Mabel Eisenbeis Funeral 8/20/25

+In the Name of Jesus+

Lyle and Kathy, LaDawn, Family and Friends:

Today, once again, we hear the treasured words of our Savior,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (Jn 3:16-17).

When someone that we love as much as our mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, friend dies, we grieve. There is sadness and tears as we worship with our sister in the faith on this side of heaven for the last time. Yet, the Apostle Paul teaches us that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Because of the love of God in Jesus Christ, Mabel dwells in the house of the Lord forever.

I had the joy and privilege of being Mabel's pastor for 28 years now. Needless to say, we visited many times and on many occasions over those years. Lyle, you remember mom from the days when you were a little boy, growing up on the farm. Kathy, you remember meeting for the first time the woman who would become your mother-in-law. And we cannot forget when mom became "Grandma" and held LaDawn for the first time. You are here this morning, because undoubtedly, you have your own special memories of Mabel.

But, all of those memories, the one we chiefly remember today and cherish above all else, is the hope she had in Jesus.

Which is quite comforting to us today, especially as we reflect on Mabel's life, we remember even how her last weeks and days were indeed accompanied by the miseries and infirmities of mortal life. But, they were

also a last witness to her faith in Christ Jesus. With Job, Mabel confessed the hope that was within her,

> *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold … My heart faints within me" (19:25-27)!*

Like Job, Mabel knew that her body, subject to pain and misery, was mortal. As a sinner, she knew her body would return to the dust from which it came.

The wages of sin is death, the Bible says (Rom 6). But, God is love. We know and treasure rightly John 3:16. It's beautiful. But honestly, I like verse 17 maybe just a little more, *"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him".* Those words remind us that God did not breathe His life into us so that it would end in death. He wanted us to live with Him forever and ever, without end. In the death of our sin, we could not save ourselves; we could not earn life in heaven. So, God showed His love for us by sending His own Son into this world to be our Savior.

Jesus, the very Son of God, humbled Himself to be born of a virgin, to take on our human flesh, and come to this earth. Jesus took upon His own flesh the guilt and all the wages of death of Mabel's sin, your sin, my sin, the sin of all the world, and carried that sin to the cross. Upon that cross, the Son of God died the death our sin demanded. Jesus died for Mabel, for you and for me, as our Substitute so that we would be free from death. Because the blood of the Lamb, Jesus, was shed all over the wood of that cross, we are forgiven all of our sin.

Jesus bowed His head and gave up His spirit in death. His body was buried in the tomb. But, death and the grave could not hold the Prince of

Life. On the third day, Christ victoriously rose from the grave. He is alive forevermore. And, the Good News for us poor sinners is that Jesus says, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die" (Jn 11:25-26).*

On September 27, 1931, God claimed Mabel as His own child in the waters of baptism. In the new birth of her baptism, Jesus gave His victory of Easter morning and His eternal life to Mabel, so that it would be her very own. In that blessed washing of rebirth, God the Holy Spirit worked faith in Mabel, so that she believed and trusted and hoped in Christ. Even though she has died, her immortal soul has departed her mortal body, she lives.

In the years I served Mabel as her pastor, especially these last years she was at the nursing home, I would feed her the life-giving body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. And, I would say these words over her, "Now may this the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting". qwIt did! In this darkness of the valley of the shadow of death, God's grace kept Mabel in the faith, the joy, the hope, of eternal life in Christ.

Throughout all her 93 years, especially in these last weeks and days, Mabel waited patiently for the Lord. God's grace was sufficient for her. God's power was made perfect in her weakness. She trusted and hoped that God, who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, would give her all things. She knew that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, could separate her from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I have to share with you one little thing about Mabel's life that I found most interesting – she lived in Mercer County all her life. She was born here. She died here. And, she lived all the days between her birth and death, she lived right here. But, not any more. She now dwells in the house of the Lord -- forever.

For our departed sister, the words of Revelation, have come true. God has taken her by the hand and led her out of the great tribulation of earthly life. She is among that great multitude that no one can number standing before the throne of God, worshipping God for all eternity. For our departed sister, the words of Revelation have come true,

> "Therefore they are before the throne of God,
> and serve him day and night in his temple;
> and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
> They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
> the sun shall not strike them,
> nor any scorching heat.
> For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
> and he will guide them to springs of living water,
> and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

As we wait for our departure from this vale of tears, we wait with the very same hope in which Mabel waited. We, in the footsteps of Mabel and all God's saints, do not trust in our works or any "god" of this world and our design. We trust, rejoice, and find comfort in Christ alone. We await that glorious day when God will send the angels to carry our souls into His everlasting presence. On that great day, with Mabel and all of the saints who have departed this earthly life loving the Lord Jesus Christ, we will have the eternal joy of looking upon the face of our Redeemer, the One who alone saves us poor sinners by grace through faith. How our hearts faint within us!

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.