



A Celebration of Life

ROGER ARTHUR KOSKELA

July 9, 1938 – February 24, 2024

2:00 pm
April 27, 2024



*A Service of Thanksgiving and Praise to God
in Loving Memory of*

ROGER ARTHUR KOSKELA

July 9, 1938 – February 24, 2024

P Pastor
R Reader
C Congregation

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Lara

GATHERING

- P** 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 brother in Christ, Roger, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Please stand.

HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother in Christ, Roger. 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated.

OBITUARY

Gregg Koskela

EULOGY

Pastor McEachran

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

FIRST READING

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

Doug Koskela

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, 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.

R Word of God.

C Word of Life.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

R The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

John 14:1-3

Doug Koskela

[Jesus said,] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In 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? And 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."

R The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

WORDS OF COMFORT AND HOPE

Pastor Lara

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Please stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

P Trusting in God's baptismal promises,
we affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C 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 power of 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

P God of mercy,

C hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

THE COMMENDATION

P Let us commend Roger Arthur Koskela to the mercy of God,
our maker and redeemer.

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

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

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SENDING

P Let us go forth in peace.

C In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Following the service,
all are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a reception.

Worship Participants

Presiding Minister The Reverend Lara Forbes, Lead Pastor
Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church

Director of Music Ministries/Organist Dr. Will Simpson

Obituary Gregg Koskela

Eulogy The Reverend James N. McEachran
Priest Associate
Saint Thomas Episcopal Church,
Medina, Washington

Reader Doug Koskela

Audio/Visual Sharon Gurtel, Kurt Lutterman

Reception Support Team Mikel Oswalt, Ann Berglind, Joan Tweten

Liturgy and Music:

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VIDEO and AUDIO RECORDING IN PROGRESS

This worship service is being livestreamed and recorded to YouTube,
and video and audio recording is currently in progress.
It is possible that video footage and/or audio conversations of worshipers may appear
on the YouTube livestream/recording.

ROGER KOSKELA

After several months of declining health, Roger Arthur Koskela took his last breath at home on February 24, 2024, with his wife and sons by his side. His family is grateful he is no longer in pain, and trust in the hope that he and we share in Christ.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 9, 1938, he was the only child of Hugo and Helen Koskela. Their Finnish heritage was something Roger was proud of his whole life long. While he often claimed the Finnish word (meaning stoic determination, grit, and resilience), his family saw in him a characteristic optimism that helped him see and name the best in people, particularly those in his family.

His lifelong love of baseball began as he grew up playing on sandlots in Chicago and as a fan of both the Cubs and the New York Giants. Fishing for pike and muskies on Lake Michigan as a child grew into countless hours fishing throughout his life, especially for trout, steelhead, and salmon.

During his growing up years, the Koskelas shared a two-unit house with the Narvas. Uncle Ed, Aunt Lina, and cousins, Jim and Joel, were just like immediate family. When doctors recommended a warmer climate for Roger's mom, Helen, the Koskelas and Narvas packed up their lives in Chicago and started driving, final destination unknown. They looked for jobs all over the southwest United States before settling in houses next door to each other in Walnut Creek, California, midway through Roger's high school years. Five years later, his beloved Giants would follow him west to become the San Francisco Giants.

The early death of Roger's mom while he was in college was a profound loss. He transferred from Westmont College to San Jose State University, getting an apartment with men who would prove to be lifelong friends. Ralph Higgins, Jerry Horton, Dwight Klassen, Joe Medal, Bob Rodde, and Roger called themselves "The Baggers" and remained close their whole lives.

He was active at First Baptist Church in San Jose, California, first as the college group leader and then hired on staff in Public Relations. That church is where he met Kay Lynne Keethler, getting to know her while they were in a play where he played the role of her older brother. They were married on March 27, 1965.

Roger spent time in the Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard, and worked in many different facets of public relations and advertising, including starting his own business in the 1970s. He always wanted to use his writing and creative skills to support Christian work. Some of the work he was most proud of came with Merrill Womach and National Music in Spokane, Washington (at two different points in his life), with Billy Zeoli and Gospel Films, writing articles for Christianity Today Magazine, and doing promotional work for Francis Shaeffer's "How Shall We Then Live?" and "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?" conferences. He was honest with his questions about faith, but he stayed committed to Christ.

Family was most important to him. Sons Gregg and Doug came along in 1968 and 1972, but he deeply cared for all his extended family: cousins, nieces and nephews, and eventually his five grandchildren, Natalie, Hayley, Aubrey, Nathan, and Ally. He loved supporting their sports and other extracurricular activities.

Moves to Oregon, back to California, and then to Washington for their retirement years led friends to tease that the Koskelas always remained in pencil in their address book. He loved lakes and water and the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. And he enjoyed good cooking and good food: his mom's pies, a good breakfast at a "greasy spoon," an excellent chile relleno, and Baskin Robbins' "Baseball Nut" ice cream were a few of the things he loved most.

Roger was preceded in death by his mother, Helen; his father, Hugo; and his step-mother, Dollie Larson. He is survived by his wife of almost 59 years, Kay Lynne; son, Gregg and Elaine Koskela and their children, Natalie and Nolan Koskela-Staples, Hayley Koskela, and Aubrey Koskela; and son, Doug and Jamie Koskela and their children, Nathan Koskela and Ally Koskela.

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.



1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy



hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

If you wish to make a memorial gift in Roger's memory,
the family suggests that donations be directed to:

World Vision
P.O. Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063
888-511-6548
<https://www.worldvision.org/donate>

~ or ~
to a charity of your choice



2650 148th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA 98007

425-746-2529
<https://SALC.church>