



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

ROBERTA A. NESTAAS

May 29, 1944 – September 3, 2024



November 8, 2024

1:00 PM



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all of the Coast Salish tribes.

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Out of respect for the liturgy we are about to celebrate, please turn off all cell phones and audible devices. Please, no photography during the liturgy.

Please stand, as able, as the procession enters the cathedral nave.

ANTHEMS

IAM Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord.
Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die.
And everyone who has life,
and has committed himself to me in faith,
shall not die for ever.

AS FOR me, I know that my Redeemer lives
and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.
After my awaking, he will raise me up;
and in my body I shall see God.
I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him
who is my friend and not a stranger.

FOR none of us has life in himself,
and none becomes his own master when he dies.
For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord,
and if we die, we die in the Lord.
So, then, whether we live or die,
we are the Lord's possession.

HAPPY from now on are those who die in the Lord!
So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O GOD of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our
sister Roberta. We thank you for giving her to us, her family
and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly
pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn.
Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet
confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call,
we are reunited with those who have gone before. All this we pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

WELCOME

Dean Thomason

REMEMBRANCES

Taylor Vicente, Lori Vicente

OPENING HYMN *Joyful, joyful, we adore thee*TUNE: *Hymn to Joy*

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, bloom - ing mea - dow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;

giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Please be seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READING

Isaiah 58:5-12

read by Kathy Minsch

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator[a] shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain seated. The Cantor introduces the Antiphon, all repeat it. The Cantor chants the verses, all repeat the Antiphon as indicated.



Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD “She is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”
Surely she will save me
from the fowler’s snare
and from the deadly pestilence.
She will cover me with her feathers,
and under her wings I will find refuge;
her faithfulness will be my shield and rampart. **ANTIPHON**

I will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday. **ANTIPHON**

A thousand may fall at my side,
ten thousand at my right hand,
but it will not come near me.
I will only observe with my eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked. **ANTIPHON**

If I say, “The LORD is my refuge,”
and I make the Most High my dwelling,
no harm will overtake me,
no disaster will come near my tent.
For she will command her angels concerning me
to guard me in all my ways;
they will lift me up in their hands,
so that I will not strike my foot against a stone. **ANTIPHON**

I will tread on the lion and the cobra;
I will trample the great lion and the serpent.
“Because she loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue her;
I will protect her, for she acknowledges my name.
She will call on me, and I will answer her;
I will be with her in trouble,
I will deliver her and honor her.
With long life I will satisfy her
and show her my salvation. **ANTIPHON**

After a brief pause, the Presider stands; all rise, as able, for the sequence hymn and proclamation of the Gospel.

SEQUENCE HYMN *There's a wideness in God's mercy*

TUNE: *St. Helena*



1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness
 2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
 3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sure



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
 up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
 of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



tice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
 ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
 nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
 ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
 but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
 all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
 be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Interlude/Conclusion



THE HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:34b-40*

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

COME, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

Following the homily, the assembly is invited into a period of silence, reflecting on the scriptures and homily.

Please stand, as able, when the Presider stands to introduce the prayers.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor For our sister Roberta let us pray to God our Creator saying:
Hear our prayer.

Intercessor God, your will for us is abundant life;
receive Roberta now into the fullness of life in your presence.

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor You know the thoughts of our hearts and our search for faith;
shed the brightness of your light on Roberta, who also sought
understanding.

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor You are greater than all our ideas and images of you;
draw Roberta into the mystery of your being.

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We know you as perfect Mercy and Love;
welcome Roberta in the grace of that love and mercy.

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We praise you as the giver of life;
gather all who mourn into the hope of renewed life.

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor The Church commends all who die to the care of Christ, the love of
God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit; and so we commend
Roberta to you, giving thanks for the gift of her life.

***People* Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor May the Holy One, to whom all the desires of our hearts are known
before we ask, hear our prayers for Roberta, and for all who mourn,
and grant us newness of life, and peace.

***All* Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY SOLO *Psalm 23*

WORDS: adapted by Bobby McFerin
MUSIC: Bobby McFerin

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all I need.

She makes me lie down in green pastures; beside the still waters she will lead.

She restores my soul; she rights my wrongs,

she leads me in a path of good things; and fills my heart with songs.

Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land,

there is nothing that can shake me,

she has said, she won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.

She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes,

she anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows.

Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will live in her house forever, forever and ever.

Glory be to our Mother, and Daughter, and to the Holy of holies,

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen.

Please stand as able.

HOLY EUCHARIST *from the Iona Community*

Presider A follower of Jesus once wrote:
‘Think what kind of people you are
whom God has called:
not many wise by human standards,
not many powerful or of noble birth.
Yet to shame the wise,
God has chosen what the world counts foolish;
and to shame the strong,
God has chosen what the world counts weak.’

It is not for our virtue
that we are here.
It is not for who we are
that we are called to this table.
It is only for one reason—
that God wants us.

So come,
leaving behind your baggage and burdens.
How you feel,
who you are,
what you have done,
at this moment does not matter.

There is a greater cause,
there is a stronger voice.
It belongs to Jesus who, in bread and wine, says,
‘I am here... for you.’

THE GREAT PRAYER

Presider The Lord be with you.

