THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION

TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN

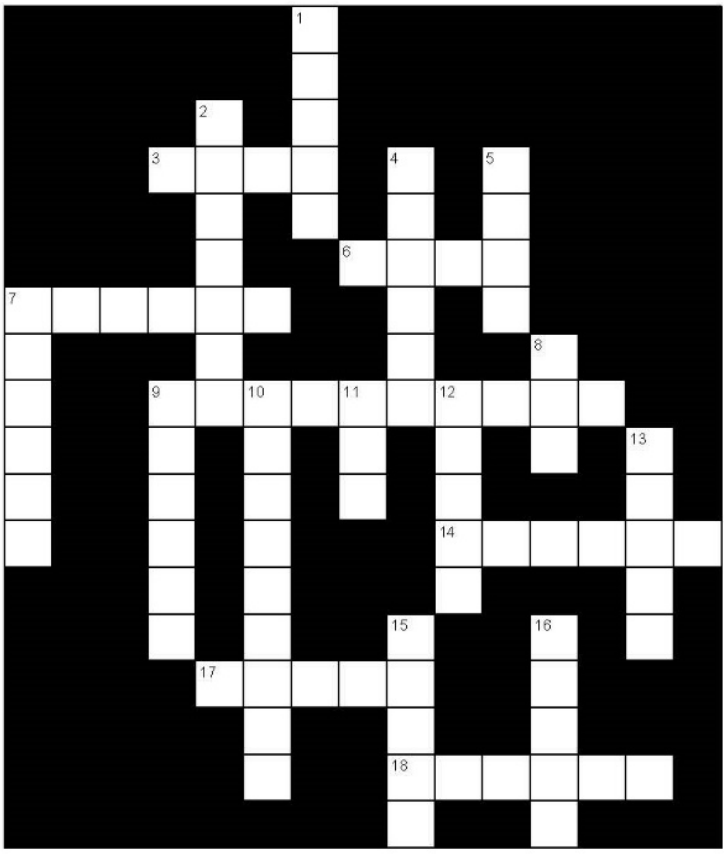
A Celebration of Life



Joan Daly Francis
August 26, 1932 – October 20, 2026

The Wonderful Life of Joanie Francis

A crossword celebrating Joan Daly Francis (1932-2026)



