

A Funeral Sermon for Sue Kruger-Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church-Westfield Wi, 53964

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” Psalm 46:1 (NIV)

Sermon Goal: That the hearer may know and believe that God is their refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Sermon Theme: Do Not be troubled, for God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Sermon Title: “Christ is Our Only Help!

Sermon Text: Psalm 46:1

Liturgical Date: Funeral / 9th Week after Pentecost

Calendar Date: August 5, 2017

Other Readings: Psalm 103:8, 10-14; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; John 6:37-40

Series: Special / Funeral

Visuals: None

Sermon Structure: Narrative

Greeting: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Text: Our text for this Day is from the Old Testament book of Psalm, the forty-sixth chapter, and is read as follows: “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble*” This serves as the basis for this day’s meditation in Jesus’ Name. Amen!

Salutation: Dear friends, family, and respected guests, especially to you Jim and to you Jacob, to you Edith and to you Kurt, and to all who are here this day, in the Name of Christ Jesus, peace be with you.

Introduction: At a time such as this—no human words can ever give the comfort that each of us so desperately seek. However, the one thing that can give us the true comfort that we all seek, is the assurance that comes from God’s promises. Recorded for us in Scripture is one among many of those assurances. I ask you, to listen carefully as I read that promise once again from the book of Psalm the forty-six chapter: “*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble*”. (*A Brief Pause*)

Brief Obituary: Susan Marie Kruger born into this life on October 14, 1958. She was baptized and confirmed into the Church’s faith. In 1976, she graduated from Montello high school. Sue also attended Fond du Lac and Madison Technical Colleges. On September 8, 1990, Sue married Jim, and together they were blessed with one son, Jacob. Sue enjoyed her family and her friends, she also enjoyed playing pool, bowling, snowmobiling, and shooting trap. Sue also had a passion for anything that had a motor in it. She enjoyed snowmobiles, motorcycles, tractors, lawn mowers and even ATV’s, anything with a motor in it. And on July 30, 2017 Sue’s life here on earth ended. (*A Brief Pause*)

Sermon: The event of this past weekend has caused us to reflect on many things. Sue’s death has stolen our joy and has taken away our peace. Jim, Jacob, Edith, and Kurt your grief is unimaginable. But, God tenderly invites you to turn to Him, especially in a moment like this. Your hope, our hope, is in the Name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

You see, God invites you, and all who mourn this day, to come to Him, for God is our refuge and strength, our very present help in times of trouble. Today we are broken but not defeated, for our help is in the Name of the Lord. Jim, Jacob, Edith, and Kurt, God loves you. God is your help and will be your help through all of this. Your help is in the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. For the Bible says that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Jesus died for you.

Now, remember what Scripture says: “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” In your distress, in your grief, go to the Lord, for He loves you with an everlasting love. Listen to God’s tender invitation: “Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” The Psalmist says it best: “Out of my distress I called on the Lord; and the Lord answered me, and set me free...” For with the Lord, there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption, even for Sue. And as Scripture says: “He shall redeem Israel from all of their iniquities.”

We know this because of God’s certain Word. Holy Scriptures reminds us of the sign of God’s love: “This is a sign to you; you will find the Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. To you has been born in the city of David the Savior, Christ the Lord.” Christ is our Lord and Savior. He loves sinners with an everlasting love. He loves you with an everlasting love, and this is His promise:

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 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. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.” (Jn 6:37-40).

The joy we have is this: God saves sinners. Christ came to save sinners. In His death and resurrection, God has the only answer to our pain and grief—and it is Jesus. Christ is our only Hope. Jim, Jacob, Edith, and Kurt, Sue was a child of God. She belonged to the body of believers all of her life. And yet there are questions that we have.

Nevertheless, know this for certain, Jesus loved Sue, and Sue loved Jesus! We thank God for His amazing grace, because by grace we have all been saved through faith in Christ. And just as Jesus rose from the grave, so too His promises are for all who believe and trust in Jesus. For our Redeemer lives! Jim, Jacob, Edith, and Kurt, keep trusting in Jesus, for whoever is faithful unto death He will give the crown of everlasting life. Hold on to that hope for Jesus our Redeemer lives!

We know that God has made some irrevocable promises to Sue. Long ago Sue was baptized and became a child of God. That was a relationship that God promised never to abandon. On a day like this, it is so important to let God's Word take hold of you. For Scripture says: "Who (or what) shall separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing, not the things we do, not the little mistakes we make, not the big blunders that hurt others, not anything at all. God's love in Christ Jesus is for all time, and it is for you.

We know that God made the promise to Sue to love her, and to be with her in thick and thin. In the waters of Holy Baptism, God promised to forgive Sue and that ought to bring us peace today.

In spite our sin, God promises everlasting life to those who are His. Because of His love for us, Jesus goes ahead to prepare a place for His own. That brings me hope. And It ought to bring you hope too. Ultimately, we know that God is the source of all healing; all life, forgiveness, and most importantly hope—hope in the resurrection.

Jim, Jacob, Edith, and Kurt, know this, the Lord is your Shepherd. He is with you to be your ever-present help in this time of trouble. So, trust in Christ. For He is your refuge and strength. And that "neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Romans 8:8:38-39*). May God grant this to you through Jesus Christ. Amen!