

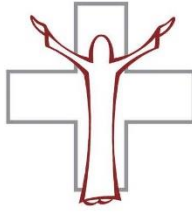
*Join us as we
celebrate the life of*



Mary Howden

1942 - 2026

*Well done My good
and faithful servant.*



A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

Stand

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

- P** In Holy Baptism Mary Howden was clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covered all her sin. St. Paul says, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?"
- C** **We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of 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.**

Romans 6:3-5

HYMN ~ I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

J. Ylvisaker

1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you
3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger

old. I re - joiced the day you were bap - tized to
on; you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to
young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, com -

see your life un - fold. I was there when you were but a
whomyou now be - long. If you find some-one to share your
plete what I've be - gun. When the eve - ning gent-ly clos - es

child, with a faith to suit you well;
time and you join your hearts as one,
in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan - dered off to
 I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from
 I'll be there as I have al - ways been with

find where de - mons dwell."
 dusk till ris - ing sun."
 just one more sur - prise." 4 "I was there to hear your
 born - ing cry, I'll be there when you are old. I re -
 joined the day you were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold."

Text: John Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 Music: John Ylvisaker, b. 1937
 © 1985 John Ylvisaker

WATERLIFE
 9796D

INTROIT

Psalm 139:1-10; antiphon v. 7

- P** Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
- C** **O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.**
You know my sitting down and my rising up;
You understand my thought afar off.
- P** You comprehend my path and my lying down,
And are acquainted with all my ways.
- C** **For *there is not a word on my tongue,***
But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
- P** You have hedged me behind and before,
And laid Your hand upon me.
- C** ***Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;***
It is high, I cannot attain it.
- P** Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?
- C** **If I ascend into heaven, You *are there*;**
If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.
- P** *If I take the wings of the morning,*
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- C** **Even there Your hand shall lead me,**
And Your right hand shall hold me.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- P** Where can I go from Your Spirit?
Or where can I flee from Your presence?

KYRIE

Mark 10:47

- P** Lord, have mercy upon us.
- C** **Christ, have mercy upon us.**
Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for Your loving-kindness shown to Mary Howden and to all Your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Grant that we also may be faithful unto death and receive the crown of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

FIRST READING ~ Acts 4:8-12

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the ‘*stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.*’ ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ENSEMBLE ~ Be Strong in the Lord

T. Fettke

SECOND READING ~ Revelation 14:13

¹³ Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE

P If we have died with Christ,
We shall also live with Him;

C if we are faithful to the end,
We shall reign with Him.

2 Timothy 2:11b-12a

EPISTLE ~ 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “*Death is swallowed up in victory.*” ⁵⁵ “*O Death, where is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory?*” ⁵⁶ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL ~ John 6:35-40

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. ⁴⁰ And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

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!

SERMON ~ "Right Hand Sheep"

Matthew 25:31-40

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray to the Lord, our God and Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

P Almighty God, You have knit Your chosen people together into one communion in the mystical body of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Give to Your whole Church in heaven and on earth Your light and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may die to sin and rise to newness of life and so pass with Him through the gate of death and the grave to our joyful resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant that all who have been nourished by the holy body and blood of Your Son may be raised to immortality and incorruption to be seated with Him at Your heavenly banquet. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give to the family of Mary Howden and to all who mourn comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in Your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on You, they may know the consolation of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Give courage and faith to the bereaved, that within the communion of Your Church they may have strength to meet the days ahead in the assurance of a holy and certain hope and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those they love who have departed in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive our thanks for Mary and for all the blessings You bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see You face to face in the joys of paradise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God of all grace, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to bring life and immortality to light. We give You thanks that by His death He destroyed the power of death and by His resurrection He opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Strengthen us in the confidence 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, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER ~ Sung by Soloist

Matthew 6:9-13

NUNC DIMITTIS

P "I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

C Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel. *Luke 2:29-32*
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P “I am the resurrection and the life,” says the Lord. “He who believes
in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes
in Me will never die.” *John 11:25-26*

CONCLUDING COLLECT

P The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C And also with you.

