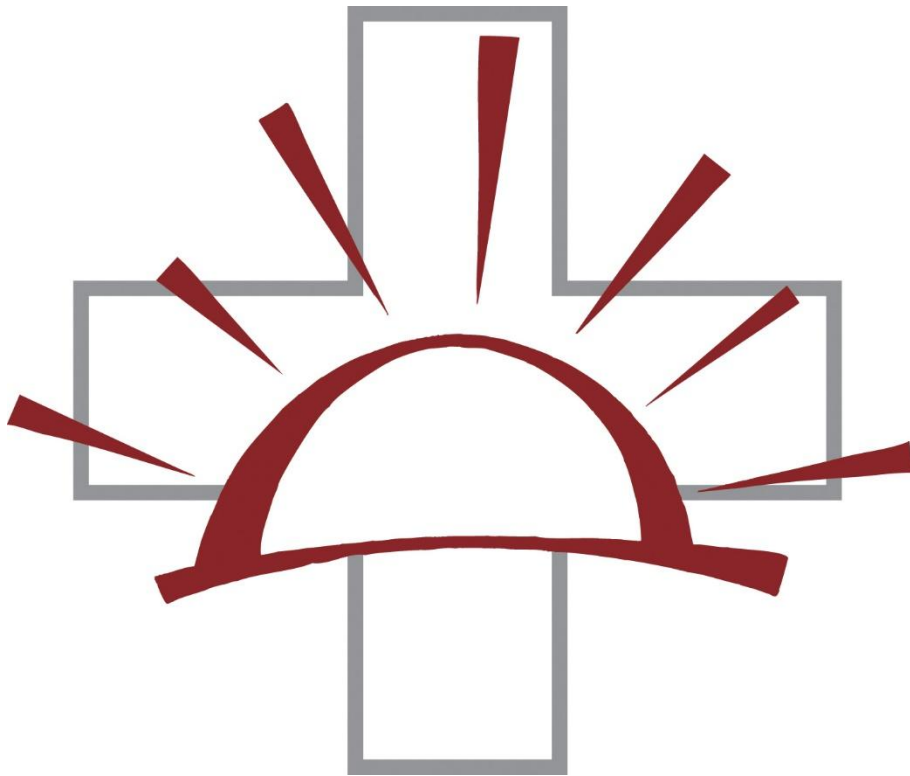


Elizabeth Ann Willis

OCTOBER 2, 1951 – MAY 9, 2026



Mount Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas

FUNERAL SERVICE
FOR
ELIZABETH ANN WILLIS
OCTOBER 2, 1951 – MAY 9, 2026
MAY 28, 2026

Stand

OPENING HYMN: How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der Con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to
4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me



all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; When I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing He bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion And there pro - claim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee, How great Thou



art! How great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!

Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989

Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005244

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

THE PROMISE OF BAPTISM

P Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy, who is our comfort in all trouble.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P In Holy Baptism Liz was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says: "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"

C **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father; we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.**

PSALM 23

P The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

C **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.**

P He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

C **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.**

P Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies. Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

C **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

PRAYER

P O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today our sister, Liz. We thank You for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In Your boundless compassion, console all who grieve her passing. Give us Your aid so we may continue our course on earth in confidence, until by Your calling we are united again with those who have gone before us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Sit

FIRST READING

Matthew 5:3-11

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:25-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

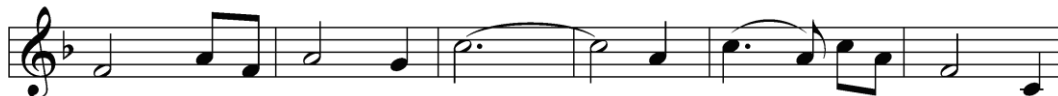
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN: Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati
Text and tune: Public domain

OBITUARY

HOMILY

Stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.
- P** Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant that all who have been nourished by the Feast of Victory in the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give to the friends of Liz and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Receive our thanks for Liz and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence that because He lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come will be able to separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMENDATION

P Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant and our sister, Liz. She was a sheep of Your fold, a lamb of Your flock, a sinner of Your own redeeming. We thank you for having made her Your child in Holy Baptism. We pray that all who grieve over her death may turn their sadness into joy, knowing of the eternal peace which You promise to all who believe in You.

C **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

P "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which You have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal You to the nations

and the glory of Your people Israel.

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.

P "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you ☩ and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: I Know that My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com - fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with His love; He lives to
4 He lives to grant me rich sup - ply; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, He lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove; He lives my hun - gry
guide me with His eye; He lives to com - fort



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing head.
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
me when faint; He lives to hear my soul's com - plaint.

5 He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

8 He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-99, abr.
Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793
Text and tune: Public domain

TOLLING OF THE BELLS

A reception will follow in the gym at Mt. Calvary immediately after the service.

The Officiant
The Organist

Rev. Mike Middaugh
Rev. Craig Meissler



Elizabeth Ann Willis, lovingly known as Liz, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 9, 2026 at the age of 74 after a courageous battle with leukemia. After defeating cancer three previous times, she faced her illness with remarkable grace, strength, and unwavering faith. She continues to bring light and love to those around her.

Liz was born on October 2, 1951 at Brooke Army Medical Center. She graduated from Edison High School in 1969 and went on to build a life centered on love, family, and service to others.

She married the love of her life, David Willis, May 4, 1982 and they were married for 44 years. She would often confide to him that he was the perfect husband, if he was following her instructions. They were an amazing team, setting a foundation of family and showing what love, loyalty and commitment truly look like. They seldom were apart once he retired from the Fire Department.

She began her professional career with Southwestern Bell, where she formed lasting friendships and demonstrated the dedication and work ethic that would characterize her life. She resigned from that career where she was excelling, to fully dedicate herself to raising her children and grandchildren. Liz was also actively involved with Ropin' Dreams, a ministry devoted to enriching the lives of children who are faced daily with the adversity of cancer. Her compassionate heart and servant spirit were evident in everything she did.

She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Concepcion Galvan, and mother, Bertha Williams.

She is survived by her beloved husband, David Willis; her children, Lisa Willis, Kevin & Amy Willis, and Erika & Tino Briones; her grandchildren, Taylor, Trista, Dylan, Wyatt, and Olivia; as well as her dear cousins, Stella, Alice, David, Beverly, Mark, Laura, Joann, and Lisa.

Liz's life was a beautiful example of the woman described in Proverbs:

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all... Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." — Proverbs 31:29–31

Liz's love will remain with us always, held close in our heart and remembered every day. Her family finds comfort in knowing that through her faith in Jesus Christ, Liz has received the gift of everlasting life. Though she will be deeply missed, her love, kindness, and steadfast support will continue to inspire all who knew her.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to Ropin' Dreams in honor of Liz's generous and compassionate spirit.