***People* and also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

***People* We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right to praise you,
for you are the One from whom we came
and the One to whom we will return.

You conceived the universe,
wove the world together
and hold all life in your hand.

You abide with us waking or sleeping,
you hold every tear that we shed,
you hear every prayer we make,
you receive both our best and our worst
and you will not abandon us.

So, with rain, wind and sunshine,
with all that moves in time with its Maker,
we praise you.

With angels and archangels,
with the saints from long ago,
with our loved ones
who are gathered round your heavenly table,
we praise you,
singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:

***All* Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
heaven and earth
are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider Yes, blessed is he...
who was born among us incognito,
who grew up without privilege or status,
who walked the way to heaven
 through the back streets of this world,
who told the deepest truths in ordinary language,
who touched and healed, blessed and disturbed
 without fear or favor,
who showed inclusive love in all its unconditional glory;
who, for all this, was crucified, died and was buried,
who, for all this and for all of us, rose again;
who, though high in heaven,
is present with us here and now.
God beyond holiness,
as we do what Jesus once did,
let your Spirit move among us
to settle on this bread and this wine
that they may become for us
the body and blood of Christ.

And let that same Spirit stir our souls
so that as we share this sacrament,
we may recognize our Lord and receive him
that he may be in us and we in him forever.

All Amen.

Presider Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread;
and when he had blessed it, he broke it and said,
“Take this and eat it. It is my body.
It is given for you. Do this to remember me.”
Then later, during the meal, he took a cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks, he said,
“In this cup is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Take this, all of you, to remember me.”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is Your name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day the bread we need,
Give it to those who have not enough.
Let forgiveness flow between us.
Deliver us from evil.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy
now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider All you who hunger and thirst for a better life,
for a deeper faith,
for a better world,
here is the bread of life:
feed on it with gratitude;
here is the cup of salvation
drink from it and believe.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

All may be seated for the time of Communion.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table. Please follow the directions of the Liturgical Ministers.

Bread and wine are distributed at front of the center aisle. The bread will be placed into your outstretched palm. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, simply ask for one at the time of Communion.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead, please cross your arms in front of your chest.

Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not available at this time. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, please cross your arms in front of your chest when the chalice is presented to you. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY Organ Improvisation on "Swing low, sweet chariot"

Please stand, as able, when the Presider stands and returns to the Altar.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Presider Gracious God,

**All we have been guests at your table;
come with us wherever we go and be present
in all that we share.**

**Summon out in us a generosity of spirit to ensure that all the
hungry are nourished and earth's barren places are fertile
with food, faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

THE COMMENDATION

The ministers stand at the Paschal Candle, the symbol of our risen life in Christ.

Presider Give rest, O Christ,
to your servant with your saints,

***People* where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Presider 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 me, saying,
“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

All of us go down to the dust;
yet even at the grave we make our song:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

***People* Give rest, O Christ,
to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Presider Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Roberta.
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.

***All* Amen.**

BLESSING *The Presider asks God's blessing on the Assembly. All respond: Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN *'Tis the gift to be simple*
Sung twice, with an organ interlude between.

TUNE: *Simple Gifts*

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true sim - pli - ci - ty is gained to bow and to bend we shan't be a-shamed,
to turn, turn, will be our de-light till by turn - ing, turn - ing we come round right.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Please remain standing for the concluding voluntary and closing procession.

VOLUNTARY *Toccata, from Suite No. 1 for Organ*

Florence Price

*All are invited to a reception immediately following the liturgy
in Bloedel Hall, accessible via the stairs on the west end of the nave,
or by taking the elevator in the southwest corner of the nave to level 1.*

ROBERTA A. NESTAAS

May 29, 1944 – September 3, 2024

ROBERTA ANNE NESTAAS (née Nestos), aged 80, passed away on September 3, 2024, in Seattle, Washington. Born on May 29, 1944, in Omaha, Nebraska, Roberta led a life marked by dedication to service and an unwavering love for her family and friends.

Roberta's journey of service began in the Peace Corps, setting a foundation for a lifetime of helping others. She graduated from the University of Washington, which further fueled her passion for community service. Roberta's career culminated as the President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services, where she made significant contributions to the community.

A seasoned traveler, Roberta visited 52 countries, embracing diverse cultures and experiences. She was also an active member of the Rotary Club, continuously seeking ways to contribute to global and local initiatives. Her spiritual life was centered around St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, where she was a regular attendee.

Roberta is survived by her sister Mary, niece Lori, great-nieces Taylor and Hanna, and stepsons Nathan and Aaron. Her family and friends will miss her deeply, cherishing memories of her vibrant spirit and generous heart.



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

PRESIDER & PREACHER

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

ASSISTING PRIEST

The Rev. Canon Dr. Edie Weller

DEACON

The Rev. Earl Grout

ACOLYTE

Alexandra Thomsson

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

Penny Reid, Peter Snyder, Kathy Thomason

ALTAR GUILD

Sharon Ferguson

LECTORS

Kathy Minsch, Christine Szabadi

USHERS

Wayne Duncan, Pearl McElheran, Kathy Sodergren

SOUND

Michael Perera

LIVESTREAM

Greg Bloch

MUSICIANS

William Hawley, *soloist*

Canon Michael Kleinschmidt, *organist*

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SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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