



Martha Jane (Ames) Rasmussen

March 24, 2026

November 2, 1937
birth

March 8, 2026
death

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Abide with Me" *Setting, Isaac Drewes*
"Morning Has Broken" *Gaelic Tune, arr. Gary Lanier*

GREETING AND WELCOME

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

AU **And also with you.**

P 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.

AU **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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
O God of grace and glory,
we remember before you today our sister, Martha Jane.
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 your aid, so we may see in death the gate to eternal life,
that we may continue our course on earth in confidence
until, by your call, we are reunited

with those who have gone before us;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

AU **Amen.**

HYMN

"Morning Has Broken"

(hymn) 556

WORD

READINGS

*Each reading will end, "Word of God. Word of life."
Please respond "Thanks be to God."*

First Reading

Psalm 100

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel

John 11:17-27

SERMON

HYMN

"I Know That My Redeemer Lives!"

(hymn) 619
stanzas 1, 2, 7 & 8

CREED

P We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

AU **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 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.

THE PRAYERS

*Each petition will end "God of mercy,"
Please respond "hear our prayer."*

LORD'S PRAYER (1975)

Al 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.

MUSICAL REMEMBRANCE

Suite Antique, movement I. Prelude

John Rutter

REMEMBRANCE

"I guess we're doing this now."

SENDING

HYMN

"I Love to Tell the Story"

(hymn) 661

FAREWELL AND COMMENDATION

P Martha, our companion in faith,
we entrust you to God.
Go forth from this world in the love of God who created you,
in the mercy of Jesus who died for you,
in the power of the Holy Spirit who receives and protects you.

Al May you rest in peace and rise in glory,
where pain and grief are banished,
and life and joy are yours forever.

P Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant, Martha Jane.
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.

P Rest eternal grant her, O Lord;

Al and let light perpetual shine upon her.

BLESSING

P The risen Christ give you all joy and peace in believing
that you may abound in hope.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

Al Amen.

Let us go forth in peace.

Al In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"In Thee is Gladness," BWV 615

Setting, Johann Sebastian Bach

The congregation is invited to gather for a reception and mutual conversation and consolation.

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Brian Gutzmann	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>preaching</i>
Angela Resch, <i>granddaughter</i>	
Sandy Rogers, <i>close friend</i>	<i>readers</i>
Chris Hickman, <i>son-in-law</i>	<i>remembrances</i>
Polly Henderson	<i>flautist</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>organist</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>sound operator</i>

PALLBEARERS

Theodore Dahlén	Douglas Rasmussen
Arthur Erdmann	Keith Resch
Al Gjengdahl	Erik Schwarzkopf

MEMORIALS may be directed to:

Central Lutheran Church

ENTOMBMENT

In the Central Lutheran Columbarium at a later date.

THANK YOU

Martha's family would like to thank you for your support, thoughts, prayers, and for your shared memories and presence today.

This service is being streamed live on the internet. www.centralmpls.org



Martha Rasmussen

1937 – 2026



Martha Jane Rasmussen (Ames), 88, of Minneapolis, Minnesota passed away on March 8, 2026. Born in Superior, Wisconsin on November 2, 1937, to Erwin and Jane Ames, the second of three daughters. She graduated from Superior East High School in 1955, and Wisconsin State College - Superior in 1959 with a B.S. in Music Education. Martha excelled as a high school and college flute player, developing a lifelong love of music.

Martha married Bruce Rasmussen in 1959 and moved to Minneapolis where she continued her flute studies under Emil Niosi of the Minneapolis Symphony and taught in the music department at St. Paul Central High School. She greatly enjoyed co-directing Broadway musicals such as *The King and I*.

With the birth of their third child, Martha became a homemaker and taught private flute lessons, presenting annual student recitals. After several years, she re-entered the workforce teaching band at private and religious schools. She learned to play all the instruments which made a fun home life for her children. She was community-minded: supporting the Hale/Field pairing of 1971, participating in Mother Singers', PTA and more.

Martha made a significant career change in the mid-1970's into the newly deregulated telephone industry. She had a successful career, starting in sales, and ultimately retiring as a project manager from US WEST. During these years she met many of her lifelong friends.

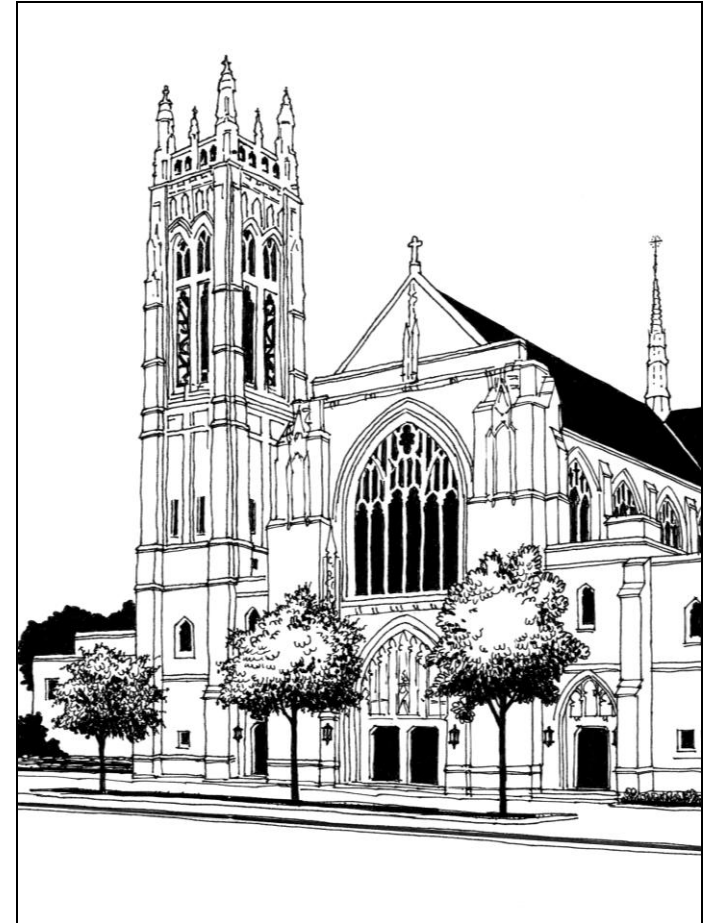
Martha was a faithful Christian, first as a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Superior, and then as a longtime member of Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Her faith grew during her life as she studied scripture, attended Bible study, and participated in many aspects of church life. She believed that God sees and knows all of us. Her love of books, and all types of literature including poetry, fiction and non-fiction were a great source of joy for her, which she loved to share with others.

She was an adventurous world traveler and visited many exotic locations including China, Mongolia, Russia, Cambodia, Thailand, Turkey, Europe and Scandinavia.

In her retirement, she enjoyed condo living downtown, loved spending time with her grandchildren and friends, and she took up many new hobbies. Martha lived a life of faith and courage, she was known for her positive attitude and appreciated by all who had the good fortune to know her.

Martha is survived by children Dana (Chris Hickman), Derek, Kristin Resch; their father Bruce Rasmussen; grandchildren Theo Dahlén (April), Keith Resch (Jamee Fox), Angela Resch, Darcy Resch; great grandchildren Felix, Noah, Arlo, Eliza; sisters Mary Wolff and Julie Ann Craig. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, and many cherished friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents Jane B. Ames and Erwin Ames, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Richard and Donna Rasmussen. Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them all.



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