Across

3. Denver school Joan graduated from in 1950.

6. Island where Joan lived part-time for 25 years.

7. Joan and Tom enjoyed exploring on foot as these.

9. South Carolina city where Joan's son Lee lives.

14. Racquet sport Joan and Tom loved.

17. Country where Joan especially loved exploring the natural world.

18. Colorado city where Joan was born.

Down

1. Joan's mother, Elizabeth Bratton Ashley, was known by this name.

2. First name of Joan's daughter who lives in Sacramento.

4. Affectionate name by which Joan was known.

5. Mountain community where Joan and Tom were early investors.

7. Another place where Joan loved exploring the natural world.

8. Joan's lifelong partner and husband.

9. Joan helped build the Edwards Interfaith ____ and Community Center.

10. Community where Joan lived full-time in her final years.

11. First name of Joan's loving stepfather.

12. College Joan graduated from in 1954.

13. This Christian foundation guided Joan's life.

15. Nickname of Joan's son Thomas Sanford Francis.

16. Vail music organization Joan sponsored.

All clues are based on Joan's obituary and celebrate the places, people, pursuits, faith, and service that shaped her life.
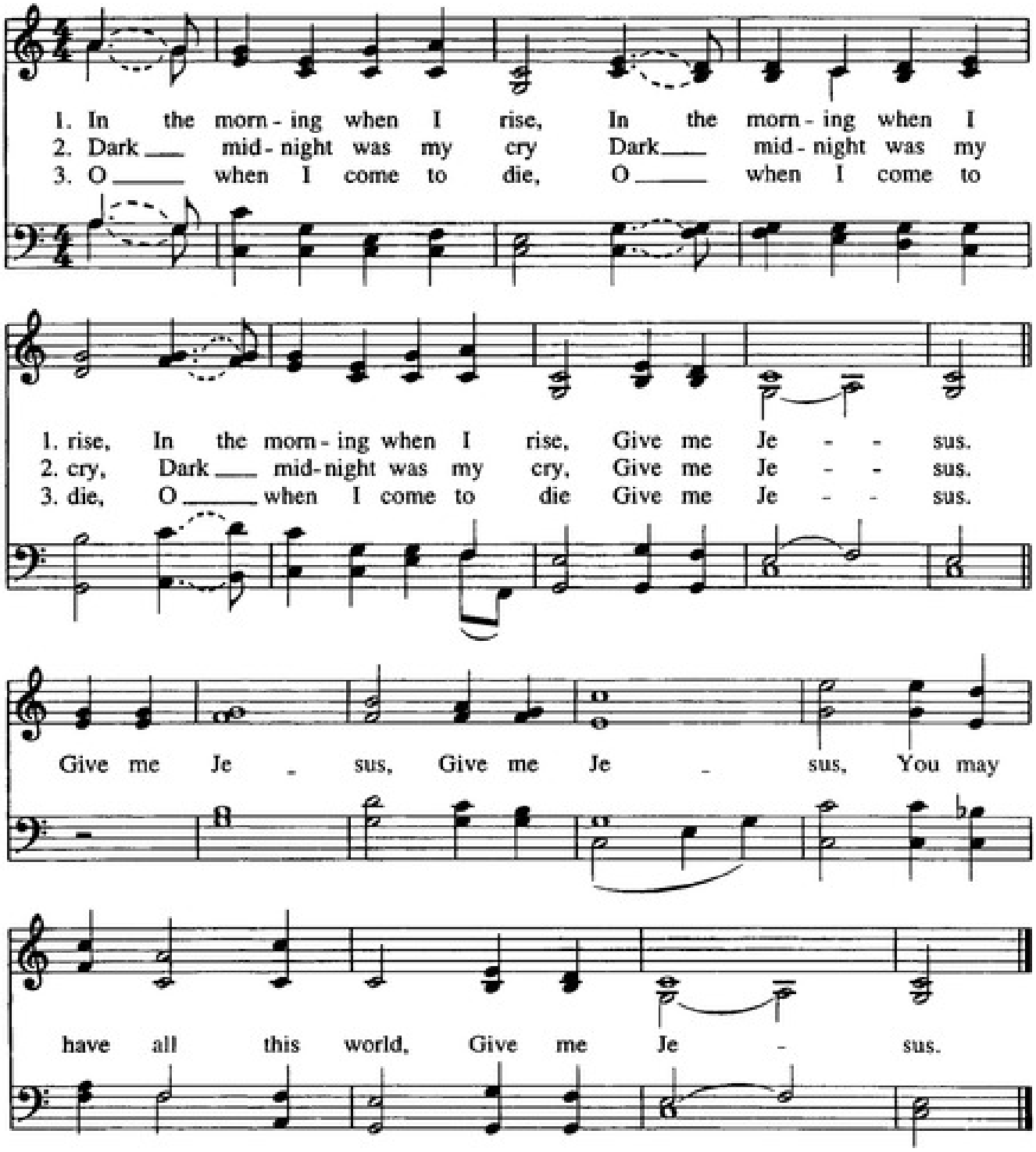
The Celebrant stands and says

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life,
even though they die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed themselves 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 him who
is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us have life in ourselves,
and none becomes our own master when we die.
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.



Words: Traditional
Music: Negro Spiritual; arr. Evelyn D. White. Used by Permission.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Collects for Burial

O God, who by the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ destroyed death, and brought life and immortality to light: Grant that your servant Joan, being raised with him, may know the strength of his presence, and rejoice in his eternal glory; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. ***Amen***.

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with the Francis 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***.

First Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

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

Psalm 27:1-9

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.

