IN NOMINE JESU

FUNERAL: MRS. VIOLET WARBURTON -- Dec. 27, 1996

ST. LUKE 2: 10,11 "AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO [the shepherds], 'FEAR NOT, FOR BEHOLD I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD.'"

THE HEART & CORE & CENTER OF CHRISTMAS IS THE GREAT, GOOD NEWS THAT GOD COMES DOWN THE STAIRWAY OF HEAVEN WITH HIS SON IN HIS ARMS. GOD HIMSELF JOINS US IN OUR HUMANITY / AND HE DOES SO BECAUSE "HE IS NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH BUT THAT WE ALL SHOULD HAVE turn & live **EVERLASTING LIFE WITH HIM. ..... I HAVE OFTEN SAID TO PEOPLE THAT *ON MY DEATHBED* I WANT THIS MESSAGE OF THE *CHRISTMAS ANGEL* TO THE *SHEPHERDS* REPEATED TO ME OVER & OVER AGAIN, "DO NOT BE AFRAID, FOR BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY WHICH SHALL BE FOR ALL PEOPLE; FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD." -- TO YOU VIOLET, TO ALL OF US. IT'S NO WONDER THAT *MARTIN LUTHER* LOVED TO PREACH ABOUT AND TALK ABOUT THE *CHRISTMAS EVENT* -- THAT GOD LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE US *HIS ONLY AND DEAR SON.***

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT *THIS BABY / BORN IN A BARN / CRADLED IN A MANGER / REJECTED BY MEN / CRUCIFIED ON A CROSS / DIED AND WAS BURIED* -- HE IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE! HIS WORD RINGS OUT ACROSS AND DARK AND DREARY WORLD: "BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU SHALL LIVE ALSO"..... "DO NOT BE AFRAID: I AM THE FIRST & THE LAST & THE LIVING ONE. I WAS DEAD -- & SEE I AM ALIVE FOREVER & EVER -- & I HAVE THE KEYS OF DEATH & HADES!"

THIS HAS TO BE THE *SOURCE OF YOUR STRENGTH* AND THE *GROUND OF YOUR FAITH* TODAY / IN THIS HOUR! YOU MUST NEVER WEAKEN IN YOUR FAITH ABOUT THE NEW LIFE! IT IS NOT ONLY THE ASSURANCE THAT ALL OUR SINS AND FORGIVEN, BUT THAT HE WOULD FORGAVE THEM BY HIS DEATH ON A CROSS NOW *LIVES FOREVER* & *WE SHALL LIVE WITH HIM*. MARTIN LUTHER SAYS IT SO WELL IN HIS EXPLANATION OF THE 2ND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED: "I BELIEVE THAT JESUS XP, TRUE GOD, BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER FROM ETERNITY, & ALSO TRUE MAN, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY IS MY LORD / WHO HAS REDEEMED ME, A LOST & CONDEMNED CREATURE, PURCHASED & WON ME FROM ALL SINS, FROM DEATH & FROM THE POWER OF THE DEVIL / NOT

WITH GOLD OR SILVER, BUT WITH HIS HOLY & PRECIOUS BLOOD & HIS INNOCENT SUFFERING & DEATH --- THAT I MAY BE HIS OWN & LIVE UNDER HIM IN HIS KINGDOM & SERVE HIM IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS, INNOCENCE & BLESSEDNESS --- EVEN AS HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, LIVES & REIGNS TO ALL ETERNITY.".....
AND LUTHER SAYS IN HIS EXPLANATION TO THE 7TH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER: "WE PRAY IN THIS PETITION, AS THE SUM OF ALL, THAT OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN WOULD DELIVER US FROM EVERY EVIL OF BODY & SOUL, PROPERTY & HONOR, & FINALLY WHEN OUR LAST HOUR HAS COME, GRANT US A BLESSED END & GRACIOUSLY TAKE US FROM THIS VALE OF TEARS TO HIMSELF IN HEAVEN."

CAN ANY OF US EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE THE *ETERNAL XMAS* THAT *VIOLET* IS CELEBRATING NOW IN THE *MANSIONS OF HEAVEN* -- WITH THE *CHERUBIM & SERAPHIM* / THE *ANGELS & ARCHANGELS* & ALL THE REST OF THE *COMPANY OF HEAVEN*. IMAGINE HER HEARING WITH HER OWN EARS THE VOICE OF THE XMAS ANGEL: "DO NOT BE AFRAID / I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU / COME. INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD / COME AND MEET YOUR SAVIOR, CHRIST THE LORD. .... AND CAN YOU HEAR HER RESPONSE? "HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE, O LORD OF HOSTS! HOW AMAZING IS YOUR GRACE / YOUR LOVE SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING! / THANK YOU, GOD! THANK YOU, JESUS! THANK YOU, HOLY SPIRIT FOR BRINGING ME TO FAITH & LIFE & LIGHT..... ETERNAL REST GRANT HER, O LORD, & LET LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON HER"