

Celebration of Life



Virginia Ann Nelson
1936-2025

In Memory of
Virginia Ann (Wallgren) Nelson

January 15, 2025

Officiants: Rev. Anne Schaefer and Rev. Nathan Mugaas
Pianist and Soloist: Taylor Quinn

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL SONG

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR, ELW #838

1. Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

GATHERING

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

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

ACCLAMATION

Pastor: 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.

All: We glorify you.

Pastor: 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.

All: We praise you.

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

All: We worship you.

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

All: Amen.

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

WELCOME

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Read by Julian Neal

Psalms 121

Read by Greg Nelson

John 14:1-6

Read by Pastor Anne

SERMON

Pastor Anne Schaefer

MUSIC

AMAZING GRACE

Taylor Quinn, solo

APOSTLES' CREED

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**All: 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.**

PRAYER'S OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: ...God of mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

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.**

COMMENDATION

Pastor: Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Virginia. 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. **All: Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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 grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, **All: Amen.**

RECESSIONAL SONG

VERSE 1

Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon
We are going to see the King.

CHORUS

Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We're going to see the King!

SOON AND VERY SOON, ELW #439

VERSE 2

No more crying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more crying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more crying there,
We are going to see the King.

CHORUS

VERSE 3

No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King.

CHORUS

OBITUARY

Virginia Ann (Wallgren) Nelson of Elk River Minnesota passed away peacefully on January 6, 2025. Virginia was born in Sebeka, Minnesota on January 9, 1936, the eldest child of Arthur and Freda (Becker) Wallgren. She and her younger brother Donald grew up on the family farm in Sebeka, graduating from Sebeka High School in 1954. She attended college at St. Cloud State College. Virginia taught elementary school for several years before marrying Robert Carl Nelson in 1962. She worked in retail at J.C. Penney for 15 years before retiring in 1993.

Virginia and Robert then began many years of world travel with a special love of cruises. They visited 70+ countries on 6 continents. From cruising the Amazon to the Elba, Robert and Virginia explored the world together. They were on a river cruise in Russia when 9-11 occurred—luckily the air travel restrictions were lifted by the time they were scheduled to return home. Once, they had breakfast with their son Greg in Cairo, Egypt when he coincidentally was in Egypt on a business trip. On their last Caribbean cruise in March 2020, they managed to squeak home on one of the last flights out of Miami before the cruise industry was shut down due to COVID-19.

Virginia will be remembered for the many Lutheran congregations she and Bob belonged to in their moves around the country, her adventurous travel spirit, and her sweet smile through it all.

Virginia is survived by her husband, Robert; son and daughter-in-law, Greg Nelson and Jennifer Nye; daughter Julian Neal and partner Fred Steinmann, sister-in-law Marilyn Wallgren (Donald), brothers-in-law Larry Nelson and wife Barb, Bruce Larson (Shirley), sisters-in-law Marlys Olson, Janice Nelson and husband Norm Abbott, and many friends and relations. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother Donald.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to either CAER Food Shelf of Elk River, where Virginia volunteered for many years, or Guardian Angels Senior Services, where Virginia and Bob moved in December. Guardian Angels also took care of Virginia in her last days and during previous recoveries.

CAER Food Shelf
12621 Elk Lake Road
Elk River, MN 55330
www.caerfoodshelf.org

Guardian Angels Senior Services
508 Freeport Avenue NW, Ste. A
Elk River, MN 55330
www.guardianangelsmn.org

*Following the service, you are invited to a dessert reception
in our Fellowship Hall.*