5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

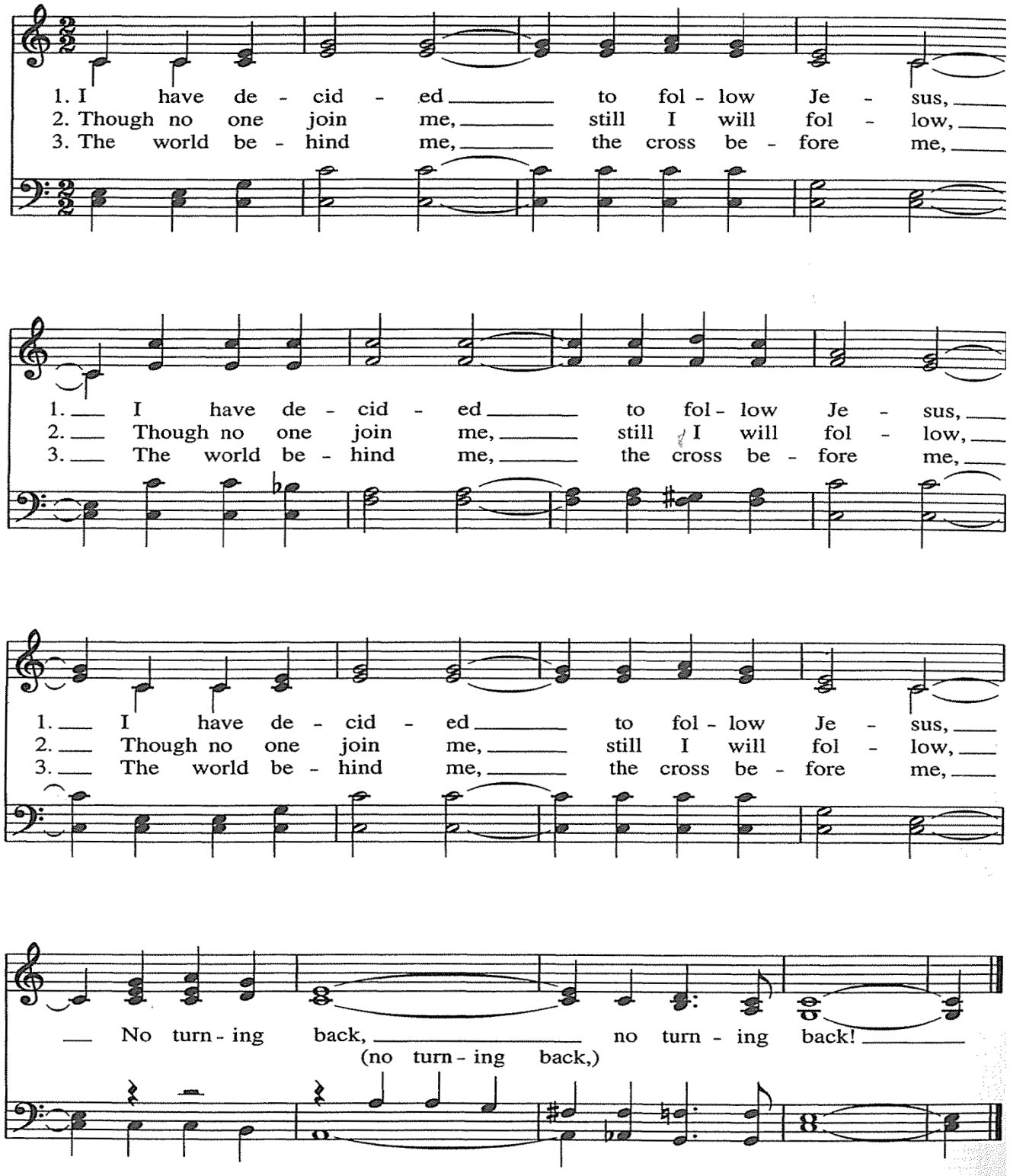
6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