P Let us pray.
God our strength and our Redeemer, You do not leave us in this life
nor abandon us in death. Hear our prayer for those grieve, when days
are full of darkness and the future seems empty of hope. Renew in
them Your sustaining strength, for we believe that there is nothing in
all creation that can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our
Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.
C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord. *[Psalm 103:1]*
C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

✠ *Soli Deo Gloria* ✠

1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His

in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose

heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Acknowledgments

Funeral Service from Lutheran Service Book ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder ©2006 Concordia Publishing House.

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

Officiant	<i>Rev. Steven S. Billings</i>
Assistant	<i>Rev. Keith GeRue</i>
Organist	<i>Mrs. Nancy Lephart</i>
Elders on Duty	<i>Robert Allen Bruce Gast Bart Nielsen Craig Thomas</i>
Pall Bearers	<i>David Howden Eric Howden Tony Wright Charles Howden Jared Chowaniec Rob Dernbach</i>
Ensemble*	<i>Tammy Collier Rev. James Dehne Connie Henkel Dottie Krause Bart Nielsen Karen Perry Lynn Schroeder JoAnn Schultz Jane Stier</i>

* May include others not listed



Mary C. Howden entered eternal peace in her Savior's arms on January 30, 2026 after a two year courageous battle with cancer.

Mary was born July 23, 1942, in Janesville, Wisconsin to the late George Howden and Miriam Irene Mansur Howden. The family moved to the Appleton area when Mary was 8 years of age. She attended St. Therese Elementary School in Appleton and Appleton High School, graduating in 1961. Mary began her medical career

by initially becoming an LPN and went on to become an RN at Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Janesville. She did not stop there but went on to obtain a BSN at Alverno College in Milwaukee. Mary took pride in her nursing career, with 34 1/2 years spent at Theda Clark Hospital in Neenah, now Theda Care, Neenah. Mary retired from Theda Clark in 2002. She then became the parish nurse of her church, Trinity Lutheran in Menasha.

Mary was a member of numerous lineage organizations including the Mayflower Society, New England Women, Daughters of Founders and Patriots, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Mary was elected to serve DAR as the Appleton Regent four times and Wisconsin's State Regent from 1995 to 1997. She was recognized as a DAR Honorary State Regent and remained an active member serving both her chapter's DAR Good Citizen's committee and the state Fort Winnebago Surgeons Quarters (FWSQ) advisory committee until her passing.

Mary is survived by one brother, Michael Howden, of Milwaukee, sisters in law, Marilyn Howden of San Jose, California and Margaret Howden of New Glarus, WI, nine nieces and nephews, Terese (Tony) Wright, Wauwatosa, WI, David (Linda) Howden, Los Angeles, California, Eric(Gina) Howden, Dousman, WI, Sarah Howden (Francisco), Holly Springs, North Carolina, Kathleen (Casey) Lawrence of Vashon Island, Washington, Christopher (Edie)

Howden, Santa Clara, CA, Charles (Stacy) Howden, Onalaska, WI, Annie (Jared) Chowaniec, Blanchardville, WI, Maxim Howden, New Glarus, WI, eleven great nieces and nephews, cousins, her Trinity Family, the Eugene Krull and the Ron Kraus Families, and a host of friends. Along with her parents, Mary was also preceded in death by two brothers, Thomas and Charles Howden. Mary loved people and devoted her life to serving her Lord by serving others and enriching their lives with love and humor.

Mary was so very grateful for the visits from Pastor Billings, Pastor GeRue, and Pastor Kinne and numerous parishioners of Trinity Lutheran Church, Menasha, plus family and friends. We express our heartfelt gratitude to the caring staff at Appleton Retirement Community, where she was a resident from 2020 to her passing, and Moments Hospice for their love and support during her last few days of life.