

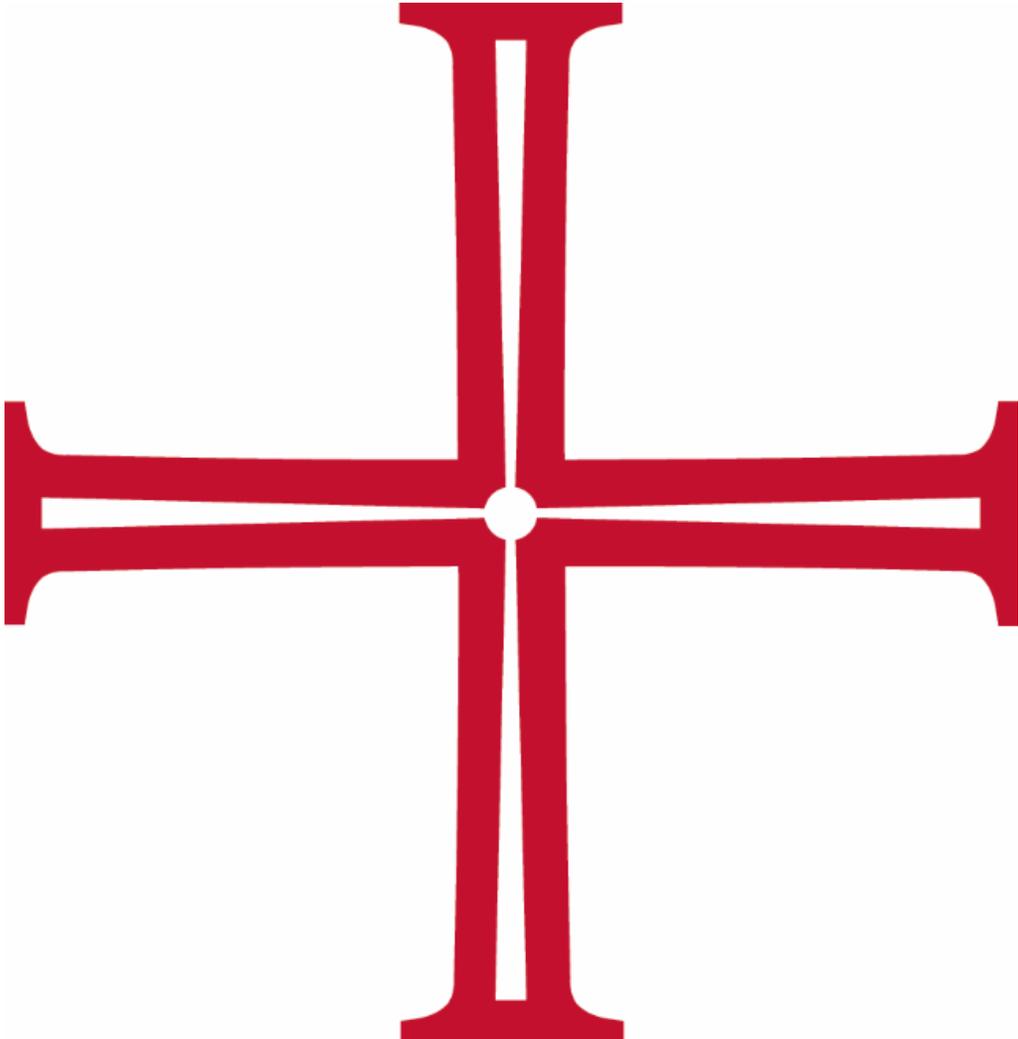
# *A Celebration of Life*

*Jacqueline (Jackie) Rae Risdal*



*August 16, 1930 – June 30, 2025*

*Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church,  
Bellevue, Washington  
September 17, 2025*



*A service of thanksgiving and praise to God  
in loving memory of  
Jacqueline (Jackie) Rae Risdal*

Note: worship leaders will say the light print.  
**The congregation responds/says the BOLD print**

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

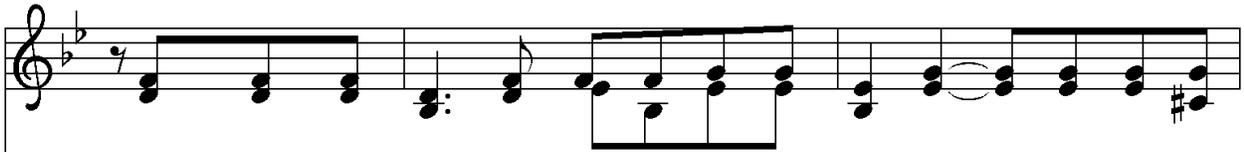
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen,  
to remember before God our sister in Christ, Jackie, to give thanks for her life,  
to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our  
grief.

**Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN

# How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;  
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;  
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;  
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



*Refrain*

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

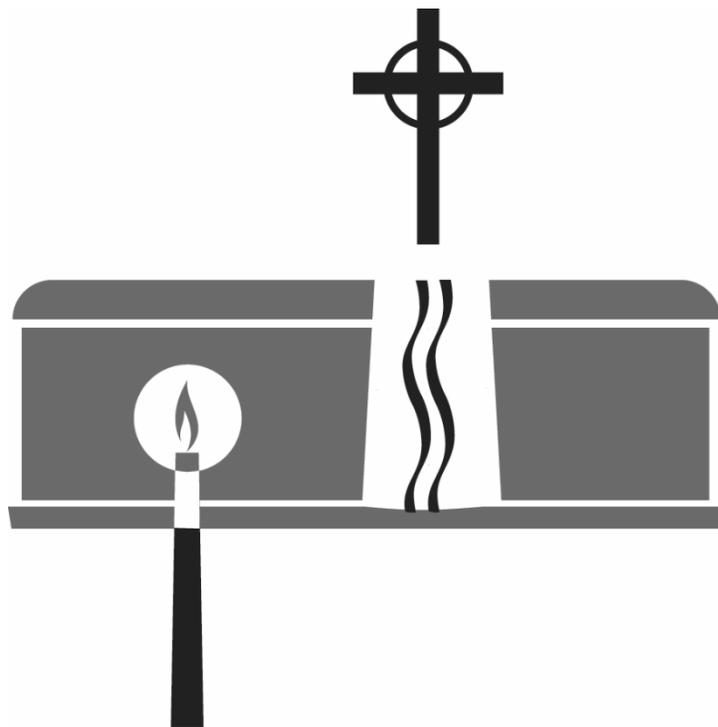
O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister in Christ, Jackie. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**EULOGY**

Greg Risdal



**Sing with All the Saints in Glory**

- 1      *Sing with all the saints in glory,  
sing the resurrection song!  
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,  
to the former days belong.  
All around the clouds are breaking,  
soon the storms of time shall cease;  
in God's likeness we awaken,  
knowing everlasting peace.*
  
- 2      *Oh, what glory, far exceeding  
all that eye has yet perceived!  
Holiest hearts for ages pleading  
never that full joy conceived.  
God has promised, Christ prepares it,  
there on high our welcome waits.  
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it,  
Christ has passed the eternal gates.*
  
- 3      *Life eternal! heav'n rejoices:  
Jesus lives who once was dead.  
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!  
Child of God, lift up your head!  
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders  
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,  
when, amid earth's closing thunders,  
saints shall stand before the throne!*

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**John 15:12-17**

Aaron Davis

[Jesus said:] “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

**Psalm 23**

Diane Honey

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

**Romans 8:35, 37-39**

Kevin Davis

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than victorious 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.

**Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)**

Pastor Lara

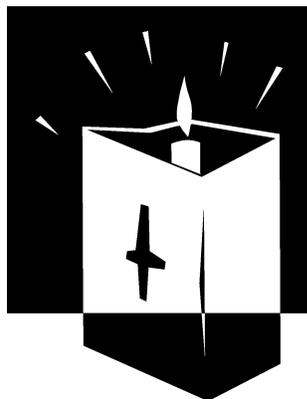
[Jesus said] “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>3</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ “

**HOMILY**

Pastor Lara



*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN

### On Eagle's Wings

Cantor



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain  
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Cantor



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un - der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Cantor

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

*Refrain*

day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Cantor

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

*Final refrain*  
All

And he will raise you up on ea- gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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

*\* here, "catholic" means the wholeness of the church in all times and places.*

## **PRAYERS**

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 Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**MUSIC**

“The Lord’s Prayer”  
*Vanessa Wilkie, soloist*

Paul Isensee

### **THE COMMENDATION**

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

*Silence is kept.*

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Jackie. 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.**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit,  
**Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

## SENDING HYMN

### For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; thou,  
*Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.*  
6 But then there breaks a yet more glorious day: the  
7 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through



thee by faith before the world confessed, thy  
Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; . . .  
saints triumphant rise in bright array; the  
gates of pearl streams in the countless host, . . .



name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.

King of glory passes on his way.  
sing - ing to Father, Son, and Holy 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!

## SENDING

This concludes our service. Let us go in peace,  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

*The family invites you to a reception following in the Fellowship Hall.*



## PARTICIPANTS

Presiding Minister  
Director of Music Ministries/Organist  
Soloist  
Audio  
Video

Pastor Lara Forbes  
Dr. Will Simpson  
Vanessa Wilkie  
Sharon Gurtel  
Kurt Lutterman



# *Jacqueline (Jackie) Rae Risdal*

*August 16, 1930 – June 30, 2025*

Jacqueline (Jackie) was born to Esther Cecila Haarsager Bitzenhofer and Vernon Joseph Bitzenhofer on August 16, 1930, in Casper, Wyoming. “Bitz” to her friends, she attended Natrona County High School and kept busy with activities that included National Honor Society, Girl’s State, Triple Trio (alto), Band Majorettes, Junior Follies, Student Body and Big Sisters. After completing high school both Jackie and her sister Lois graduated from Saint Mark’s Hospital School of Nursing in Utah. Jackie moved to the Green Lake area of Seattle with her mom, Esther Bitzenhofer in 1951 and began working as a nurse in a doctor’s office.

