



**Magdalena Mae Willitz**  
**December 2, 2020**

# Christian Funeral for Magdalena Mae Willitz

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Onalaska, Wisconsin

December 10, 2020

OPENING HYMN

CW 40: O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is

40

### O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is



1 O Je - sus Christ, Your man - ger is  
2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey  
3 Dear Chris - tian friend, On him de - pend;  
4 Pon - der a - gain What glo - ry then  
5 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;



My par - a - dise where my soul is re -  
Comes down to serve the sin - ner in great  
Be of good cheer and let no sor - row  
The Lord will give you for your earth - ly  
But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true



clin - ing. For there, O Lord, We find the Word  
meek - ness. Now God's own Son With us is one  
move you. For God's own child In mer - cy mild  
sad - ness. The an - gel host Can nev - er boast  
treas - ure. To him hold fast Un - til at last



Made flesh for us—your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.  
And joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
Joins you to him—how great - ly God must love you!  
Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.  
A crown is yours and hon - or in full meas - ure.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER**

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Magdalena, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought her to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

## **PSALM 23**

The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> He causes me to lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters.

<sup>3</sup> He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even 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.

<sup>5</sup> You set a table for me in the presence of my foes.

You drench my head with oil. My cup is overflowing.

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

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## RESURRECTION COMFORT

**M:** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Jesus gives us this comfort: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

**M:** Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

**C:** **He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**M:** When Christ, who is our life, appears,

**C:** **Then we also will appear with him in glory.**

**M:** We will be before the throne of God

**C:** **And serve Him day and night in his temple.**

**M:** Never again will we hunger;

**C:** **Never again will we thirst.**

**M:** For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; He will lead us to springs of living water.

**C:** **And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.**

**M:** Let us pray.

God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

*40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.*

*<sup>2</sup> Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.*

*Her warfare really is over.*

*Her guilt is fully paid for.*

*Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

*<sup>3</sup> A voice is calling out:*

*In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.*

*In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.*

*<sup>4</sup> Every valley will be raised up,*

*and every mountain and hill will be made low.*

*The rugged ground will become level,*

*and the rough places will become a plain.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,*

*and all flesh together will see it.*

*Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

*<sup>6</sup> A voice was saying, "Cry out!"*

*And I said, "What shall I cry out?"*

*All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.*

*<sup>7</sup> Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows on them.*

*Yes, the people are grass.*

*<sup>8</sup> Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.*

*<sup>9</sup> Get up on a high mountain,*

*O Zion, you herald of good news.*

*Lift up your voice with strength,*

*O Jerusalem, you herald of good news.*

*Lift it up! Do not be afraid!*

*Say to the cities of Judah,*

*"Here is your God!"*

*<sup>10</sup> Look, God the LORD will come with strength,*

*and his arm is ruling for him.*

*Look, his reward is with him.  
The result of his work is in front of him.  
<sup>11</sup> Like a shepherd he will care for his flock.  
With his arm he will gather the lambs.  
He will lift them up on his lap.  
He will gently lead the nursing mothers.*

## **SECOND LESSON**

Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> *After these things I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing in front of the throne and of the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They called out with a loud voice and said: Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb.*

<sup>11</sup> *All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. They fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup> saying: Amen. Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.*

<sup>13</sup> *One of the elders spoke to me and said, “These people dressed in white robes, who are they and where did they come from?” And I answered him, “Sir, you know.”*

<sup>14</sup> *And he said to me: These are the ones who are coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

<sup>15</sup> *Because of this they are in front of the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple. He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. <sup>16</sup> They will never be hungry or thirsty ever again. The sun will never beat upon them, nor will any scorching heat, <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd.*

*He will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*

*20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she left and ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,” she told them, “and we don’t know where they put him!”*

*<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> Bending over, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.*

*<sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter, who was following him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there. <sup>7</sup> The cloth that had been on Jesus’ head was not lying with the linen cloths, but was folded up in a separate place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who arrived at the tomb first, also entered. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not yet understand the Scripture that he must rise from the dead.)*

*<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, weeping. As she wept, she bent over, looking into the tomb. <sup>12</sup> She saw two angels in white clothes sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She told them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don’t know where they have laid him.”*

*<sup>14</sup> After she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” Supposing he was the gardener, she replied, “Sir, if you carried him off, tell me where you laid him, and I will get him.”*

*<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and replied in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means, “Teacher”). <sup>17</sup> Jesus told her, “Do not continue to cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father—to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and*

*announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" She also told them the things he said to her.*

**HYMN** CWS 737: God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (on back cover)

**SERMON** John 10 (selected verses)

**Magdalena Mae: Jesus' Little Lamb**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge the living 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**

**M:** Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have



finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Magdalena, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving her to us for the brief time you did. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**M:** We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**M:** You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

**M:** Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## BLESSING

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

CW 449: Children of the Heavenly Father

### 449

## Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; In his  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird or star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he  
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them his grace he  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In his might - y arms he bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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Tune: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA (LM Trochaic) Swedish folk tune, 19th century.

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Following the funeral service, all are invited to attend the committal at Onalaska Cemetery, across the street from St. Paul's Lutheran church. You may walk there, or you may drive and park either along Athens Avenue within the cemetery or along Hickory Street outside the cemetery.

**Serving us today:**

Officiant: Pastor Joel Jenswold

Preacher: Pastor Michael Jensen

Organist: Lisa Vieth



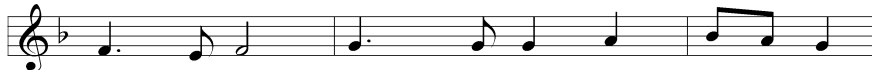
1 God's own child, I gladly say it:  
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er:  
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion:  
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad - ness:  
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing



I am bap - tized in - to Christ! He, be -  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! I have  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! Drop your  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ! When I  
 To this life - long com - fort sure! O - pen -



cause I could not pay it, Gave my full re -  
 com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus' cleans - ing  
 ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion; I am not so  
 die, I leave all sad - ness To in - her - it  
 eyed my grave is star - ing: E - ven there I'll



demp - tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures  
 sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con - science  
 soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've  
 par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and  
 sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its



man - y? I have one worth more than an - y  
 seize me Since my bap - tism did re - lease me  
 trav - eled, All your might has come un - rav - eled,  
 ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es:  
 rais - ing, Still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing:



That brought me sal - va - tion free,  
 In a dear for - giv - ing flood,  
 And, a - gainst your tyr - an - ny,  
 Bap - tism has the strength di - vine  
 I am bap - tized in - to Christ;



Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 Sprink - ling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 To make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 I'm a child of par - a - dise!