Funeral Sermon
July 5, 1975
Rolling Meadows, Ill.
Mrs. Lorraine Zographos

Rev. Carl F. Thrun

IN NOMINE JESU

Psalm 16: 11 THOU DOST SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE; IN THY PRESENCE THERE IS FULNESS OF JOY, IN THY RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOR EVERMORE.

The telephone rang. I answered it: "Hello, Pastor Thrun speaking." "Hello, Pastor — you don't know me. I am the daughter-in-law of Mrs. Zographos. She is in the hospital again and asked if I would call you to come and give her Holy Communion."... ....."Certainly," I said. "How is she doing?" ....."Not very well. It doesn't look good."..... I went to give her Communion.

It may seen INCONGRUOUS and CONTRADICTORY to talk about JOY, and GLADNESS, and PLEASURE at a funeral — but that is the way it is with a CHRISTIAN. Think of it! — In that TINY WAFER the assurance of Him who LOVED HER even unto DEATH — who LAID DOWN HIS LIFE that she might live with Him forever in the JOY and GLORY of heaven. And in the CUP the PROMISE of Him whose "BLOOD CLEANSES US FROM ALL SIN!"..... THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY FOR OUR LORD and for THOSE (all of us) HE CAME TO REDEEM! It is the BANQUET and CELEBRATION of PARADISE REGAINED. It was that for LORRAINE — and it is that for US!

LORRAINE was one who LOVED LIFE and was HAPPY in spirit. Imagine what it must be like for her now! NO MORE SIN — NO MORE SUFFERING — NO MORE PAIN — NO MORE TEARS — NO MORE CRYING ——— ONLY JOY and GLADNESS — SITTING DOWN in the GREAT BANQUET HALL of HEAVEN — SEEING JESUS FACE TO FACE — HEARING THE ANGELS AND ARCHANGELS SINGING THEIR ETERNAL ANTHEMS OF VICTORY AND TRIUMPH TO THE "LAMB WHO WAS SLAIN FOR US AND FOR OUR SINS" — ENDLESS REJOICING WITH ALL THE COMPANY OF HEAVEN.

That is what our text says: "THOU DOST SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE; IN THY PRESENCE THERE IS FULNESS OF JOY, IN THY RIGHT HAD ARE PLEASURES FOR EVERMORE."

Into the DARKNESS OF DEATH there comes now the NEW DAWN of LIFE and the RESURRECTION: "BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU SHALL LIVE ALSO." SIN has lost its sting. DEATH has lost its power. GRAVESTONES and GRAVES no terror hold. "FOR CHRIST HAS ABOLISHED DEATH AND HAS BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT THROUGH THE GOSPEL."

You must never weaken in your FAITH about the NEW LIFE. It is not only the ASSURANCE that ALL OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN — but that HE WHO FORGAVE THEM by His DEATH ON THE CROSS now LIVES ETERNALLY — and WE SHALL LIVE WITH HIM. This is the way the Scriptures always speak of Him: God always CONCERNED — God always TO THE RESCUE — God always REACHING OUT TO US — God always GIVING, CREATING OUT OF NOTHING, FILLING OUR EMPTINESS, BRINGING LIFE OUT OF DEATH — GOOD OUT OF EVIL — JOY OUT OF SORROW! "FEAR NOT," says Jesus, "I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST; I DIED, AND BEHOLD I AM ALIVE FOREVERMORE, AND I HAVE THE KEYS OF DEATH AND HADES."

When I went to see LORRAINE last Tuesday, she exclaimed: "O Pastor, you're back from vacation. I'm glad. Pastor Grotheer has been here several times — and he has given me Communion..... Would you rub my back?" I rubbed her back — and then we prayed: "O Lord, Thou art our refuge and strength; a very present Help in time of trouble; though the earth be removed and be moved carried into the midst of the sea, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.....Be with me in my time of trouble. Lord Jesus, hold me safe in Your everlasting arms. Bring me, with Lazarus, home safe to paradise..... IN YOUR PRESENCE THERE IS FULNESS OF JOY; AT YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOR EVERMORE." ..... On and Up goes to soul of Lorraine to be with her Lord and Savior — and to REJOICE and SING HIS PRAISES through all eternity.

It remains for us to KEEP THE FAITH — to REJOICE IN HIS PRESENCE WITH US — to WORSHIP AND ADORE — and to AWAIT with HOPE and CONFIDENCE "THE DAY OF HIS APPEARING" when we shall join our LOVED ONE in the JOY OF OUR LORD. What a REUNION and HOMECOMING that will be!

Amen.