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To remember and to thank God for the life of
Robert "Bob" Jon Larson

October 13, 1968–May 31, 2024

October 12, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

Gathering Music ♦ Hymn Selections

Welcome

Gathering

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 Bob, to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

Solo

“His Eye is on the Sparrow” –arr. James P. Colman
Kari Kusek, solo

Thanksgiving for Baptism

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new 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.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

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, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever. **Amen.**

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort,
 graciously tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow
 on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through
 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Solo

“It Is Well with My Soul” –arr. John Ness Beck
 Blake Nawa`a, solo

A Life Remembered

Michael Benville, friend
 Bryan Dempsey, friend
 Tom Larson, brother

Solo

“Pie Jesu” from *Requiem* –John Rutter
 Emily Murdock, solo

Reading ♦ Ecclesiastes 3:1–8 ♦ Siri Larson, niece

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

¹For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Revelation 21:1–4 ♦ Mary Stolee, sister-in-law

A reading from Revelation.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

Romans 8:35, 37–39 ♦ Mary Stolee, sister-in-law

A reading from Romans.

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Reading ♦ 1 John 4:7–8, 18–19

A reading from First John.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because [God] first loved us.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon ♦ Pastor Caitlin Trussell

Hymn ♦ ELW 781: Children of the Heavenly Father

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak-eth, God his chil-dren ne'er for - sak - eth;

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur-posal sole - ly to pre-serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune
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Prayers

To each petition the assembly responds:

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord's Prayer **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.**

Commendation

Let us commend Bob to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Robert Jon Larson. 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. **Amen.**

Hymn ♦ ELW 422: For all the Saints

SINE NOMINE



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for-tress, and their might; thou,
Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.
 6 But then there breaks a yet more glo-rious day: the
 7 From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, through



thee by faith be-fore the world con-fessed, thy
 Lord, their cap-tain in the well-fought fight; . . .
 saints tri-um-phant rise in bright ar-ray; the
 gates of pearl streams in the count-less host, . . .



name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.
 thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true light.
 King of glo-ry pass-es on his way.
 sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;

we fee - bly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 soon, soon to faith - ful ser - vants com - eth rest; . . .

all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain and arms are strong.
 sweet is the calm of par - a - dise the blest.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
 Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
 Outside USA: Music from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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Sending Let us go forth in peace, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Solo/Recessional

“Amazing Grace”

“Highland Cathedral” –traditional

Michael Lancaster, bagpiper, good friend

Postlude

“Improvisation on SINE NOMINE”

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Robert “Bob” Jon Larson

October 13, 1968–May 31, 2024

Robert Jon Larson, a lifelong musician whose passion for music resonated through every aspect of his life, passed away on May 31, 2024. Born on October 13, 1968, in Austin MN, Robert’s journey was marked by a deep love for music and an unyielding commitment to his craft. From an early age, Robert exhibited a remarkable talent for music. He began studying piano in the third grade and continued through college, developing a profound appreciation for both classical and contemporary music. As a child growing up in Austin, MN he began to make his mark as a performer in multiple productions with The Matchbox Children’s Theater. Upon moving to Englewood CO in 1982, his musical education continued at Cherry Creek High School, where he sang with the nationally recognized Meistersingers and played the French horn both in band and orchestra. He was also selected to perform the 1st Movement of Beethoven’s Third Piano Concerto, an opportunity sadly cut short by a diagnosis of Hodgkin’s disease during the spring of his senior year. Undeterred, Robert’s musical journey took him to Luther College in Decorah, IA, where he earned a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts Degree in music) and sang as a soloist with the Nordic Choir under the direction of Weston Noble. He was chosen as a baritone soloist for three years (1989–1991) in Luther’s annual performance of Handel’s *Messiah*, a highlight of his music making at Luther. Following graduation, Robert’s musical career continued to grow. For two years he was part of a men’s quartet of Luther classmates, “World-A-Fair,” performing in East Berlin and throughout Germany. In 1995 he globe-hopped to Honolulu, HI, where he served as an assistant music teacher with the Concert Glee Club at Kamehameha High School as well as directed the children’s choir at Central Union Church. During the next three years he was cast in

several productions across the Honolulu musical theater scene, most memorably in the role of “Jinx” in “Forever Plaid” for a sensational six month run.

Upon returning to Denver, Robert directed the adult and children’s choirs at Hope United Methodist Church in Greenwood Village. For 13 years he was also a dedicated member of the choral ensemble, Kantorei. By turns a brilliant musician, actor, and conductor, Robert’s dynamic personality was as memorable as his musical achievements. Known for his wit and humor, he brought joy and laughter to those around him. His passion for music made a lasting impact on everyone he met.

Robert is survived by his father, Richard Larson (Judy Larson). He is also mourned by his brothers, Thomas Larson (Mary Stolee) of Edina, MN and Gregory Larson of Santa Monica, CA, and his niece, Siri Larson, of Edina, MN. He was preceded in death by his mother, Jackie Larson, and four beloved grandparents: Emmett and Doris (Duba) Nystrom of Worthington, MN, and Arnold and Myrene (Meyer) Larson of Garnavillo, IA.

Welcome

- Restrooms and water stations are located downstairs beneath the west entrance; handicapped accessible restrooms are on the east side of the sanctuary in the hallway behind the chancel.
- You are welcome to have your water bottles with you during worship.
- An elevator is available at the Fairfax Street entrance.
- Handicapped parking and entrances are available at the Fairfax Street and Elm Street entrances. Additional parking is available on the south side of the building.
- Please make sure your cell phones are silenced during worship.

Inurnment

Bethany Lutheran Church
Cherry Hills Village, Colorado

Memorials

may be designated to:

Rocky Mountain Cancer Center
<https://rayofhopecolorado.org/donate/>

You are invited

to greet the family at a reception
in Fellowship Hall
following the service.

Worship Leaders

Preacher:

Pastor Caitlin Trussell

Presider:

Pastor Karen Ullestad

Organist and Pianist:

Andrew Peters

Soloists:

Kari Kusek

Blake Nawa`a

Emily Murdock

Bagpiper:

Michael Lancaster

Readers:

Siri Larson

Mary Stolee

Ushers:

Greg Bickle

Emmett Cruson

Rosalee Wanchisen

Livestream:

Jesse Crone