

The Celebration of the Life
and Resurrection of

Kristian Berg

May 8, 2024



First Lutheran Church
BOTHELL

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We, the community of First Lutheran Church of Bothell, proclaim the message that the grace of our Lord is infinitely inclusive and that everyone is welcome. We believe that Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and as disciples of Christ seeking justice and reconciliation among all peoples, we at First Lutheran Church welcome all into the fullness of God's love. **We welcome everyone, without exception and regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or station in life.** We recognize that each person is a unique creation of God, and through grace, a child of God.

All are welcome at First Lutheran.

All are welcome to worship, to hear the Good News, to receive the sacraments, and to share in fellowship and service. As members of First Lutheran Church, we pledge ourselves and our congregation to exercise our faith in Christ, treasuring one another's similarities while embracing our God-given differences. We pledge that we will strive to live as a reconciling people, in our life together and in our outreach to the world.

Assisting with Today's Service:

Presiding Pastor:	Rev. Tor K. Berg
Organ / Piano:	Lucy Kay Osborne
Choir:	Norwegian Male Chorus of Seattle
Funeral Coordinators:	Daryl and Debbie Lageson
Sound Tech:	Gary Curtis
Camera Tech:	David Osborne
Usher:	Tom Larsen
Reception Coordinator:	Susan Berg & Mary Hatlen

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PRELUDE: *I Himmelen, I Himmelen (Norwegian Folk Tune)*

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world. We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sibling, Kristian, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)*



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his baptism, Kristian was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life,
Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life,
Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope,
We glorify you. We praise you. We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sibling Kristian. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE: *We take time to recall the stories of Kristian, to remember who he is and what we will take with us.*

Linda Gorman, Daughter.

ANTHEM: *Hils fra mig der hjemme/Sailor's Greeting (Norwegian folk song)*
Ride the Chariot (American Spiritual)

FIRST READING: *Psalm 90:1-2*

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.

PSALM 121 *(We Read Together)*

**I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
 from this time on and forevermore.\

SECOND READING: JOB 19:25-26

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God...

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *When Peace Like a River* (ELW 779)



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

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,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. **Amen.**

COMMENDATION

Let us commend Kristian to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

We keep silence.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Kristian.

Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

ANTHEM: *Reis meg opp (You Raise Me Up—Norwegian Translation)*

BLESSING

May the silence of the hills,
the joy of the winds,
the peace of the fields,
the music of the birds,
the fire of the sun,
the strength of the trees,
and the faith of a little child,
in all of which is God,
go with you and be with you today and always. **Amen**

POSTLUDE: *Den Signede Dag (C.E.F. Weyse)*

Memorial donations may be made in Kristian's name to the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund; The Rotarun Ski Club, on their website, rotarun.org or PO Box 2083, Hailey, Idaho 83333

Kristian Berg

March 29, 1925–December 14, 2023

Kristian Berg was born on March 29, 1925, to Peder Ludvig and Anette Ellingsdtr Berg in Rissa, Norway. The first born, he was followed by three brothers, Erling, Jarle, and Asbjørn, and his cousin Kaare, born five months earlier, was like a brother to all four. He grew up on the family farm with his brothers, parents, and grandparents and was surrounded by many aunts and uncles. At the time, schooling only went to 7th grade. He was 14. On April 9, 1940, eleven days after his 15th birthday, the Nazi occupation of Norway began. His dad placed Kristian in charge of running the farm, doing everything right down to shoeing the horses so he could take jobs off the farm. Leading up to 1940, his dad had studied books to learn how to build a sophisticated grain mill down in a deep gully on the farm. Kristian took great interest in the mill. When the Nazis occupied, they ordered the Berg farm to turn over to them all grain from the family's mill. After that, his dad could no longer keep running the mill at the risk of consequences and gave his permission to Kristian to run it, but only if he wanted to, saying, "...just don't get caught." In addition to running the farm alongside his mother, running the mill became Kristian's mission throughout the occupation. He loved it, and he loved that he evaded getting caught under the cover of darkness. It became a great source of pride and accomplishment as neighbors secretly brought their grains to him to mill into flour. He spoke often of that experience.

After the war, he served mandatory military service in the Norwegian Air Force and was assigned to aircraft maintenance. Upon completing service, he returned to live and work on the farm while also attending carpentry trade school. Then, at age 23, he and Kaare immigrated to America on October 5, 1948, sponsored by an uncle who preceded them. He hit the ground running, first working for his two uncles and then building single-family homes on his own. Eventually, he became a general contractor building apartments, even then continuing to build homes on the weekends in the early years to try to get ahead. Once his company Haffel Construction Co. was established, he invited his brother Jarle and his family to America, and over time, Jarle joined him in the business, and they partnered together until retirement.

Kristian loved music and was an avid dancer. He met Patricia Ann Rudstrom at a dance. They married on December 6, 1952, eventually settling outside of Inns Arden in the home he built. They were married for 48 years and had two daughters. For many decades, he was a member of the Norwegian Male Chorus, where his close friend August Werner was the director, Sons of Norway, and Leif Erikson Lodge. He was instrumental in building the Pavilion at Lake McMurray. He and the architect drew the idea on a napkin over drinks at Norway Center, and he participated in the actual build. He held a life membership in the Norwegian Commercial Club and attended meetings until he was 97.

