

*Celebration of Life Service*  
*Marilyn Joan Willer Thomsen*  
*August 3, 1940—April 22, 2025*



Lord of Love Lutheran Church  
10405 Fort Street  
Omaha, NE 68134

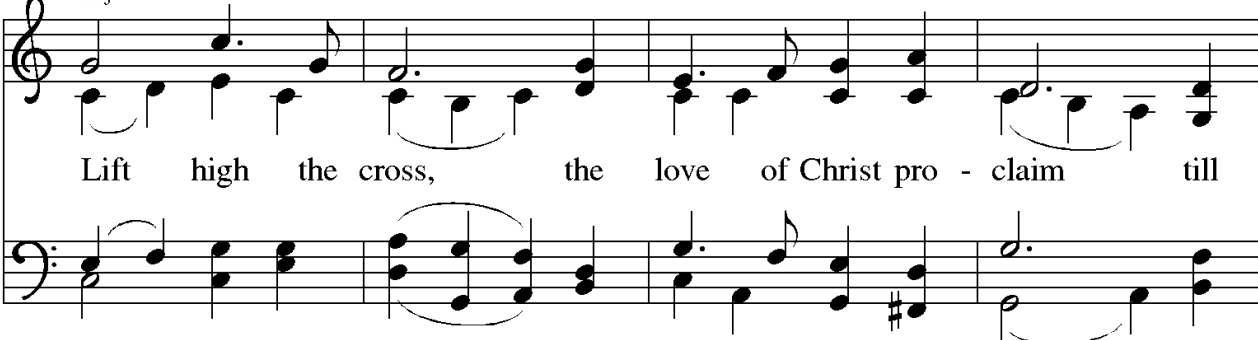
Welcome in the name of Jesus the Savior, who died and was raised to new life by the grace of God. We are gathered here to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, to remember before God our sister Marilyn, to give thanks for her life, to commend her to our merciful redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

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.

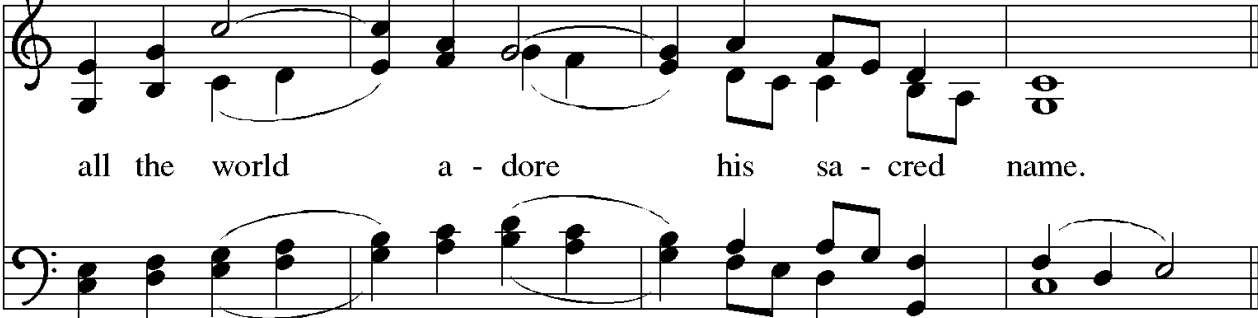
# Hymn: "Lift High the Cross"

ELW # 660


*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

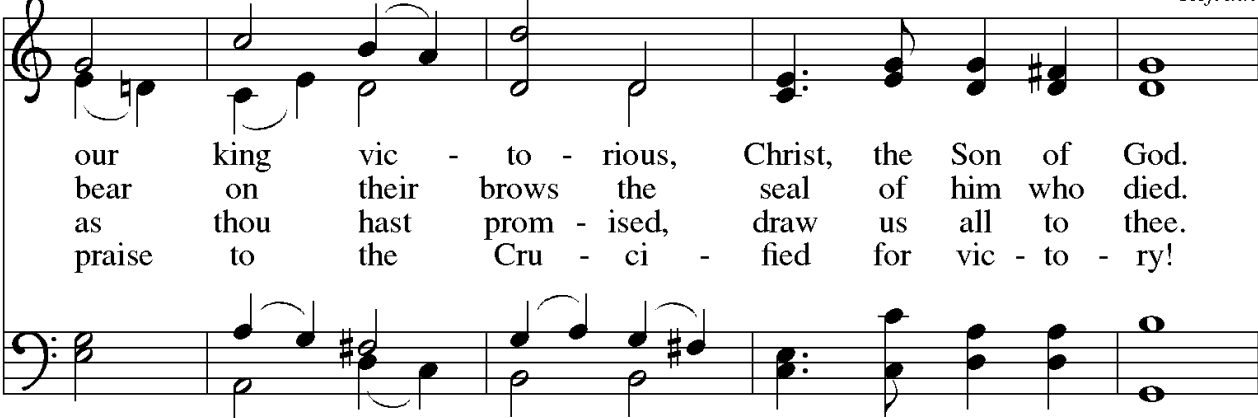


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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.**

Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our sister in Christ, Marilyn. 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. Illumine our lives, 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.

