

Prayer Service



Sister Jean Steffes

November 14, 1943 — August 22, 2023

Nazareth Court Community Room
August 31, 2023
11:00 a.m.

Welcome

Opening Song: *The God of All Grace* BB #300 vs. 1—3

Leader: God of Faithfulness, you have called Sister Jean into your loving presence. May she now, freed from her suffering and pain, be united with all the saints and rest in peace forever. May we who loved her in this life find peace and comfort in your abiding presence.

All: **Amen!**

Reading: *The Second Giving* by Jessica Powers
(See back cover)

Antiphon: ^{All} My soul is thirsting; thirsting for you, O My God.

Psalm 63

1 O God, you are my beloved.
I long for you; my soul thirsts for you.
All that is within me thirsts,
as in a dry and barren land with no water.

2 So I have called out to You in my heart,
sensing your power and glory.
Because your wondrous love is life in me,
My lips will praise you.

1 I will radiate your love as long as I live,
becoming a blessing to others
in gratitude to you.

2 My soul feasts as with a magnificent banquet
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
 when I ponder your kindness
 and meditate on you throughout the night.
 For you have been my salvation
 And in the shadow of your wings
 I sing for joy.

1 My soul clings to you,
 Your love upholds me.
 The fears that seem to separate me from you
 Shall be transformed and disappear.
 As they are faced, each fear is diminished;
 they shall be gone as in a dream when I awaken.

2 My soul shall rejoice in you, my Beloved.
 All who open their hearts to your love will live in
 peace and joy.

Behold! What I Long Coveted

Sr. Mary Frances Schug, CSA

Soprano

Be - hold - what I long cov - et - ed I al - read - y see. What I
 4 to God
 hoped for - I now hold safe. } } To God a - lone - I am as -
 8 so - ci - a - ted in hea - ven Whom on earth I loved with all de - vot - ed ness.

Antiphon: ^{All} My soul is thirsting; thirsting for you, O My God

Reading: Ephesians 4:1b-5,14-16

Sharing of Memories/Stories

Prayer to St. Agnes:

Behold, what I long coveted, I already see; what I hoped for I now hold safe. To God alone I am associated in Heaven, whom on earth I loved with all devotedness.

Leader: Pray for us, St. Agnes.

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, who choose the weak of the world to confound the strong, mercifully grant that we, who are placed under the patronage of your virgin and martyr, Agnes, may feel the benefit of her intercession with you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Song: *How Great Thou Art* **BB #430, vs. 1, 2, 4**

The Second Giving by Jessica Powers (1946)

The second giving of God is the great giving out of the portions of the seraphim, abundances with which the soul is laden once it has given up all things for Him.

The second growth of God is the rich growing, with fruits no constant gathering can remove, the flourishing of those who by God's mercy have cut themselves down to the roots for love.

God seeks a heart with bold and boundless hungers that sees itself and earth as paltry stuff; God loves a soul that cast down all He gave it and stands and cries that it was not enough.