

The Celebration of the Life
and Resurrection of
Esther Breimeier Degel



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
Funeral Coordinator:	Donna Hillard
Sound Tech:	Ann Bormann
Camera Tech:	David Osborne
Usher:	Dan Bormann
Reception Coordinator:	Nora Strothman

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**The Celebration of the
Life and Resurrection of
Esther Degel
January 11, 2025**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

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 Esther, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

GREETING

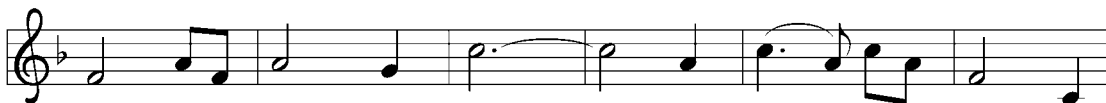
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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 Esther's baptism, she was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, Esther 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 Esther. We thank you for giving her 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 tell Esther's story. Storytelling is one of the most important gifts we can give to each other. In story we share our life, our lessons, our joys and our sorrows.*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: John 6:37-40

³⁷Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; ³⁸for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

PSALM: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

⁵¹Listen, I will tell you a mystery!

We will not all die, but we will all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

⁵³For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READING: John 14:1-6

¹Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *How Great Thou Art* (ELW 856)



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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 Esther to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence for reflection.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Esther. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive Esther into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light.

Amen.

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

SENDING HYMN: *Soon and Very Soon* (ELW 439)



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
- 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
- 3 No more dy - in' there,
- 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

POSTLUDE

We gather here today not because Esther died but because she lived.

We knew the day would come soon, Mom,
That God would call your name.
In life we loved you dearly
In death we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day that God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories, Mom,
Your love is still our guide.
And though we cannot see you,
You are always by our side.

Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

Memorial donations may be made in Esther's name to the First Lutheran Church Endowment Fund or to Easter Seals Community and Disabilities Services online.

Esther Breimeier Degel **October 17, 1927–December 10, 2024**

Esther passed away quietly at her home in Bothell December 10th 2024.

She was born Esther Breimeier October 17th 1927 and grew up on her family's farm in Otter Creek North Dakota in the country-side west of Bismarck. Their community was mostly Russian-Germans and German was spoken at home. She was the 6th of 7 living children with one brother and 5 sisters and she helped out on the farm as the family struggled through the great depression and the dust bowl that impacted the country in those years.

She was baptized October 30th 1927 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Otter Creek, and confirmed April 6th 1941. She moved to New Salem North Dakota with her mom and sister where she was able to attend and graduate from High School which was not a given in those days.

After High School she took and passed the state teachers exam and began teaching primary grades in small rural schools in the area. She was very dedicated and, in the winter of 1949 when a snowstorm hit her hometown during a visit, she hired a 2 seater plane to fly her 50 miles back to Sanger where her school was.

In 1951 she was teaching in Glendive Mt where she met John Degel her future husband on a double date with her roommate. Esther and John continued to date and were married in Mandan North Dakota August 23, 1952. She recalled John taught her how to drive which was a very exciting accomplishment at the time.

The Degel's had 5 children between 1953 and 1964 and Esther was a dedicated full time mother. In 1967 the family re-located to Bellevue Washington where John began a career in building and construction. Esther did not teach in Washington, but enjoyed her years working for Sears in the Overlake area.

She was very intent her kids be successful and insisted we go to college, and in fact all did graduate with degrees.

She is survived by her children Linda Howard (John) of Bothell, Wa, Leslie Howard (Ed) of E. Wenatchee, Wa, Brad Degel (Karri) of Woodinville, Wa, Roberta Mancinelli (Chris) of Lakewood, Co and David Degel (Katherine) of Cashmere, Wa, 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Esther was preceded in death by her husband John, as well as her brother and sisters.