



Mandy Thursday April 2, 2026

As We Gather

On Maundy Thursday, even in the midst of darkness, Christ instituted a victory meal—his true body and blood. Job 41 is also all about victory.

God's victory over that same evil foe, who still means deadly woe!

The Invocation

- P** Holy God, Holy and most merciful Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- C** Bless us and renew us on our journey to the Cross

A Time of Confession

- P** For the unity of the church let us confess our sins to God and to one another, and share with one another the grace and mercy of God.

P & A - I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins and bring me to everlasting life.

- C** **The Almighty and merciful Lord, grant you pardon, forgiveness and remission of all Your sins! Amen.**

A pause for reflection

- P** We confess our sins.
- C** **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins and bring me to everlasting life.**
- P** The Almighty and merciful Lord, grant you pardon, forgiveness and remission of all Your sins! Amen.

LSB 623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844–1932, alt.

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Prayer

The Prayer of the Day

A The Lord be with you

C **And also with you.**

A We pray...

Almighty and eternal God, since you sent your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon himself, and to suffer death upon the cross, mercifully grant that we may patiently follow the example of his great humility, and share in his resurrection, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Old Testament Reading

Job 41:20–34

²⁰Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke,
as from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

²¹His breath kindles coals,
and a flame comes forth from his mouth.

²²In his neck abides strength,
and terror dances before him.

²³The folds of his flesh stick together,
firmly cast on him and immovable.

²⁴His heart is hard as a stone,
hard as the lower millstone.

²⁵When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid;
at the crashing they are beside themselves.

²⁶Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail,
nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin.

²⁷He counts iron as straw,
and bronze as rotten wood.

²⁸The arrow cannot make him flee;
for him sling stones are turned to stubble.

²⁹Clubs are counted as stubble;
he laughs at the rattle of javelins.
³⁰His underparts are like sharp potsherds;
he spreads himself like a threshing sledge on the mire.
³¹He makes the deep boil like a pot;
he makes the sea like a pot of ointment.
³²Behind him he leaves a shining wake;
one would think the deep to be white-haired.
³³On earth there is not his like,
a creature without fear.
³⁴He sees everything that is high;
he is king over all the sons of pride."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:17–30

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been

better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

LSB 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev’ry need
That hath us now o’ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
 Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
 Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
 Of Sabaoth Lord,
 And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
 All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
 They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
 He can harm us none.
 He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain
 Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
 With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
 Though these all be gone,
 Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.
Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther, 1483–1546
Text: Public domain

Sermon Why-On Earth is Not His Equal" Job 41:2-34

The Creed - *From Luther's explanation to the second article of the Apostle's Creed*

P People of God, what do you believe about Jesus?

C **I believe 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.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased won me from all sins, death and the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. Amen.**

The Offering "One Bread, One Body" Emily Wood

Service of the Sacrament

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Church Prays – **“Thank you Lord for blessing us so that we may be a blessing to others. Amen.”**

The Prayers

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 ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples' feet.

What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
"Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood."

One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev'ry place and time.

One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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LSB 446 Jesus, Greatest at the Table

Jesus, greatest at the table,
The almighty Son of Man,
Laid aside His outer clothing,
Poured some water in a pan;
As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,
He the servant's task began.

Marvel how their Lord and teacher
Gently taught them not to vie
As He humbly knelt before them,
Dusty feet to wash and dry,
By His tender touch expressing
True compassion from on high.

Jesus took the role of servant
When upon that gruesome span,
For all human sin He suffered
As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water
To fulfill the Father's plan.

Can we fathom such deep mercy?
Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal:
Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,
For the many dies the One.

Jesus gave to His disciples
A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another,
Do as I have done for you;
All the world will know you love Me
As you love each other too."

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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Stripping of the Altar - Vocal Ensemble "Stay with Me"

Preface

The altar is now stripped of all adornment in preparation for Good Friday. We ask that you sit in **complete silence** until this is completed. Then depart in silence until you reach your car and head home.

Acknowledgments

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