**Amen.**

### ***Scripture Readings***

#### **Isaiah 43:1-3a (NRSV)**

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

#### **Psalm 150 (NRSV)**

Praise the LORD!  
Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!  
**Praise him for his mighty deeds;**  
**praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**  
Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!  
**Praise him with tambourine and dance;**  
**praise him with strings and pipe!**  
Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!  
**Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!**  
**Praise the LORD!**

**Romans 12:1-8 (Living Bible)** - *This was Marilyn's call to administrative work.*

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

**I Corinthians 10:13 (NRSV)** - *This is the verse that kept Marilyn going in rough times.*

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in the flow'rs of spring;  
 bright in the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,

light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

## Gospel: John 14:2-7

(Jesus said,) "In 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? And 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. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

### Homily:

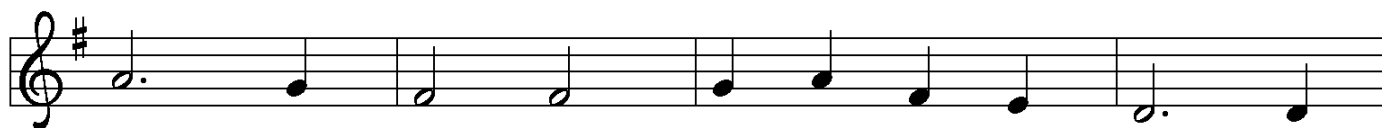
Pastor Becky Sells

### Hymn: "For All the Saints"

ELW #422



1 For all the saints who from their labors rest, who  
2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might; thou,  
*Stanzas 3-5 on facing page.*  
6 But then there breaks a yet more glo - rious day: the  
7 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



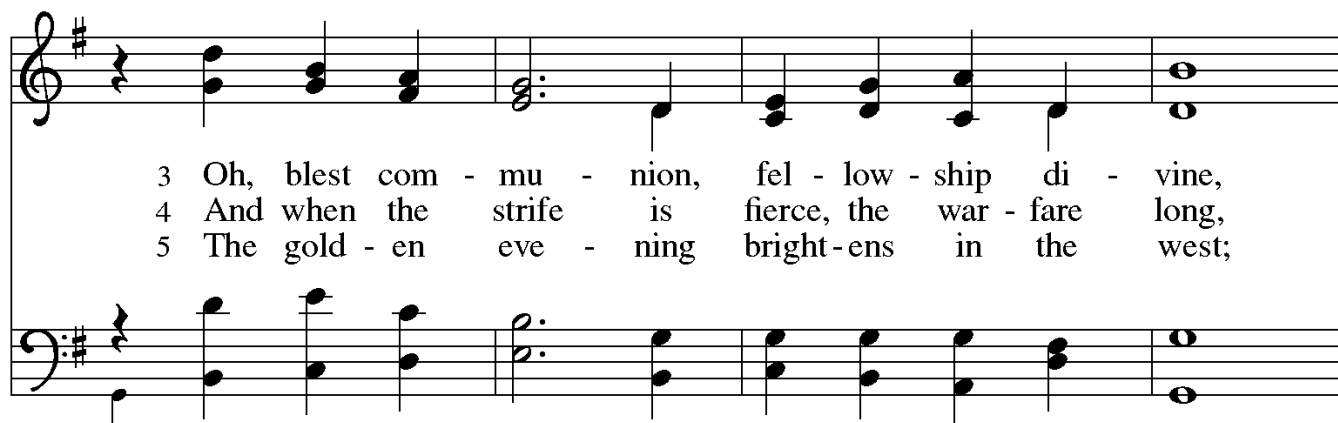
thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy  
Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight; . . .  
saints tri - um - phant rise in bright ar - ray; the  
gates of pearl streams in the count - less host, . . .



