

*a gladness*  
THAT HAS  
NO ENDING



A WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION WITH THANKS TO GOD FOR THE LIFE OF

+ **Eloise V. Nelson** +

April 14, 1933 – May 1, 2024

Saturday, July 27, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

North Park Covenant Church, Chicago, Illinois

**PRELUDE**

~ Sharon Peterson, organ

**GATHERING**

~ Rev. Peter Hawkinson

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

\***HYMN #767: For All the Saints**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

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.

**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.

**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.

**We worship you.**

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

**Amen.**

**SONG:** *Jordan River*

~ Christopher Brown and Elsie Nelson Brown

(Written by Christopher Brown for Elsie's baptism, July 20, 2008)

**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, Eloise. 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 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.**

**TRIBUTES:** *Sandy Nelson and Stephanie Nelson*

**\*HYMN #80:** *Thy Holy Wings, Dear Savior*

**TRIBUTES:** *J.O. Anderson, Stella Magnuson, and Frances Magnuson*

## THE WORD

**PSALM 84:** *Congregation joins in responsively*

*~ Led by Elsie Nelson Brown*

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Happy are those whose strength is in you,

**in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

As they go through the desolate valley, they make it a place of springs;

**the early rain also covers it with pools.**

They go from strength to strength;

**the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;

**give ear, O God of Jacob!**

Behold our shield, O God;

**look on the face of your anointed.**

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness.**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield;

**God bestows favor and honor.**

No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**ALL: O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

**EPISTLE LESSON:** 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

~ Read by Ryne Anderson

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our dying bodies. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:** Mark 14:3-9

~ Read by Rev. Karen Hinz

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HOMILY:** "Attentive Devotion: It's in the Details"

~ Rev. Karen Hinz

**\*HYMN #494:** *O Let Your Soul Now Be Filled with Gladness*

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

~ Rev. Libby Piotrowski

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hades;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy Christian Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Let us pray.*

Almighty God, you have knit your chosen people together in one communion, in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace.

God of mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that your Holy Spirit may lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

God of mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Give courage and faith to those who are bereaved, that they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the comfort of a holy and certain hope, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love.

God of mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Help us, we pray, 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,

**Hear our prayer.**

### **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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

~ Rev. Peter Hawkinson

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Eloise Nelson. 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.**

\***HYMN #612:** *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

Let us go forth in peace,  
**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Symphony #5, Op.42:V. Toccata*

~ Charles-Marie Widor

*Please join us after the service for a lunch reception and  
time to visit with the family, downstairs in the church parlors.*

## PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Peter Hawkinson, *Senior Pastor, Winnetka Covenant Church*  
Rev. Karen Hinz, *Chaplain, Covenant Living of Northbrook*  
Rev. Libby Piotrowski, *Co-pastor, North Park Covenant Church*  
Sharon Peterson, *organ and piano*  
Ryne Anderson and Elsie Nelson Brown, *readers*  
Christopher Brown and Elsie Nelson Brown, *special music*

---

---

*Gifts in memory of Eloise Nelson  
may be given to the **Benevolent Care Fund** at  
Covenant Living of Northbrook,  
2625 Techy Road, Northbrook, IL 60062.*

## Eloise Veronne Anderson Nelson

April 14, 1933 - May 1, 2024

Eloise was born in Princeton, Minnesota, on Good Friday, April 14, 1933, to Ivar and Elvera Anderson. Two years later, her sister, Joanne, was born and brother Bob was born four years after that. Her father, Ivar, was a Baptist minister, which led the family to live in various places, including Providence, Rhode Island; Manistee and Ludington, Michigan; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Chicago, Illinois.



Eloise attended Bethel College in St. Paul, earning a B.A. degree in English and journalism. Following college, Eloise worked at Covenant Headquarters in Chicago as an editorial assistant on *The Covenant Companion* magazine, where she met LeRoy Nelson, who was working in the shipping department. They were married at Northwest Baptist Church on August 17, 1957.

