

The Funeral Service  
of  
**Susan B. Fitz**  
November 18, 1946—August 7, 2022



*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and  
whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

—John 6:35

**August 13, 2022**  
**10:00 am**  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
725 SW Buchanan Street  
Topeka KS 66606

Presiding  
Organist

Pastor Andrew C. Patty  
Laurie Jackson

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• **PRELUDE +**

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*This Is the Day of New Beginnings*

*sung by Sandra Ellis Freeman*

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**+ GATHERING +**

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

**GATHERING HYMN**

*I Love to Tell the Story*

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

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

**P** 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.

**C We glorify you.**

**P** 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.

**C We praise you.**

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

**C We worship you.**

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

**C Amen.**

## GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Holy God, your beloved Son took children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to entrust Susan to your never-failing care and love. Comfort us as we bear the pain of her death, and receive us all into your everlasting arms, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN

*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,

who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;

we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



### READING: ECCLESIASTES 3:1-15

<sup>3</sup>For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: <sup>2</sup>a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

<sup>3</sup>a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup>a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

<sup>5</sup>a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup>a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup>a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

<sup>8</sup>a time to love and a time to hate;

a time for war and a time for peace.

<sup>9</sup>What gain have the workers from their toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

<sup>12</sup>I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. <sup>14</sup>I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it nor anything taken from it; God has done this so that all should stand in awe before him.

<sup>15</sup>That which is already has been, that which is to be already is, and God seeks out what has gone by.

HYMN

*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.

**PSALM 23**

*Read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your  
rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the  
days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the  
LORD forever.**

**GOSPEL: JOHN 6:35-40**

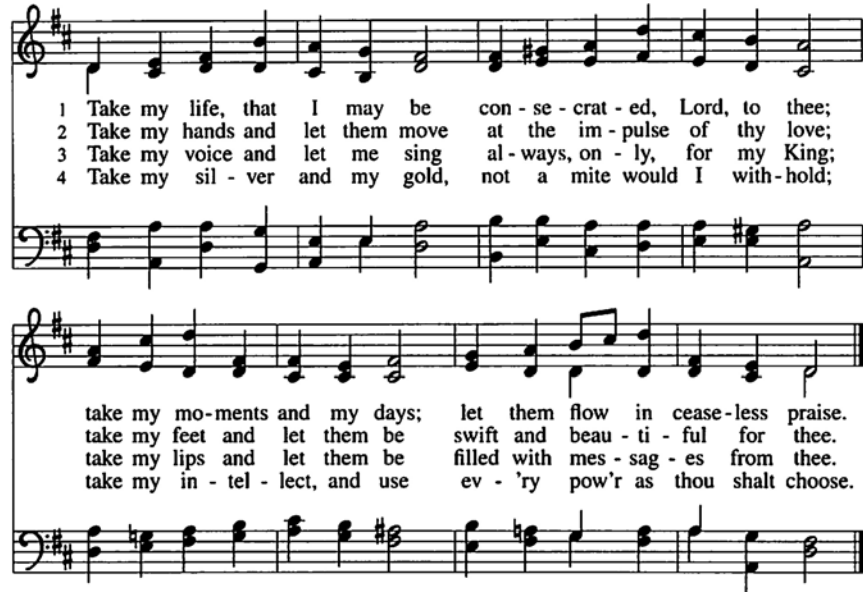
<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day."

**SERMON**

**PR. ANDREW PATTY**

# HYMN

## *Take My Life, That I May Be*



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.

# APOSTLES' CREED

**P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C** 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**

**P** 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,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** 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,

**C hear our prayer.**

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

**C** 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.

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**+ SENDING +**

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**P** Let us commend Susan to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

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

**C** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

*In the Garden*

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**P** Let us go forth in peace,

**C** in the name of Christ. Amen.

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**• POSTLUDE +**

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Following the service, everyone is invited downstairs for a light lunch.

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the  
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so  
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Though the

dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear,  
 sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy  
 night a - round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go—

fall - ing on my ear, The Son of God dis - clos - es.  
 that He gave to me With - in my heart is ring - ing.  
 through the voice of woe, His voice to me is call - ing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,

And He tells me I am His own, And the joy we share

as we tar - ry there, None oth - er has ev - er known.



Susan Beiser Fitz was born in Washington, D.C. on November 18, 1946. She was the daughter of Col. John J. Beiser and Ruby Fulton Beiser of Pittsburg, Kansas. As a child, she traveled often with her military family, including overseas stations in Japan and France. She graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in 1964 and earned a Bachelor's

Degree from Pittsburg State University in 1968. In 1969, she married Michael J. Fitz; they subsequently divorced. She came to Topeka around 1975 and worked for many years at the State of Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, retiring in 2012. She was a longtime member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, where she sang in the choir, chaired the memorial committee and counted the offerings every week. She was fond of cats and was a member of the Topeka Square Dance Club. She is survived by her sister, Anne Allen; nieces and nephews, Tom Allen, John Allen, Mark Allen, Jennifer Crone and Beth Arnold.

A funeral service will be held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saturday, August 13, 2022, at 10 am, with a visitation at 9 am.

Interment will take place at Monday in Pittsburgh, Kansas.

In Susan's honor, memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 725 SW Buchanan, Topeka, Kansas 66606.