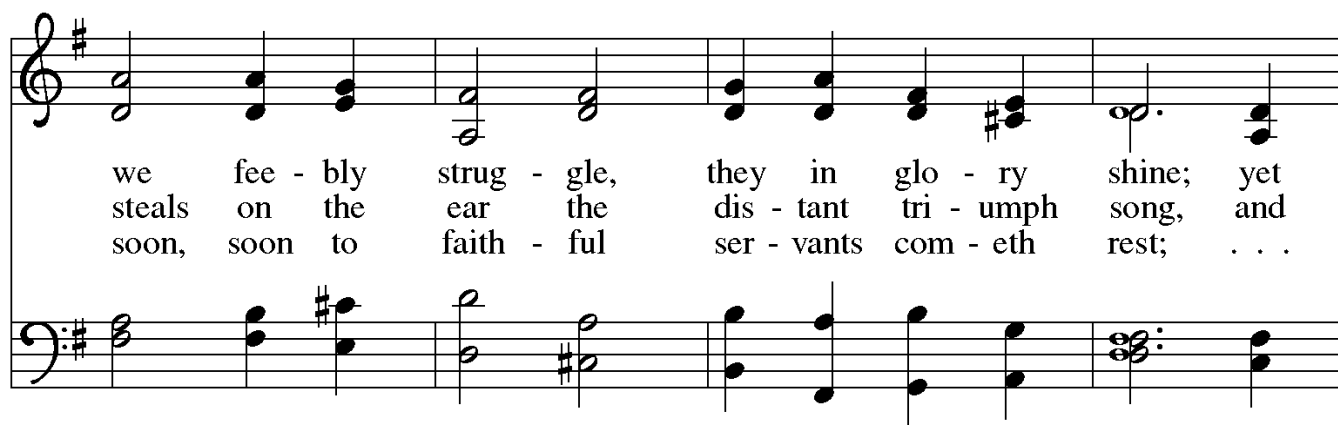
name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.  
thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.  
King of glo - ry pass - es on his way.  
sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost:



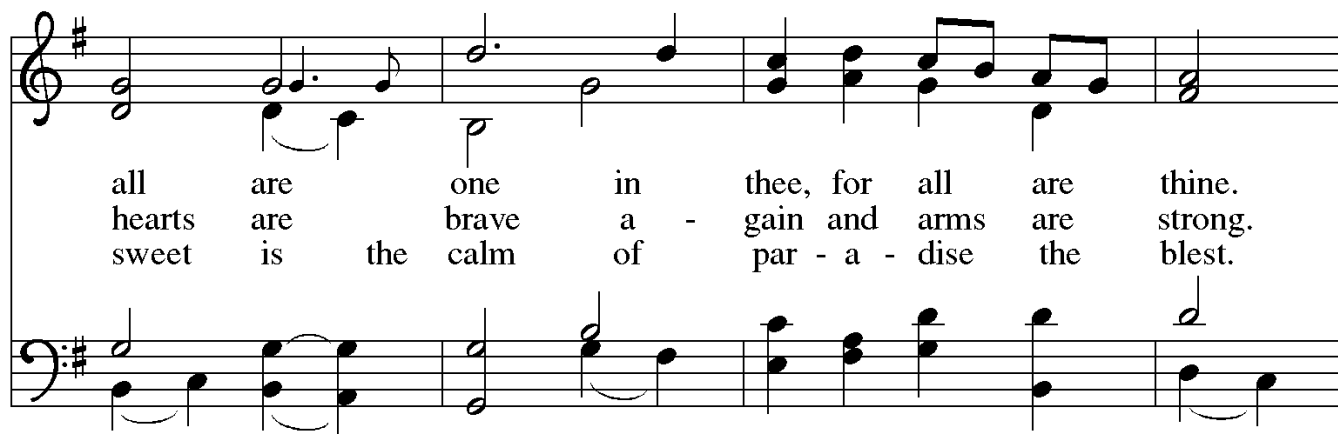
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



