

Diana traveled the world, but she loved being at home. She was outspoken in her opinions, but her heart brimmed with love. She was a passionate mother, and a great friend to many. Diana was filled with faith and put it into practice both at home and at church. She grew up in historic northeast Kansas City and was a faithful member of Holy Trinity Church and Our Lady of Peace, the former St. Stephen's.

Eventually, Diana found her faith home here in this cathedral. She sang with our principal choir. She served as a communion minister. She volunteered in our gift shop. Our members remember her lively personality, determined spirit, dedication to her family, and ability to overcome the adversities of life. Diana inspired others and became one of the reasons why so many enjoy coming to church: You can meet the most interesting people here.

At home, Diana was a great cook. Her family members each picked a holiday to host an annual meal. She was responsible for Easter. How fitting then that we hear at her funeral scripture readings that contain one of the greatest prophecies about the resurrection, one of the greatest implications from the resurrection, and one of the greatest statements of belief in the resurrection.

From the Book of Daniel, the Lord spoke these words through the prophet: "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; Some shall live forever.... [T]he wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, And those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever." Long before the birth of Jesus, Daniel recorded this prophecy: Death ends not in dust, but in eternal light.

From John's gospel, we hear part of Jesus' conversation with Martha, where she makes a statement of faith as strong as the famous one Peter made: "I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." What prompted that resounding declaration was the death of her brother Lazarus. Martha stood in the presence of Jesus, who had raised others from the dead, and she wanted the same for her brother. Who wouldn't? Martha said of Lazarus, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus gave her the comforting declaration, "I am the resurrection and the life." Those who live and believe in him never die. People remembered this prophecy after Jesus' own death and resurrection.

Those events gave many followers a firm belief in the teachings of Jesus. St. Paul concludes this about those who believe: "No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.... [W]hether we live or die, we are the Lord's."

At a time of great loss, these words provide great consolation. They give us hope that Christ will be faithful to those who were faithful to him. One of Diana's jobs was processing immigration applications. In a way, that's what we're doing today: getting God's attention so that Diana can complete her immigration to heaven where she longed to spend eternity. May she find endless joy there for all the inspiration and companionship she bestowed on those who loved her here.