



**CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
FUNERAL SERVICE**

Anna Marie Hagler Pless
September 11, 1927 – November 15, 2021
Thursday, November 18, 2021 1:00 PM

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Officiating Minister: The Rev. Bruce Sheeks

Prelude

Mrs. Yvonne Yost

GATHERING

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation. He comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

Thanks be to God.

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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *"He Leadeth Me"* **LBW 501**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister Marie Pless. 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 your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life, that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 31: 10-31 (ESV)

¹⁰An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.
¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
¹²She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. ¹³She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
¹⁴She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. ¹⁵She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. ¹⁶She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. ¹⁷She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. ¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. ¹⁹She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. ²⁰She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. ²¹She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. ²²She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. ²³Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. ²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. ²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. ²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. ²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. ²⁸Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: ²⁹“Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” ³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. ³¹Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

PSALM 23 (ESV)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. ³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Solo: “*Just A Closer Walk With Thee*” By Robin Drye

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8: 31-35 (ESV)

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th Chapter and Revelations, the 21st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL: ST. JOHN 14: 20-21 (ESV)**

²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Revelations 21:1-7 (ESV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” ⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

“No More Tears”

The Rev. Bruce Sheeks

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS

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 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

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Marie.

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.

DISMISSAL

In the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection, let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

***HYMN** *“What A Fellowship, What A Joy Divine”* **WOV 780**

***POSTLUDE**

INTERMENT

Service concludes with committal at graveside

Everyone is invited to the Parish Hall for fellowship once the graveside committal concludes.

The family requests that memorials be made to:

Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County, 5003 Hospice Lane,
Kannapolis, NC 28081 or

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, 4500 Rimer Road, Concord, NC 28025

Anna Marie Pless was born on September 11, 1927 to the late Campbell Craig Hagler Sr. and Zula Elizabeth Buff Hagler. Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Carl Pless, on April 3 rd , 2021. Marie and Carl were married on September 7 th, 1947. In their 73 years together, Carl and Marie were blessed with 4 children (Carl Pless Jr., Elizabeth Baucom, Henry Pless, and Betty Odell Archer), 8 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Marie was a dedicated servant of God, beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. She valued her family and demonstrated continual unconditional love. Marie loved, protected, and provided for her family without hesitation. She also selflessly served her church and community.

After they were married, Carl and Marie began their lives together in a farm house that belonged to Carl's family. Over the years, they raised cattle, chickens, turkeys and various crops. In addition to working the farm, Marie served on the Nursing Home Advisory board for 16 years and worked as a weaver for Cannon Mills, retiring from the company in 1989. After her retirement, Marie started watching children in her home. Marie has always enjoyed being around children and helping them learn. Marie was one of the first 4H Leaders in Cabarrus County. She continued this role for 52 years, teaching skills such as baking, sewing, safety, canning, and community service. Her leadership was recognized by induction into the NC State 4-H Hall of Fame. Marie encouraged 4H-ers to enter their projects in the County Fair. Each year, Marie entered her canned goods, sewing and knitting projects into the fair. At the fair, she could often be found at the 4H booth or demonstrating quilting for the Extension and Community Association (ECA). Marie frequently participated in community service and fundraising events. Marie was a faithful member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church where she taught Sunday school for 40 years, sang in the choir, was a member of the Friendly Circle and served on multiple committees. She was a member of the Rimer ECA for 23 years and was honored for completing 20,000 community services hours. In 2018, Marie was presented with the ECA Cabarrus County Lifetime Achievement Award. Marie knitted and crocheted dishcloths for various fundraisers, baby blankets for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, prayer shawls for cancer patients, and crocheted caps for the local children's hospitals. She also celebrated events by making blankets for weddings, newborn babies, and graduations. Marie cherished these skills taught to her by her mother-in-law and was grateful she could teach the skills to others.

The crocheted blanket displayed on the casket at graveside was created from the yarn scraps leftover from Marie's various projects. Each stitch represents the lives she impacted and the love and dedication Marie shared with her family, church, and community.

Pallbearers: Robert Odell Jr., Chris Pless, Daniel Pless, Jacob Pless, Tim Hagler, Tommy Hagler

