



Mass of Christian Burial  
Thuy Epperson  
September 8, 2021  
Mary Queen Catholic Church  
Friendswood, Texas



**Thuy Nguyen Epperson** passed peacefully with her loving husband, Greg, by her side holding her hand on September 1, 2021. She was born on May 16, 1971.

Thuy was a truly inspirational story of how desire and hard work leads to success. She, her mother and father, her four sisters, and two brothers were born in Nha Trang, Vietnam. They escaped the Communist takeover of Vietnam with nothing but the clothes on their back. Eventually, they made their way to Houston where Thuy and her siblings were raised.

Their father, Truong, and mother, Bong, insisted that their children receive an education in this new land of America. Thuy excelled academically at J. Frank Dobie High School and later at the University of Houston.

She and her husband, Greg, were high school sweethearts having met while working part-time at Academy. After finishing her studies at the University of Houston, Thuy traveled coast-to-coast representing PricewaterhouseCoopers for several years. Greg began a career in the oil and gas industry in Houston. Having children and traveling for work nationwide Monday through Friday were not conducive to family life. Thuy decided that she needed a career option that would provide her with a better home and work life balance. She spoke English, Vietnamese and Spanish. With help from her mother-in-law, Ann, she decided to pursue a career as a State Farm agent in Houston, which has a large Vietnamese and Hispanic population. She was extremely successful on this State Farm endeavor.

Now that she and Greg were settled, it was time for children. They have two beautiful daughters, Rachel and Lauren. Rachel is entering her senior year at Georgia Tech where she is pursuing a degree in Biomedical Engineering and is captain of the cheerleading team. Lauren is entering her Senior year at Friendswood High School and competes in golf tournaments.

She was a devoted wife, mother, sister and daughter to her family. Many fun evenings were spent with Thuy teaching everyone how to cook Vietnamese style dishes and singing karaoke. With her passing, a shining light has been extinguished and a dynamic, energetic personality is gone. Thuy left a wonderful legacy and will be sorely missed. Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Greg; two daughters, Lauren and Rachel; her mother, Bong; a brother, Vu; sisters, Duyen, Quynh, Thu, and Oanh; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends. Welcoming her to heaven are her father, Truong and her brother, Don.

## **SYMBOLS USED IN THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN FUNERAL**

### **PALL**

A white pall is placed over the coffin when it is received at the Church.

A reminder of the baptismal garment of the deceased,  
the pall is a sign of the Christian dignity of the person.

The use of the pall also signifies that all are equal in the eyes of God.

### **EASTER CANDLE**

The Easter Candle reminds the faithful of Christ's undying presence among them,  
of his victory over sin and death, and of their share in that victory by virtue of their initiation.

### **HOLY WATER**

Holy Water reminds the assembly of the saving waters of baptism.  
In the rite of reception of the Body at the church, its use calls to mind  
the deceased's baptism and initiation into the community of faith.  
In the rite of final commendation the gesture of sprinkling may also  
signify farewell.

### **INCENSE**

Incense is used during the funeral rites as a sign of honor to the body of the deceased,  
which through baptism became the temple of the Holy Spirit.  
Incense is also used as a sign of the communities prayers for the  
deceased rising to the throne of God and as a sign of farewell.



## Gathering Hymn

Here I Am, Lord

Verses



1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my  
2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my  
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin  
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them.  
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them.



My hand will save. I who made the  
They turn a - way. I will break their  
My hand will save. Fin - est bread I



stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.  
hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love a - lone.  
will pro - vide Till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Isaiah 6, Dan Schutte, b.1947  
Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; arr. by Michael Pope, SJ, John Weisrock  
© 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications.

## Opening Prayer

## First Reading

### Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On this mountain the LORD of hosts  
will provide for all peoples.

On this mountain he will destroy  
the veil that veils all peoples,

The web that is woven over all nations;  
he will destroy death forever.

The Lord GOD will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;

The reproach of his people he will remove  
from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said:

"Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;  
let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!"

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

## Responsorial Psalm



## Second Reading

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have fallen asleep,  
so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,  
so too will God, through Jesus,

bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,  
that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord,  
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself, with a word of command,  
with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,  
will come down from heaven,  
and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive, who are left,  
will be caught up together with them in the clouds  
to meet the Lord in the air.

Thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore, console one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel**

**John 12:23-28**

Jesus answered them,  
"The hour has come  
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Amen, amen, I say to you,  
unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat;  
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,  
and whoever hates his life in this world  
will preserve it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,  
and where I am, there also will my servant be.

The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? "

Father, save me from this hour? "

But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it and will glorify it again."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

## Homily

### Prayer of the Faithful

### Hymn for the Presentation of the Gifts

#### I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.  
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.  
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.  
I want to look at Je - sus.  
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The  
Clear sun of right-eous-ness shine on my path, And  
When we have run with pa-tience the race, We



star of my life is Je - sus.  
show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Ephesians 5:8-10, Revelation 21:23, John 1:2-6, 1 John 1:5, Hebrews 12:1; Kathleen Thomason, b.1934, © 1970, 1975. Celebration  
Tune: HOUSTON, 10 7 10 8 9 9 11 7; Kathleen Thomason, b.1934, © 1970, 1975. Celebration; arr. by Robert J. Batistini, b.1942



## Holy, Holy, Holy

*Mass of the Resurrection*  
Randall DeBruyn

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.  
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

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## Memorial Acclamation

*Mass of the Resurrection*  
Randall DeBruyn

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro -  
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

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## Great Amen

*Mass of the Resurrection*  
Randall DeBruyn

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

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## Lord's Prayer

### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the  
world, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The musical notation is on three staves in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics placed below the notes. There is a repeat sign at the end of the second line.