Jackie met the love of her life, Ralph Risdal, at the Sunset Inn in Seattle. She danced with two different young suitors that night but only accepted a second date with Ralph. Jackie and Ralph were married on March 17, 1955, in Billings, Montana and began their life together in Torrence, California. In 1960 Jackie and Ralph, along with their two young children, Greg and Nancy, moved to Bellevue, Washington. In 1989, after raising their family in their first home in the Woodridge neighborhood of Bellevue, they built their dream home on the fairway of “3-North” in the Sahalee community in Sammamish. In 2008 Jackie and Ralph moved to Timber Ridge at Talus in Issaquah, where they socialized with old friends and made many new ones. Jackie’s earlier hobbies included roller skating, biking, and skiing. Throughout most of her life she enjoyed cooking, playing bridge and golfing. She was an active member of the Sahalee Country Club and she and Ralph introduced golf to their grandchildren Aaron and Kevin. When Jackie wasn’t golfing or entertaining family and friends at their home, she and Ralph enjoyed traveling across the country and throughout the world with many of their friends.

Jackie was a long time and active member of Saint Andrews Lutheran Church. Attending worship every Sunday was a given. Many of her and Ralph’s closest friends were from the church bridge group. She taught Sunday School for a short while, rang in the handbell choir with her daughter Nancy, and enjoyed attending Daughters of Norway gatherings. She loved spending time with church sponsored refugee families. She volunteered with Interaction Transition, a program helping people recently released from prison transition back into society. As an older adult, she enjoyed conversing with students in the ESL program at Bellevue College, helping them practice their English skills. In her later years it gave her great joy to send financial support to non-profit groups.

Family was always a priority. Jackie loved attending and sometimes hosting reunions of both her and Ralph's extended families. Around the holidays she would make lefse and Norwegian cookies. Her potato dumplings (with bacon grease poured on top) are a family favorite, as well as her teriyaki flank steak, potato salad and fettucine alfredo.

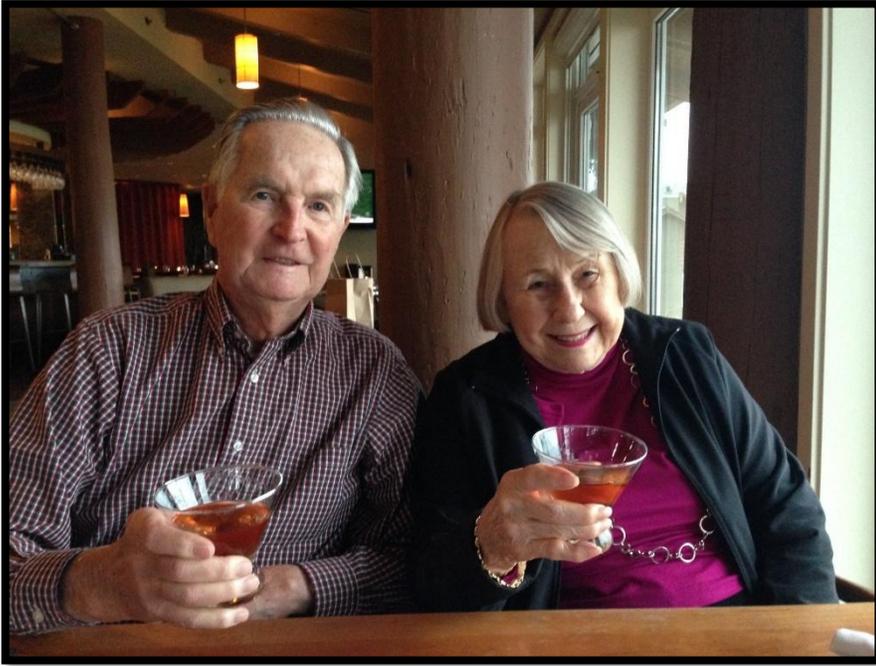
Jackie left this life to be with our Lord on June 30, 2025, in Issaquah, Washington at the age of 94. She was a two-time cancer survivor but succumbed to it when it returned in her later years. She passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. We are so grateful for the compassionate care she received while in Briarwood at Timber Ridge. She was preceded in death by her sister Lois and is survived by her loving husband Ralph, children Greg Risdal (Gail) and Nancy Davis (Mark), grandsons Aaron Davis (Mary) and Kevin Davis (Brynn Olive) and great grandsons Luke and Daniel.

Donations in Jackie's memory may be made to:

- The Carter Center: [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)
- Southern Poverty Law Center: [www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)
- Breakthrough T1D (Formerly Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation): [www.breakthrough1d.org](http://www.breakthrough1d.org)
- Arthritis Foundation: [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org)

An online guestbook can be found at [www.funerals.coop](http://www.funerals.coop)





2650 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98007  
425-746-2529 [www.salc.church](http://www.salc.church)



**LITURGY and MUSIC:**

Unless otherwise noted, liturgy, liturgical music, and hymns are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and All Creation Sings (ACS), and Scripture readings are from New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV.) Liturgy and NRSV text from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress; streamed/reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006660. All rights reserved. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

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