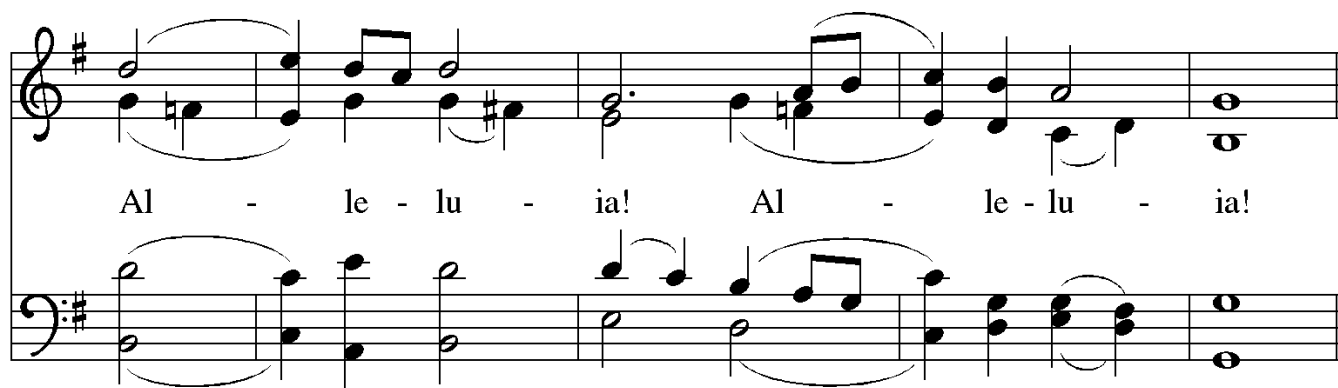
3 Oh, blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine,  
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,  
 5 The gold - en eve - ning bright - ens in the west;



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!

### ***Apostles' Creed***

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

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

### ***Prayers of Intercession***

P: 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 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 shall 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. **Amen.**

### ***Service of Holy Communion***

#### ***\*The Great Thanksgiving***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### ***\*Words of Institution***

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for remembrance of me.

#### ***\*Lord's Prayer***

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

### ***Invitation to Communion***

Come. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Distribution Music:** *"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## Blessing from the table

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## Commendation

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

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

## Sending

Let us go forth in peace.

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

## Hymn: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;  
2 Crown him the vir - gin's Son, the God in - car - nate born,  
3 Crown him the Lord of love— be - hold his hands and side,  
4 Crown him the Lord of life, who tri - umphed o'er the grave  
5 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time,

hark, how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.  
whose arm those crim-son tro - phies won which now his brow a - dorn;  
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.  
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.  
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fab - ly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
 fruit of the mys - tic rose, yet of that rose the stem,  
 No an - gels in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,  
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,  
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less king through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 the root whence mer - cy ev - er flows, the babe of Beth - le - hem.  
 but down - ward bend their burn - ing eyes at mys - ter - ies so bright.  
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.  
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

**Honorary Pallbearers:** (Her nieces and nephews) Shayla Willer, Andy Swanson, Neal Willer, Paul Swanson, Rachel Willer, Kristie Willer

**Pastor:** Rev. Becky Sells

**Organist:** Carol Novak

**Technical Directors:** Chris Rich, Renae Rich

**Sound Board:** Jon Novak

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## **Obituary for Marilyn Joan Willer Thomsen**

August 3, 1940 - April 22, 2025

Marilyn Thomsen, 84, died in Thousand Oaks, California, April 22, 2025.

She was born in Akron, Iowa, in 1940 to George and Ella Willer.

A memorial service is scheduled at Lord of Love, 10405 Fort St, Omaha, NE 68134, on May 16. Visitation will start at 5:30 p.m. and the service at 6:30 p.m. Burial is scheduled May 17 at 11 a.m. at Riverside Cemetery, Hwy 12 and C16 in Akron, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Lord of Love or the American Cancer Society are encouraged. Those who want to bring flowers are asked to bring a single rose, her favorite.

Marilyn Joan Thomsen was born in Akron in 1940 to George and Ella Willer, growing up on their farm outside of town.

Marilyn graduated from Le Mars High School and was the first person in her family to attend college, earning her bachelor's degree from the University of South Dakota.

After graduation, she went to work at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. She started as a medical technologist in the blood bank and over a 40-year career rose to manager of the pathology center.

Marilyn was an active member of Lord of Love Lutheran Church in Omaha, serving a variety of roles, including membership on the Church Council and Council President.

Marilyn survived breast cancer twice. Throughout her cancer journey, she engaged in many events supporting the American Cancer Society.

Later in her life, she moved west to be close to her son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren, first in Edmonds, Washington, then in Thousand Oaks, California.

Marilyn is survived by her son, Scott Thomsen; daughter-in-law, Lynn Thomsen; grandchildren, Savannah Thomsen, Jonathon Lamb, Blaise Lamb and Lexi Maloney; two great granddaughters; her brothers, Curtis Willer and Rolin Willer; and her sister, Karen Swanson and brother-in-law, Julian Swanson.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents.