

Celebration of Life
MARY ISABELLE OVERFIELD

November 13, 1943– April 10, 2026



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PRELUDE

WORDS OF 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 Mary, to give thanks for her
life, to commend her to our merciful Redeemer, and to comfort
one another in our grief. **Amen.**

+ 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.**

+ APOSTOLIC 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

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today
our sister Mary. 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 we are gathered
to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FAMILY REFLECTIONS

ANTHEM “*From a Distance*”

sung by Mick Johnson, Mary’s nephew

✠ **WORD** ✠

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE Psalm 139:1-18

- ¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
- ² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.**
- ³ You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
- ⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.**
- ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
- ⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

- 8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.**
- 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,”
- 12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**
- 13 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
- 14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.**
- 17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.**

+ HOLY GOSPEL John 14: 1-6

A reading from the gospel of John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe^a in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ^b ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.”^c ⁵Thomas 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.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Phil Ruud

+ HYMN OF THE DAY

“Borning Cry”

ELW #732

THE PRAYERS

Lord, thank you for the joy that Mary found in the gift of family. Let your Spirit bless family life everywhere and fill all homes with respect, joy, and laughter. Empower family members to live in your grace and forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, thank you for the ways that Mary delighted in your creation including water-skiing and boating on Coon Lake, her Siamese cats, camping, and bird-watching. Help us to be good stewards of the land and water and all that you have made for the sake of the human family and all your creatures.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, thank you for the strength and support that Mary and her husband, Ken, found through their participation in Way of the Cross Church. May your church in all places nurture us in faith and life and lead us to sing your praises.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, thank you for the way Mary could find joy in simple gifts such as playing bridge, playing bingo, sewing, and listening to songs on the radio. Encourage us to look for your blessings in ordinary moments and simple pleasures of everyday life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, thank you for your presence that worked to sustain Mary’s life after her car accident, and in these later years at Three Links Care Center. Thank you for the work of doctors, nurses, and caregivers who help to protect and preserve the precious gift of life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

+ THE 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 forever. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

+ COMMENDATION

Merciful God, we entrust Mary to your eternal care.
Look upon her with favor and joy,
as a child of your own creation,
a sheep from your own fold,
a sinner you redeemed with love on the cross.
Receive her into your holy presence, into your everlasting peace,
into the light and song of all your saints. **Amen.**
Rest eternal grant to Mary, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon her.

+ BENEDICTION

Even and especially in this loss, may you be enfolded by God's grace,
borne up by love, and steadied by the presence of the Spirit. **Amen.**

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Amen.**

We sing our farewell to this beloved member of our community.

+ SENDING HYMN *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* ELW #781

POSTLUDE

You are invited to a reception in the Christian Life Center.

Pastor
Pastor Phil Ruud

organ & piano
Megan Engel

Bulletins provided with love by Bethel Lutheran Church

