



*"I am the way,
and the truth,
and the life."*

SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE

July 20, 2024

In Loving Memory of

Robert Stanley Rekdahl

July 8, 1947 – June 8, 2024

A Christian memorial service is a worship celebration. Although there is sadness because we no longer have our loved one with us, we meet here to celebrate the joy of victory for Robert Stanley Rekdahl and for ourselves as we believe that Jesus Christ has died for us and was raised back to life. We worship together.

† † †

VICTORY CELEBRATION

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

(Romans 6:3-5)

CHRISTIAN OBITUARY

HYMN

“Christ Be My Leader”

Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.

Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

INVOCATION

- P** We gather here today to receive and to share with each other the comfort and strength of our Lord.
- C** **In His Word is both life and hope which is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- P** In You, O Lord, do we trust. Be with us this day as we need and seek Your guidance and direction in grief and sorrow.
- C** **In You, O Lord, do we trust. And so, we make our beginning in the name of the Father Who created us, the Son Who redeemed both body and soul, and the Holy Spirit Who made this earthly body the temple of our Lord. Amen.**
- P** O God of grace and glory, we remember before You today, Bob, our brother in Christ. We thank You for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion here on earth. In Your unlimited compassion, console us who mourn.

Enable us, Lord, to be able to see in death the gate to eternal life and that we may continue our course on earth in confidence until, by Your call, we are reunited with Bob and those who have gone before us; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God the Father Who loved us, and by His grace gave us eternal life, strengthen you in every good deed and word. (*2 Thess. 2:16–17*)

C Amen.

BOB'S FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES

(The following readings from Scripture were highlighted in his Bible.)

FIRST READING

Matthew 7:24-25 (ESV)

[Jesus said,] ²⁴ “Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.”

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:8-11 (ESV)

⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My ways higher than your ways
and My thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth;
it shall not return to Me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

EPISTLE READING Philippians 1:3-6; 2:3-5a; 3:8-11 (ESV)

(Philippians 1:3-6)

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

(Philippians 2:3-5a)

³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ^{5a} Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

(Philippians 3:8-11)

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

GOSPEL PROMISE

John 14:1- 6 (ESV)

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”

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

HYMN OF COMFORT

(During Bob's last hours, he was visibly comforted by this hymn)

“By Grace I’m Saved”

By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God’s Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav’nly throne.

By grace! On this I’ll rest when dying;
In Jesus’ promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart’s condition,
I also know my Savior’s voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

MESSAGE
"J.O.Y."

Rev. Jim Sprengle
Philippians 1:3-6; 2:3-5a; 3:8-11

PRAYER

P O God, our Father in Heaven:

C **Have Mercy.**

P O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

C **Have Mercy.**

P O God the Holy Spirit, our Counselor:

C **Grant us Your peace.**

P O, how glorious is that Kingdom wherein all the saints rejoice with Christ.

C **They are clothed with white robes and follow the Lamb wherever He goes.**

P Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

C **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

P Loving and merciful God, if it were not for the promise of the resurrection and life eternal, we could not endure the sorrow which has come upon this gathering. Only the assurance of Your continual presence enables us to carry on during these times. Lord, do not let these loved ones mourn as those who have no hope. Comfort them day after day with the precious promise of Your Word. Give them grace to come to You and to find rest for their souls.

Merciful God, You have appointed us to endure trouble and sorrow with our Lord Jesus Christ before we enter with Him into glory. Enable us to be strong in faith to the end and to find peace and joy in the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come. We pray through Jesus.

C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE COMMENDATION

- P** Into Your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend Your servant, Robert Stanley Rekdahl. We humbly ask, Lord, that You acknowledge him as a sheep of Your fold, a lamb of Your flock, and a sinner whom You have redeemed. Receive him into Your merciful arms, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in Heaven.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

(Elderly Simeon spoke the following words when Baby Jesus was presented to him in the temple.)

- P** Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel. *Luke 2:29-32*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

- C** Amen.

HYMN

“When Peace, like a River”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

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

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **(refrain)**

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **(refrain)**

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. **(refrain)**

*Thank you for coming today.
You honor Bob and me with your presence.
All of us are sad and will miss Bob,
but we take comfort in knowing he is
in Heaven with Jesus.*

*The family invites you to join them in the
Community Room for a time of refreshment,
remembrance and fellowship.*

Remembrances:

Ascension Lutheran Church
The Benevolence Fund
or
SnowCap

Officiant: **Rev. Jim Sprengle**

Musicians: **Brad Hall**

Acknowledgements

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CHRISTIAN OBITUARY
ROBERT STANLEY REKDAHL
July 8, 1947 – June 8, 2024



Robert Stanley Rekdahl (Bob), son of Stanley William Rekdahl and Roberta F. Rekdahl (Sperry), was born in Portland, Oregon on July 8, 1947, and died on June 8, 2024, with his wife and family members at his side.

Robert Rekdahl was united in marriage with Deborah Linke on June 17, 1972, at St. John Lutheran Church in Portland. They lived in north Portland for 22 years then

moved to Troutdale in 1994 where he resided until his death. Their love for each other never faltered and they persevered through many health and life issues. Bob and Debbie soon became a dependable and steady team for the extended family. Bob died 9 days before their 52nd anniversary.

Bob was baptized at St. John Lutheran Church by Pastor Ty Miles on Easter Sunday, April 23, 2000, and reaffirmed his love for God at Ascension Lutheran Church on October 1, 2006. He was a member of Ascension at the time of his death.

Bob opened his own business in the 1970s as a gutter subcontractor. He was known by his customers as a guy who would give them an honest bid and an opinion of what could be done. He was fair, honest, and a good listener. People liked that and often referred him to their friends. He had the gutter business until 2016 when he retired.

Bob and Debbie bought a house in Seaside in 2000. The House quickly became a destination for family, friends, a few vacations, countless hours of maintenance and finally a sale in 2022 that helped support their retirement. They jumped at the opportunity to go to the Holy Land in 2007 and loved seeing the land where Jesus walked. They took hundreds of photos and reminisced often while looking through them how fortunate they were to go when they did.

Bob volunteered in many capacities at Ascension – property management, usher, Human Care, Helping Hands, My Father’s House, Snowcap – mostly behind the scenes where he preferred to work.

He will always be remembered as a much-loved uncle to many nieces and nephews, a comforting listener to numerous relatives, a great brother, brother-in law, and a caring friend to many.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Stanley and Roberta Rekdahl-and many relatives.

He is survived by his loving wife, Debbie; his brother, David (Marci); David’s son, Jess (Anita), their sons Tristan and Gaige; David’s son Lucas, and daughter Murphy; brother-in-law, William (Michelle); sisters-in-law, Rebecca and Tamara (Gabriel); and many nieces and nephews.