

The Celebration of the Life  
and Resurrection of  
Marlys Joyce (Skarin) Helgeland  
April 4, 2025



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 Marlys Joyce Helgeland

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING

## 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 sister Marlys, 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 her baptism, Marlys was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's coming, she 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 sister Marlys. 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 Marlys' story, a story of faith and love for her family. Take time today, tomorrow and in the future to continue to tell her story.*

## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14**

<sup>12</sup>Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

### **SECOND READING:**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## WELCOMING THE WORD: *I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name* (LBW 342)



1 I know of a sleep in Je - sus' name, a rest from all  
2 I know of a bless - ed e - ven - tide, and when I am  
3 I know of a morn - ing bright and fair when tid - ings of



toil and sor - row; earth folds in its arms my wea - ry  
faint and wea - ry, at times with the jour - ney sore - ly  
joy shall wake us, when songs from on high shall fill the



frame and shel - ters it till the mor - row; with God I am  
tried through hours that are long and drea - ry, then of - ten I  
air and God to his glo - ry take us, when Je - sus shall



safe un - til that day when sor - row is gone for - ev - er.  
yearn to lay me down and sink in - to peace - ful slum - ber.  
bid us rise from sleep; how joy - ous that hour of wak - ing!

### GOSPEL READING:

<sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And 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. <sup>40</sup>This 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."

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY: *Behold the Host Arrayed in White* (ELW 425)



1 Be - hold the host ar - rayed in white like thou - sand snow - clad  
2 On earth their work was not thought wise, but see them now in  
3 O bless - ed saints, now take your rest; a thou - sand times shall



moun-tains bright, that stands with palms and sings its psalms be -  
 heav - en's eyes; be - fore God's throne of pre - cious stone they  
 you be blest for keep - ing faith firm un - to death and



fore the throne of light! These are the saints who  
 shout their vic - t'ry cries. On earth they wept through  
 scorn - ing world - ly trust. For now you live at



kept God's word; they are the hon - ored of the Lord. He  
 bit - ter years; now God has wiped a - way their tears, trans -  
 home with God and har - vest seeds once cast a - broad in



is their prince who drowned their sins, so they were cleansed, re -  
 formed their strife to heav'n - ly life, and freed them from their  
 tears and sighs. See with new eyes the pat - tern in the



stored. They now serve God both day and night; they  
 fears. For now they have the best at last; they  
 seed. The myr - iad an - gels raise their song. O



sing their songs in end - less light. Their an - thems ring when  
 keep their sweet e - ter - nal feast. At God's right hand our  
 saints, sing with that hap - py throng; lift up one voice; let



they all sing with an - gels shin - ing bright.  
 Lord com-mands; he is both host and guest.  
 heav'n re - joice in our re - deem - er's song!

## 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 Marlys to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence for reflection.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Marlys. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive her 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: *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand* (ELW 441)



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the  
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -  
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and  
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the  
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which  
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and  
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.  
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.  
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.  
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

## POSTLUDE



**Marlys Joyce Helgeland (née Skarin)**, age 92, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2025, in Bothell, Washington. A devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Marlys lived a life rooted in faith, service, and love for her family and community.

Born on March 2, 1933, in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Sigurd and Alice Skarin. She was the beloved little sister to older sister, Meredith. As a young teen, Marlys moved to Seattle. She graduated from Queen Anne High School, class of 1950. She later pursued her passion for education at Seattle University with the goal of becoming a teacher.

Marlys began her professional journey after her youngest daughter started kindergarten. Her career in education support began on the playground at Woodin Elementary. She later served as school secretary at Shelton View Elementary and Cottage Lake Elementary before concluding her career at Bear Creek Elementary. Her warmth and dedication left a lasting impression on students and staff alike. A woman of deep faith, Marlys joined First Lutheran Church in Bothell in 1961 and remained an active member throughout her life. She found joy in singing with the PraiSing and sanctuary choirs. Her creative spirit shone through her work with the Altar Guild, where she lovingly arranged flowers for services. She also poured her talents into quilting—creating beautiful pieces for family members and fundraising efforts to support the church youth group.

Marlys was deeply involved in her daughters' lives and their communities. She served as PTA president at their elementary school and was honored with the Golden Acorn Award for her outstanding volunteerism. She chaperoned countless trips with Northshore Ski School and was a



familiar face at swim meets—always ready to lend a hand or cheer from the sidelines.

Her greatest joy came from being with her family. Marlys was a constant presence at birthdays, concerts, games, and every milestone worth celebrating. Her daughters—Cathy Wilson (Greg), Jean Elledge (Brad), and Linda Donaldson (Bud)—were the center of her world. Her love extended to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, each of whom felt the warmth of Nana’s unwavering support.

Marlys was preceded in death by her husband Richard Helgeland; her parents Sigurd Skarin and Alice (Skarin) DeYonnes; her sister Meredith Kaechele; and granddaughter-in-law Megan Feldmar Wilson.

Marlys Joyce Helgeland will be remembered as a woman of grace who gave generously of herself—to her family, church, schools, and community. May her memory bring comfort to all who knew and loved her.



**John 3: 16**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

*This scripture is one of the most beloved verses in the bible. It clearly shows that God gave us His all and held nothing back. God expects us to give as well and He expects us to do it cheerfully and with genuine joy.*

Great Nana, Marlys Helgeland, chose this verse to memorize for her confirmation. It is her favorite verse in the bible.