Ed Bolduc  
Music © 2011, WLP

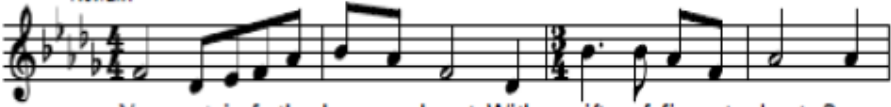


## Communion Hymn

### GIFT OF FINEST WHEAT

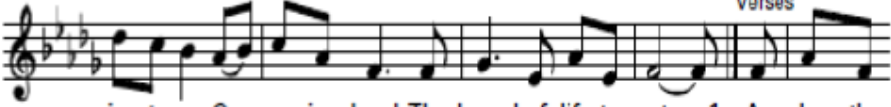
Robert E. Kreutz

Refrain




You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat, Come

Verses



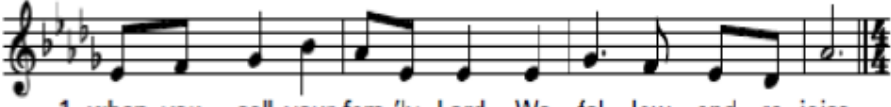
give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

1. As when the
2. With joy - ful
3. Is not the
4. The mys - t'ry
5. You give your-



1. shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice; So
2. lips we sing to you Our praise and grat - i - tude, That
3. cup we bless and share The blood of Christ out-poured? Do
4. of your pres-ence, Lord, No mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom
5. self to us, O Lord; Then self - less let us be, To

to Refrain



1. when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re-joice.
2. you should count us wor-thy, Lord, To share this heav'n-ly food.
3. not one cup, one loaf, de-clare Our one-ness in the Lord?
4. all the world can-not con-tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
5. serve each oth - er in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Text: CM with refrain; Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997. Music: BECENTENNIAL.  
Music and text © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

## Final Commendation

### Saints of God

Refrain

*Cantor or choir:*

*All:*

Re - ceive his/her soul, re - ceive his/her soul,  
*Cantor or choir:*  
and pre - sent him/her to God the Most High,  
*All:*  
and pre - sent him/her to God the Most High.

#### Verses

1. Saints of God, come to his/her aid!  
Hasten to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!
2. May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
3. Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

Text: Order of Christian Funerals, © 1985, ICEL.  
Music: Steven R. Jaico, b.1961, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.



# Closing Hymn

## BE NOT AFRAID

Bob Dufford, SJ

**Verse 1**



1. You shall cross the bar-ren des-ert, but you shall not die of



1. thirst. You shall wan-der far in safe-ty though you do not know the



1. way. You shall speak your words in for-eign lands and all will un-der-



1. stand. You shall see the face of God and live. *to Refrain*

**Refrain**



Be not a-fraid. I go be-fore you al-ways. Come fol-low



me, and I will give you rest. *1, 2 to Vss 2, 3 Final 2*

**Verse 2**



2. If you pass through rag-ing wa-ters in the sea, you shall not



2. drown. If you walk a-mid the burn-ing flames, you shall not be



2. harmed. If you stand be-fore the pow'r of hell and death is at your



2. side, know that I am with you through it all. *to Refrain*

**Verse 3**



3. Bless-ed are your poor, for the king-dom shall be theirs. Blest are you that



3. weep and mourn, for one day you shall laugh. And if wick-ed tongues in-sult and



3. hate you all be-cause of me, bless-ed, bless-ed are you! *to Refrain*

Text based on Isaiah 43:2-3; Luke 6:20ff. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Robert J. Dufford, SJ and New Dawn Music. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.



Thank you to everyone who has gathered here today and to those who are on the live stream to memorialize my sister, Thuy Epperson. My name is Vu Nguyen. I am here to honor my sister's beautiful life and legacy.

Thuy grew up in a household of seven children. Her early childhood years were very interesting growing up with two brothers and four sisters. We didn't have a lot of money back then however we were very happy. We had many crazy adventures which included swinging from trees at the park near our apartment, accidentally burning down our club house in the backyard and jumping from our boat to swim in the ocean. We were thick as thieves in all these adventures.

At an early age, Thuy was very independent and headstrong. When my sister wanted something, she worked very hard to achieve it and did it on her own terms. She put herself through college by working in the food service and retail industries.

She married her first love, Greg, and had two amazing daughters, Rachel and Lauren. Thuy's family made so many wonderful memories skiing, boating, fishing, golfing, traveling and attending sporting events. Life is always an adventure for the Epperson family. Thuy's motto in life is "Life Is Short So Enjoy It To The Fullest".

My sister was a loving mother and devoted so much time to Rachel and Lauren. Thuy was one of those mothers who went to all the science fairs, football games, cheerleading competitions, dance recitals, golf tournaments and beauty pageants.

My sister had a very successful career in Corporate America however she wanted more for her family. She wanted more financial independence and time with her family. To achieve this, Thuy knew she needed to be her own boss. She left her lucrative career in Corporate America to establish a successful State Farm insurance agency.

I am so proud and amazed at how much my sister had accomplished in her life. Family and career were not the only successes in Thuy's life. It was also important for her to give back to the community by supporting church and school fundraisers, granting scholarships to students and donating to charity organizations.

Our hearts are broken forever that Thuy is no longer with us.

I wish Thuy were still here with us enjoying life, but I can understand why God would want such a beautiful angel on his side from now until eternity.

Thuy will be missed and remembered for her warmth and generosity, her loving and adventurous heart and her devotion to her family, friends and community.

Heaven awaits you my sweet sister!