing of the Lord is in my heart,

And it's here when we're together or apart.

*Now I feel the rush of angel's wings and I know how great thou art. Surely the
blessing of the Lord is in my heart.*

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Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, we are family.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With ev'ry step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

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Recessional Hymn

Irish Blessing



Eulogy for Mom

Pat Fraser ~ June 22, 2019

Thank you to everyone here today to help us celebrate our mom. She would be so happy to see each and every one of you. I know all of you loved her, and be assured that she loved every single one of you. Because, you see, love defined her.

There is a segment tucked in at the end of a Sunday show called "A Life Well Lived." Just a few minutes in length, the lives profiled, some extraordinary, some quite ordinary, always send a powerful message. Today that's what we are here celebrating...A Life Well Lived. Actually, we think very well lived. Well lived in spite of, or possibly because of, the challenges she was presented even from an early age, having lost both parents by the age of 7. Then later in life burying two sons, a granddaughter and a great-grandson. She mourned; however, mourning did not define her. She continued to live life after loss and became stronger in what were her wounds. She grew through the hardships of life without bitterness, discontent or disillusionment.

As sad as she was losing Dad, Mom sheepishly admitted that as much as she would miss him, she wasn't ready to die yet. She loved life and made the most of the 18 years she had after his passing. Like the saying on one of her bookmarks puts it: *It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years!!*

And make them count she did. She traveled to France, Italy and Ireland; she showed up at whatever sport a grandchild was currently involved in; she attended grandchildren's weddings, great-grandchildren's first communions, confirmations and family parties too numerous to mention. She always said she had her hat by the door ready to go when someone called!!

Mom had so many valued relationships, but some especially integral to her life as well as to the life of our whole family.

- Joan and the girls – so dear to her and all of us.
- Her life-long, cherished friends: Pat, Helen, Flo and the rest of the Big 15.
- Supportive neighbors who have been friends for over 60 years – the Daums, Dearth's, Kanes and Killis.
- And Lori, who befriended Mom late in life, but who was much loved.

Fun facts about Mom:

- She saved every card, letter and note she received.
- She cut out articles about everyone and everything to pass on or save...the articles about her friend Janet's husband, the artist Leroy Neiman, outnumbered them all!
- She couldn't talk on the phone unless she took off her earrings and turned down the radio or TV.
- She was always losing her glasses...and the phone.
- She thoroughly enjoyed a shopping trip, especially to Carsons.
- Mom loved sending cards and bookmarks, reading, crossword puzzles, Jeopardy, Facebook, crime shows, musicals, Hershey bars, Dunkin' Donuts, olives and pickles, chips and dip, Port, Moscato, a brandy old fashion with olives, sunshine, hotdogs and blue nail polish! But, most of all, Mom loved and was so proud of all of us.

As St. Francis said: *"Preach the Gospel at all times...when necessary use words."* Mom didn't need words. You could tell by the way she lived her life. She lived the Gospel of mercy and love. She was everyone's Mom and everyone's Grandma. Mom was kind and gentle, thoughtful and loving. She was a wisdom figure in a quiet, unassuming way. She had that attitude of gratitude that never quit...and she was smiley to the end.