Following LeRoy's graduation from North Park Theological Seminary, they settled in Chicago. Three daughters were born in the 1960s: Sonja, Sandra, and Stephanie. Eloise was home in those early years, with much involvement for the whole family at nearby North Park Covenant Church. The moms of several families from church met for weekly Bible study; this group of dear friends has met regularly for more than 60 years. Their kids spent time together from preschool through high school and even college at North Park. Eloise volunteered at church in numerous ways: serving on the Trustee board, where she was the first woman chair; playing an active role in Covenant Women; helping organize the annual Alley Walk; coordinating church anniversary celebrations; planning special events, and singing in the choir for many years.

After working in the church office for a few years, Eloise continued her career as Director of Publications for North Park College. She wrote and edited campus publications, including the quarterly magazine, *The North Parker*. This was meaningful work for her, and her attention to detail meant that communications with alumni and the community were of the highest caliber. It was especially thrilling that North Park's basketball team won five NCAA national championships while she was there.

Following her years at North Park, she was appointed Director of Communications at Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, where she worked until her retirement. While there, among many other projects, she wrote and edited several books, using her keen eye for accuracy and style.

Eloise was active in other organizations, such as the Swedish-American Historical Society; she was on the board of directors several times and served as the first woman chair of the board, demonstrating reliable and responsible leadership. She served on the Service Guild at Swedish Covenant Hospital and later taught memoir writing at Elderhostel retreats and women's conferences.

Another gift of hers was entertaining. She was a generous host in their home, inviting groups and people from all over the world. She created beautiful décor for every occasion and made sure that each detail was well-planned. Eloise and LeRoy also hosted overnight guests through a casual bed-and-breakfast in their home. Since

their house on Sawyer Avenue was so close to North Park College, there was a steady stream of engaging guests. They enjoyed meeting visitors who became friends. Their home in the North Park neighborhood was always welcoming to their kids' friends, who felt free to stop by, and often did, enjoying their warm hospitality. Her skill at decorating extended to special events at church, creating centerpieces for dinners for the Swedish-American Historical Society and galas at Covenant Living of Northbrook. She could be counted on to elevate any event with her creative expertise.

Many summers were spent at their cabin in Spread Eagle, Wisconsin. She enjoyed entertaining there, as well as time sitting on the deck and boating on the chain of lakes. These were special times with friends and family, especially the grandchildren. Eloise was a patient and involved grandma, reading to the kids, playing games, doing puzzles, and taking them for rides in the paddle boat. She and LeRoy delighted in caring for their young grandchildren, taking them on fun outings and devoting quality time with them. She gave thoughtful and generous gifts, picked out specially for each child and grandchild.

Extended family was important to Eloise, too. She enjoyed annual Door County reunions with her sister's and brother's families, as well as extended family reunions on her mother's side, the Wik family; she planned and hosted three of these large reunions. She gave family history presentations, as well as wrote several family history documents.

Eloise and LeRoy traveled to all 50 states and many international destinations. Their favorite was time spent in Sweden, visiting friends, relatives, and historic sites. They took 19 tour groups to Scandinavia over the years, sometimes in the summer, but mostly at Advent as "Holiday Lights" tours. She meticulously organized the communications, ensuring that the participants were well-informed and engaged. Her interest in Swedish design helped guide the sightseeing.

LeRoy and Eloise moved to Covenant Living of Northbrook in December 2008, and they quickly felt at home. Eloise served on the Residents' Council, the Spiritual Life committee, and of course, decorated for special events, including the early morning services of Easter and Christmas *Julotta*.

She was a member of North Park Covenant Church for more than 50 years and Winnetka Covenant Church most recently. Throughout her life, her faith was nurtured by her active participation in the church.

Eloise is survived by her husband, LeRoy, three daughters: Sonja Nelson, Sandy Nelson (Christopher Brown), and Stephanie Nelson (Kendall Magnuson); six grandchildren: J.O., Ryne, Yarrow, Stella, Frances, and Elsie; and one great-granddaughter, Lucy; her sister, Joanne Hultgren (Vern), and brother, Bob Anderson (the late Glenda), and numerous nieces and nephews.

*Peace be to her memory.*

