

A Celebration of Life

Dawn Sherertz

April 7, 1938 to December 24, 2025



**St. Mark's City Heights
Episcopal Church**

MANOS DE DIOS - WE ARE GOD'S HANDS

Gathering Song

He Gives Me Peace

Sung by Sarah Young accompanied by Kirk Valles

Introductory Rite

Please stand as you are able.

Officiant I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed herself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.
As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold her who is my friend and not a stranger.
For none of us has life in herself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord, and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession
Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

Officiant We have come here today to remember before God our sister Dawn, to
give thanks for her life and to commend her to God our merciful redeemer and
judge.

Officiant The Lord be with you
People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our sister Dawn. We
thank you for giving her to us, her family and friends, to know and to love as a
companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion,
console us who mourn Dawn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life,
so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your
call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding: Deal graciously
with Dawn's family in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may
not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and
strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The people sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the book of Job (Job 19:21 - 27a)

Read by Caroline Kelner

“Have pity on me, my friends, have pity,
for the hand of God has struck me.
Why do you pursue me as God does?
Will you never get enough of my flesh?

“Oh, that my words were recorded,
that they were written on a scroll,
that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead,
or engraved in rock forever!
I know that my redeemer lives,
and that in the end he will stand on the earth.
And after my skin has been destroyed,
yet in my flesh I will see God;
I myself will see him
with my own eyes—I, and not another.
How my heart yearns within me!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139 1-11

Led by Shan McDonald

LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit? *

where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"

Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 4:16-5:9)

Read by Deborah Kistler

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn The King of Love

Please stand as you are able.

The King of Love my shepherd is,
Whose goodness keeps me ever,
I want for nothing! I am God's
And God is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow
my happy soul God leads now,
and where the greenest pastures grow
with food celestial feeds now.

In time of death I'll have no fear
with You, dear Lord, beside me;
your rod and staff my comfort still,
your cross before to guide me.

You spread a table in my sight,
The bread of life bestowing;
With promise of eternal light
My cup is overflowing!

The Gospel

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (10 11-16)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Officiant 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

People The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Remembrances

The people sit.

Homily

Fr. Richard

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

led by Richard Thomson

Intercessor For our sister Dawn, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am Resurrection and I am Life." Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us those who mourn for Dawn, and dry the tears of those who weep. **Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow. **Hear us, Lord.**

You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life. **Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven. **Hear us, Lord.**

Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give her fellowship with all your saints. **Hear us, Lord.**

She was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom. **Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister and all those who have gone before us; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope. **Hear us, Lord.**

Officiant Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Dawn, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. Amen.

Announcements

stmarks-cityheights.org/giving-online

The Commendation

The Celebrant takes his place in front of the photograph of Dawn.

Officiant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Dawn with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of mankind; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return For so did you ordain when you created me, saying, "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" All of us go down to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Officiant, facing the photograph, says

Officiant Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant *Dawn*. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive *her* into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. *Amen*.

People Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Closing Song

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Sung by Sarah Young accompanied by Kirk Valles

Recessional Hymn

O When the Saints Go Marching in

O when the saints go marching in,
O when the saints go marching in,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the saints go marching in.

O when the sun refused to shine,
O when the sun refused to shine,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when the sun refused to shine.

O when they crown Him Lord of all,
O when they crown Him Lord of all,
O Lord, I want to be in that number
when they crown Him Lord of all.

Dawn Sherertz

April 7, 1938 to December 24, 2025

Dawn's early childhood was spent first with her grandparents and then with her mother, stepfather and her brother, Raymond (Ray) James. During WWII, her parents leased a tungsten mine in rural Arizona. The presence of Ray was the bright spot in her memory of that time. She and Ray remained close for the rest of their lives.

Eventually Dawn's parents moved to Page, Arizona, where they opened a bar. She remembered it well because she was responsible for cleaning it up before she left for school each morning.

As an adult, Dawn married John Case and they had three children, Bob, Kathy, and Howard. The family moved multiple times. Dawn maintained they moved at least 100 times! When they settled in Snowflake, Arizona, they seemed to have found a home. They became active in the Mormon Church and Dawn eventually became president of the Relief Society of her congregation. Dawn worked in the office of a large pig farm in Snowflake and even ran for mayor. She was quite relieved she didn't win the election!

Dawn made many life-long friends in Snowflake. Years later, as life brought changes, the friends moved away to different locations. A few of them had annual reunions in Laughlin, Nevada.

In the mid 1980's, when Dawn's kids were grown, she left Snowflake for California, where she met and later married Paul Sherertz in 1989. Paul's retirement in 1992 gave them the opportunity to have some new adventures. Their most enduring adventure was volunteering to be campground hosts in Yosemite National Park five months a year for 20 years! When they were home for the winter, they volunteered as ushers at East County Performing Arts complex in El Cajon. They worked the box office in ticket sales for Paul's daughter, Robin's San Diego Ballet Nutcracker performances and Dawn also sewed costumes.

In 2005 Dawn and Paul moved in with Kathy and Rich Thomson in Pacific Beach. In 2012 they made their last trip to Yosemite, having been honored with an award from Yosemite National Park and The United States Department of the Interior for their faithful service. Paul was 92 and his health was beginning to decline. After he died, in 2016, Dawn continued to live with Rich and Kathy until her death on Christmas Eve, 2025.

Dawn lost her own daughter, Kathy Case, in 2003, and her brother, Ray died in August of 2025. Dawn is survived by her sons Bob and Howard, Howard's wife Vicky, and theirs and Kathy Case's children and grandchildren. She is also survived by stepchildren Kathy Thomson and husband, Rich, and Robin Morgan and husband, Mike, and their children and grandchildren.