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Mary Elizabeth (Beetsch) Longman

November 4, 2026

April 29, 1951	*October 25, 2026*
birth	*death*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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.

All **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.

All **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, Mary Elizabeth.
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.

All **Amen.**

HYMN *(hymn)* **785**

"When Peace like a River"

WORD

READINGS

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

First Reading	Psalm 23
Second Reading	Philippians 4:4-9
Gospel	Mark 12:41-44

SERMON

HYMN *(hymn)* **294**

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CREED

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

All **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 *(1789)*

All **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.

REMEMBRANCES

SENDING

HYMN *(hymn)* **773**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

FAREWELL AND COMMENDATION

P Mary, 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.

All **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, Mary Elizabeth.

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;

All **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.

All **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Stephanie Friesen	*preaching*
Pastor Melissa Pohlman	*presiding*
Jessica Noreen, *niece*	*reading*
Ben Longman, *son*	*remembrances*
Isaac Drewes	*organist*
Mark Kieffer	*sound operator*

MEMORIALS may be directed to:
Central Lutheran Church

ENTOMBMENT
Central Lutheran Columbarium

THANK YOU
Mary's family thanks you for your presence today, your prayers, and shared sorrow.

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

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Mary Longman

1951 – 2026

"Held"

Well here we are. I knew it would come.
I pondered it, I contemplated it.
It's hard to make a decision and it's hard to see.
I'll wait it out for a while, then I'll take another step.
The sky is still there and the ground is in place and that's good.
The opinions begging for attention will have to take a raincheck

because my mom was a wonderful cook.

I walk the same floor as I have for years,
yet my legs kind of wobble.
I sit in a chair for the millionth time yet now it takes more effort.
No I won't be listening to the culture's demands

because my mom loved soft pillows and cozy quilts.

A few day ago the air felt good and then hot and then cold.
I was going to go for a walk yet couldn't make it past the door.
"I still like these things," I say but they'll be there later.
I can't have certain conversations now

because my mom loved her coffee with lots of cream.

Still, though, I can see in the distance the one bright ray that somehow
makes it all the way to me.
To my shaky hands and legs and that now unpleasant chair.
Even through the phony noise of false advertising that bright ray comes,
and I am held and uplifted on the shoulders
and backs of this loving community here,
lifted just high enough to see that bright ray.
It's calling me.
It's lighting the way, and it won't stop.

because Jesus is that bright ray.

With angels and the Holy Spirit
Herself and God's unconditional love.
And all the saints are all who have come and gone before us,
with my mom.
Now fully free.
Now fully loving.

because my mom was a strong woman.

And my now saint mom loved to sing the hymns right back there,
in that row, in that pew, in this church.
I love you mom!
Thanks be to God!

~ by Ben Longman

Rest eternal grant her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

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