I have decided to follow Jesus LEVAS 136



Words: Ascribed to an Indian Prince; as sung in Garo, Assam
Music: Indian Folk Melody; arr. Norman Johnson
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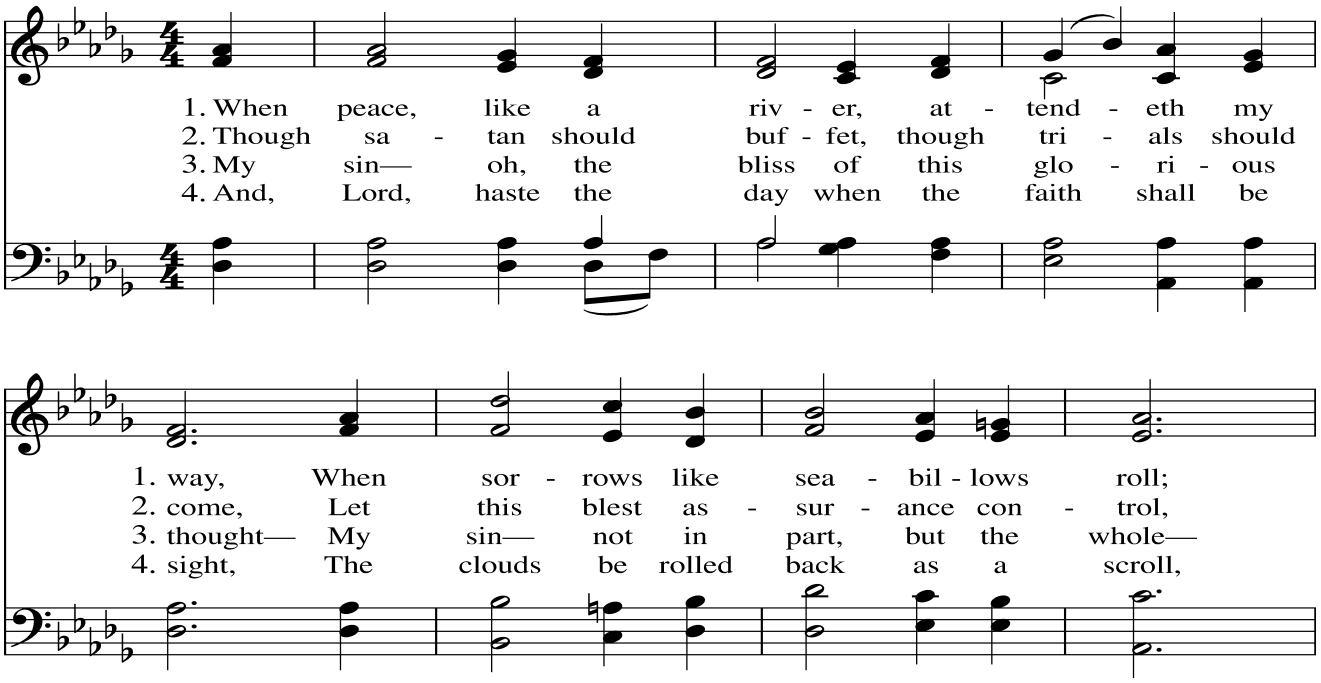
Second Reading Ephesians 3:14-21
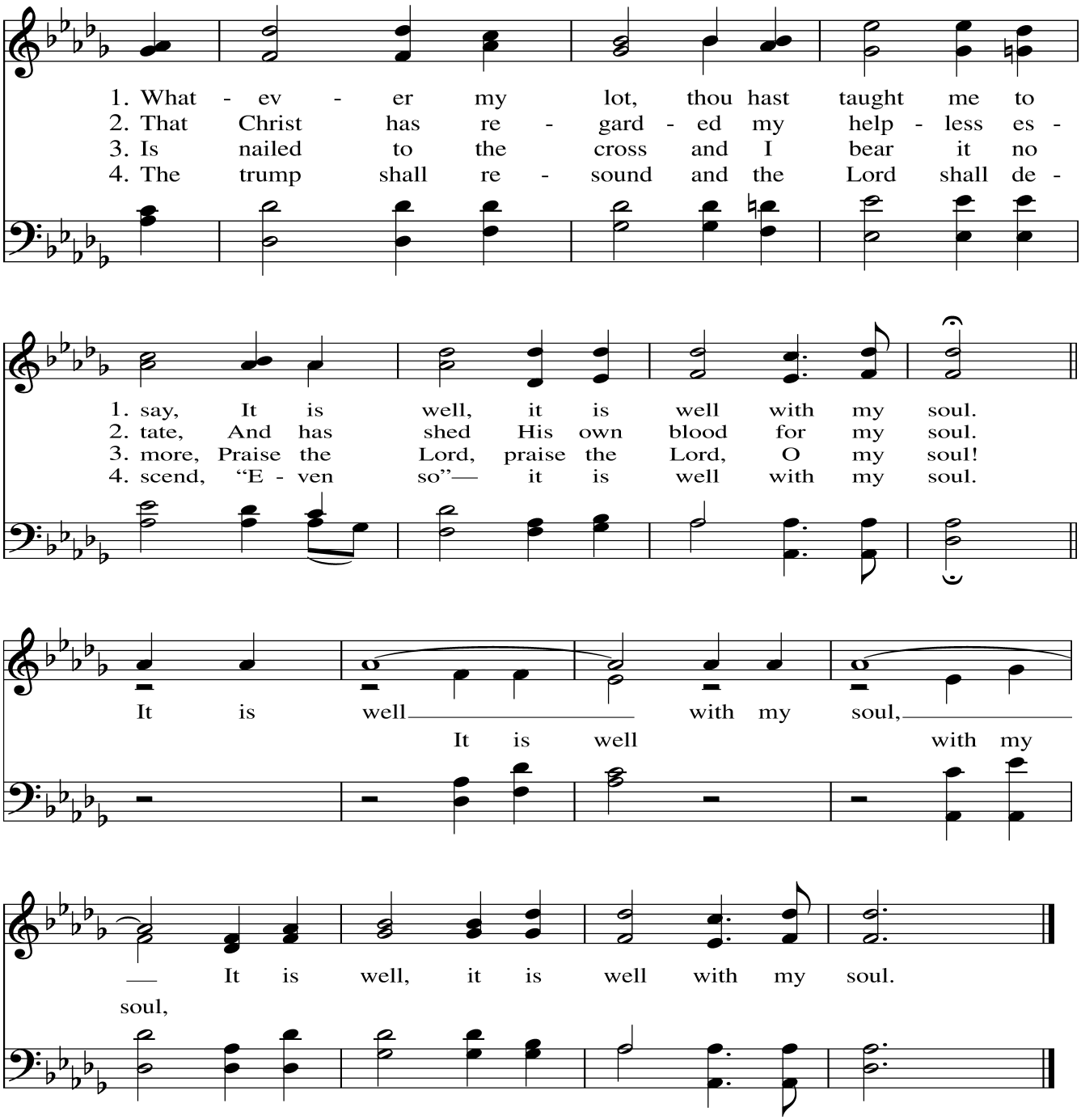
For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