Throughout his life, he enjoyed visits to the home he built in 1970 on the family farm in Norway, whether in the summer, fall moose hunting season, or pit stops in and out of Europe during ski racing season. Having received his first pair of

homemade skis at age 6, he was passionate about skiing. His childhood dream was to compete in the Olympics as a ski jumper. He had never seen slalom, giant slalom, or gates until he came to America. Once in America, Stevens Pass became his ski 'home,' where he enjoyed the wonderful community of skiers. Gradually, he became a passionate, fearless, and winning ski racer in his age bracket, entering his first race at Stevens Pass at age 45, finishing 6th in a field of 19. From there, he was encouraged by his friend Franz Gabl, 1948 Olympic silver medalist, to go to Alaska for the 1974 U.S. Championships, where he finished third. He journeyed to more national races, including Sun Valley, Idaho, in 1975 for the International Veterans Championship. He eventually built a home there and was a longtime member of Ancient Skiers. In 1979, he got hooked on international competition when he entered a European Cup Masters race at Lake Tahoe and discovered, to his surprise, that he could keep up with skiers who had been racing most of their lives. From there, he entered an international meet in Italy and found the ski community in Europe so kind and welcoming that he decided to give the European circuit a try. So in 1980, as the newly formed Super 40 Circuit World Cup was launching its inaugural competition, he entered and took home the first place cup. One Frenchman, finishing second to Kristian, asked him, "Weren't you in the 1952 Olympics in Oslo?" to which he replied, "No, I did not begin racing until a long time after that," to which the Frenchman walked away shaking his head. Kristian was known to beat competitors 35 years his junior as well as defeating former Olympic Games medalists and aging international stars. He was featured in many write-ups, including Seattle Times columnist Don Duncan, who came to his home in 1984 to interview for a piece titled "Life Need Not Go Downhill." For over 25 years, from 1980 through the early 2000s, December through April, he competed in the Super 40 Circuit, which took him to Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Austria, and Andorra. One day in Spain, he and two fellow racers were invited by an instructor to join a private ski lesson with King Juan Carlos of Spain. He continued racing in the U.S. as well. As much as it was about ski racing, he said that he met so many fine people and the friendships amongst the racers were something special, adding, "I've never had this much fun." His last ski race was in 2010 in Sun Valley, Idaho, during the annual Ancient Skiers. He was 85. His home is filled with racing medals and trophies. He sometimes wondered how he would have done in the Olympics.

In 2016, he introduced his plan to have a 3.6km stretch of dirt road paved in his small community in Norway. He had grown tired that nothing had been done about it since childhood, so he decided to do it himself. Word soon leaked, and the community was surprised and excited. Eventually, the government of Norway learned about it, offering to add to his contribution in order to pave a remaining 1.9km stretch that would connect his portion to the highway at the opposite end, completing the circle. A meeting was held in Trondheim with the regional, county, and public roads administration officials over waffles, gjetost, and coffee. The plan came to pass for the community, followed by a ribbon-cutting celebration with the community, dignitaries, media, and great fun. The road was renamed Kristian P Bergsvei.

Life continued, and his final day of skiing was March 8, 2020, at Stevens Pass, only because later that week, he learned they had closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Kristian remained fit and healthy and hoped to return to skiing after the pandemic, but driving longer distances proved more difficult. He spent his final years attending dances and spending time with his longtime close companion and true friend, Hanna Risa of Edmonds. He continued to be an avid walker in his neighborhood of Richmond Beach, where he lived for 45 years, walking 2 miles, 3-4 times weekly, visiting with neighbors along the way.

In 2022, he broke his hip and fully recovered, to everyone's surprise, including his doctors. His last wish was to reacquire his Norwegian citizenship as a dual citizen, so in September 2023, he traveled to Norway with the help of his family to submit his documents in person, visit family and friends, and see the farm and his home one last time. In October 2023, he received notification of Norwegian citizenship granted; seven weeks later, on December 14, 2023, he passed away in his home.

He is greatly missed and leaves behind his daughters Inger Kristine Keigher (Peter) and Linda Anette Gorman (Tim), granddaughter Kathryn Rachael Tongg (Rory), grandson Kristian James Gorman (Ashley), grandson Landon Berg Gorman, and five great-grandchildren: Taber, Titan, and Truitt (Tongg), Elin, and Kaja (Gorman).

A Celebration of Life Service will be held at First Lutheran Church of Bothell on May 8th at 3:00pm, followed by food and refreshments.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations made in his name to the Rotarun Ski Area- The "little mountain with a big heart," a non-profit community-driven ski hill in Hailey, Idaho, providing locals, children, and the disadvantaged with affordable access to winter sports. Visit www.rotarun.org and click the 'Donate' button or mail donations to Rotarun, P.O. Box 2083, Hailey, Idaho 83333.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America