Christ is risen from the dead, tramplng down death by death, giving life to those in the tomb. Dying, Christ destroyed our death. Rising, Christ restored our life. Christ will come again in glory. As in baptism, put on Christ, so in Christ may Ruth be clothed with glory. Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children. What we shall be has not yet been revealed; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Those who have this hope set their hearts on it, because Christ is pure. Jesus said, I am the resurrection and I am life. Those who believe in me, even if they die, yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I am the first and the last. I died and behold I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of hell and death. Because I live, you will live also. Leader: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. Leader: Let us pray.

The Invocation

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: accept our prayers on behalf of your servant, Ruth, and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Hymn No. 840: “When Peace like a River” — Ville du Havre

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5: 1-10

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 this mortal may be swallowed up by the life 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—with us for 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. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Sole: "The Lord's Prayer" — Julianne Laird, Soloist

The New Testament Lesson: Matthew 5: 1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

The Litany: O God, accept the prayers of your people; grant that we may evermore be delivered from the curses of sin and death, and be united in the heavenly bliss of life everlasting. Amen.

The Psalms

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance. For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh. The days of your life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due to you. So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands!

The Hymn: "When Peace like a River" — Ville du Havre

The Affirmation of Faith (Spoken in Unison)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (Spoken Responsively)

One: For Ruth, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am the resurrection and I am the life.” Lord, you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress; draw near to us who mourn for Ruth and dry the tears of those who weep.

All: Hear us, Lord.

One: You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

All: Hear us, Lord.

One: You raised the dead to life; give to our sister eternal life.

All: Hear us, Lord.

One: You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring our sister to the joys of heaven.

All: Hear us, Lord.

One: Our sister was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit, give her fellowship with all your saints.

All: Hear us, Lord.

One: She was nourished with your Body and Blood, grant her a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

All: Hear us, Lord.

One: Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our sister, let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

The Silent Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer (Spoken in Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Commendation (Spoken Responsively)

One: Give rest, O Christ, to your servant, Ruth, with your saints

All: Where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing but life everlasting.

One: 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, saying, “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us to dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

All: Give rest, O Christ to your servant, Ruth, with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.
Ruth Marcella Alleva, 92, of Kill Devil Hills died Saturday, July 18 at her home with her children by her side.

Ruth was born in Philadelphia, PA; the only child of Harvey H. and Elsie E. Smith. Ruth worked as a secretary prior to enlisting in the Women's Army Corp in 1944. Ruth was stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, MD, Chemical Warfare Service Center where she was secretary to the Commanding General, Brigadier General Kabrick. There she met and married Staff Sergeant Mario Alleva, Aide to General Kabrick. Mario and Ruth were married in 1945. After the war, Ruth remained a member of the WAC Reserve and was called back to active duty during the Korean War.

In 1953 they moved to Miami, FL where Ruth continued working as a secretary. Ruth was a volunteer member of the American Cancer Society in Miami offering training and assistance to other urostomates in their rehabilitation. Ruth was an avid reader, enjoyed needlepoint and latch hook.

After retirement, Ruth and Mario moved to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Ruth was a member of the Outer Banks Presbyterian Church, the Outer Banks Christian Women, the Outer Banks Cancer Support Group and the Dare County Shrinettes in Manteo. Ruth was also a charter member of the Women's Military Memorial in Washington, DC. Ruth volunteered at Hotline and the Food Pantry.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband Mario. Ruth is survived by her son Joseph Alleva, daughter Barbara (Timothy) Mannix, step-son Frank (Nancy) Alleva, step-grandchildren Greg and Chris Alleva and step-great-granddaughter Natalie.

A funeral service will be held Friday, July 24 at 11:00 a.m. at Outer Banks Presbyterian Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Outer Banks SPCA: www.obspca.org.

Gallop Funeral Services is entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed at www.gallopfuneralservices.com.

The service of Death and Resurrection is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

This service, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that the one we love has entered into a nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.