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

All stand.

It Is Well with My Soul LEVAS 188





Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888). Music: Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876).

Holy Gospel John 6:35-40

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

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

Eulogies & Homily

Apostles' Creed

All stand as the Celebrant says

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say together,

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and
born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

For our sister Joan, 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 who mourn for Joan, 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 Joan eternal life.
Hear us, Lord.

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

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

Joan 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 Joan; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our sister Joan, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that her 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***.

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Come to Jesus

Holy Communion

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name, as we say together:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, as you give us Jesus as our greatest gift, so we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. With Christ, make us a living sacrifice of praise. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *AMEN*.

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say together,

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.

All baptized persons are welcome and encouraged to receive both the bread and the wine of the Eucharist. Those who are not baptized or who prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward and cross their arms to receive a blessing. Those desiring a gluten-free wafer may request one when they come forward to receive communion.

Commendation

Celebrant Give rest, O Christ, to your servant Joan with your saints,
People ***where sorrow and pain are no more,***
neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Celebrant You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind; 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.

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

The Celebrant then says

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Joan. 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***.

Blessing

May the Holy and Undivided Trinity guard your soul, guide your feet into the way of peace, and receive you into that place where there is no pain or grief but life eternal, and may the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Celebrant says

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

In Moments Like These Praise 243

In moments like these
I sing out a song,
I sing out a love song to Jesus.
In moments like these
I lift up my hands,
I lift up my hands to the Lord.

Singing I love You, Lord,
Singing I love You, Lord,
Singing I love You, Lord,
I love You.

Dismissal

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

Closing Processional

The family invites everyone to a reception at the Four Seasons Resort, located at One Vail Road, immediately following the ceremony. Please relocate all vehicles from the Vail Chapel parking lot prior to attending the reception.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that gifts be made to:

Trinity Anglican Seminary, Colorado Scholarship Fund
311 Eleventh Street St.
Ambridge, PA 15003

Edwards Interfaith Chapel and Community Center
PO Box 1828
Edwards, CO 81632
Please note "Joan Francis" in the memo section

Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival Endowment Fund
PO Box 2270
Vail, CO 81658

Worship Leaders

Celebrant & Homilist	The Reverend Stuart Brooks Keith III *Rector,* *Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration*
Assisting	The Reverend Michael Williams *Deacon,* *Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration*
Lectors	Alexander Francis Chase Lemos Zachary Lemos
Eulogists	Lee Francis Jim Stretz Ashley Grooms
Ushers	Hillary Francis Elizabeth Francis Alison Lemos
Musicians	Jan Govreau Kim Denning



Joan Daly Francis
August 26, 1932 – October 20, 2026

Joan Daly Francis, 94, died in the arms of Jesus at Castle Peak in Eagle on October 20, 2026. Guided by her Christian faith, our Joan touched countless lives with her kindness, generosity, and determined leadership. Known affectionately as Joanie, she was loved and admired by all who knew her in the Vail Valley. She and her husband, Tom, were early investors in Vail, building their first house near the center of Vail Village and later a home on a hilltop overlooking Pilgrim Downs.

Joan was born in Denver on August 26, 1932, to Thomas Daly and Elizabeth (Betty) Bratton Ashley. She was raised by Betty and her loving stepfather, Lee Ashley. She graduated from Kent Denver in 1950 and from Smith College in 1954.

Joan married her lifelong partner, Tom Francis, who preceded her in death shortly after their 50th wedding anniversary. Their life together was full of adventure and service to their church and community in the Vail Valley. Avid skiers, hikers, and tennis players, they were also world travelers. Joan particularly loved exploring the natural world in Kenya and Hawaii. After living part-time in Vail and Maui for 25 years, she lived her final years full-time in Arrowhead with the help of her nurse and devoted friend, Jamie Swift.

Joan shared her talents and blessings generously through many community and Christian organizations. She served as the first female Board President of Kent Denver School, as a member of the Board of Trustees of Trinity Anglican Seminary in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, for 25 years, and as a sponsor of Bravo! Vail. She was an organizer and key contributor in building the Edwards Interfaith Chapel and Community Center, and she and Tom were among the organizers and supporters of Vail's Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration.

Joan is survived by her children, Lee Ashley Francis (Jan) of Charleston, South Carolina; Thomas Sanford "Sandy" Francis (Sanita) of Colorado Springs; and Deborah Francis Lemos (Gene) of Sacramento, California; seven grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her nieces, Julie Francis Stretz (Jim) and Margot Francis Ladd (Jerry), and her nephews, Kenneth C. Francis (Nina) and Robert R. Francis.