St. John's of Hatboro
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Faith - Service - Community

Maundy Thursday Worship
April 2, 2026

The Good News for Today: The Body of Christ is more than bread.

Thank you for worshiping with us at St. John's. Please fill out your yellow attendance card and place it in the offering plate when we collect the offering later in the service.

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Gathering Music

STAND

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil; all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. Gathered together by the Holy Spirit let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by

his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn: O Sacred Head Now Wounded (ELW 351 / Red Book)

1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

2 How pale thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does thy face now languish,
which once was bright as morn!
Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the deadly pain.

3 What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever,
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

4 Lord, be my consolation;
shield me when I must die;
remind me of thy passion
when my last hour draws nigh.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall never move;
for all who die believing
die safely in thy love.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, d. 1250; tr. Composite

Welcome & Greeting

Welcome to St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

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.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray… Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Readings

Exodus 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

1The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2This month shall mark for you
the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3Tell the whole
congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each
family, a lamb for each household. 4If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall
join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the
number of people who eat of it.

11This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff
in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. 12For I will
pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the
land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute
judgments: I am the Lord. 13The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you
live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I
strike the land of Egypt.14This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall
celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as
a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 *(Read responsively)*

1I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

2**for the LORD has given ear to me**
whenever I called.

12How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

13**I will lift the cup of salvation**
and call on the name of the LORD.

14I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

15**Precious in your sight, O LORD,**
is the death of your servants.

16O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

[17]**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving**
and call upon the name of the LORD.

[18]I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

[19]**in the courts of the LORD's house,**
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

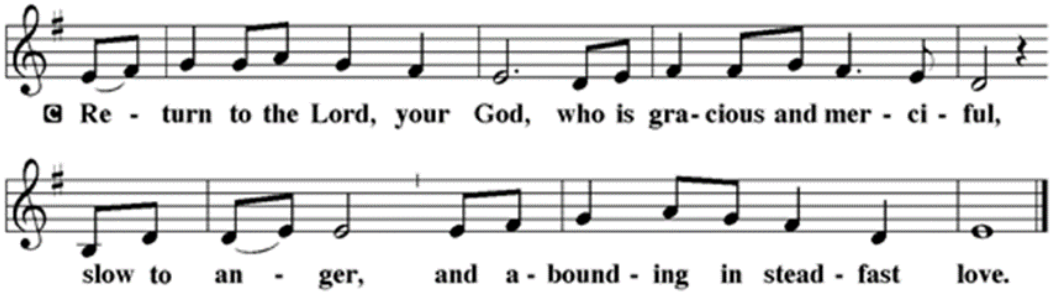
In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

[23]For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, [24]and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." [25]In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." [26]For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[1]Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. [2]The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon

Iscariot to betray him. And during supper 3Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, 4got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 5Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. 6He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered,

"Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." 9Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." 11For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." 12After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? 13You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. 14So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. 16Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. 17If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

31b"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – "The Mandate Effect" – Pastor Bo Bannister

Hymn: A New Commandment (WOV 664 / Blue Book)

A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall people know you are my disciples,
if you have love one for another;
by this shall people know you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

Text: John 13:34-35

The Apostle's Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

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

On this night when Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

A brief silence.

Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

SIT

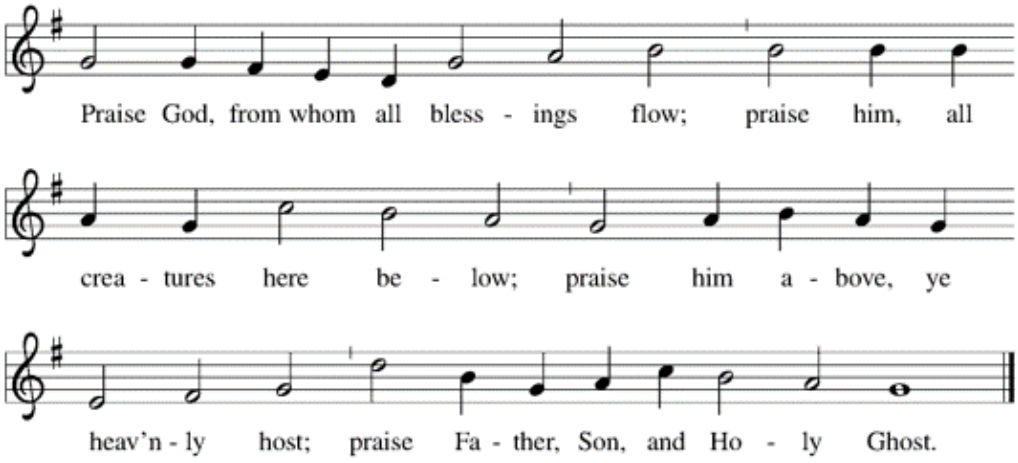
Announcements

Printed copies of our weekly announcements are available at the usher's stand in the narthex, and monthly newsletters are on the Hospitality Table. Please include your email address on your yellow attendance card to receive announcements electronically.

Offering

STAND

Offertory Hymn: Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow (ELW 885 / Red Book)



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

St. John's practices open communion; all are invited to the Table. You do not need to be a member of St. John's or any church to receive what Christ has freely given to all. As the ushers dismiss your row, you may come forward through the center aisle. Pre-filled cups contain grape juice, and empty cups will be filled with wine at the rail. Please let us know if you'd like a gluten-free wafer. If you are unable to come to the rail but would like to receive communion, please let the ushers know and we will come to you. It is our general practice that young children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing; however, if parents desire their children to receive communion, they are welcome.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

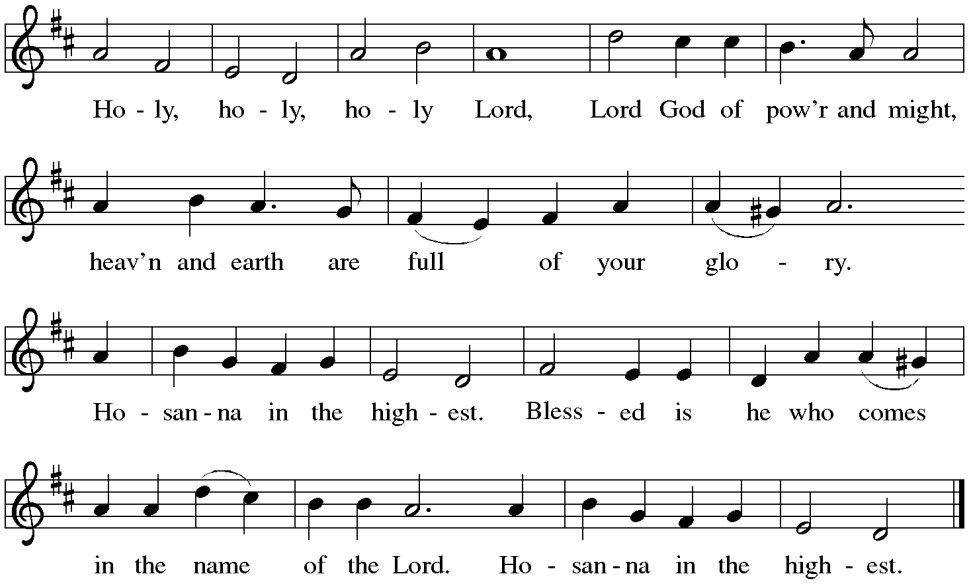
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer

All glory and blessing are yours, O holy God, for in your mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ. He took our human nature and suffered death on the cross for our redemption. There he made a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. We praise you that before he suffered and died, our Savior gave us this holy sacrament and commanded us to continue it until he comes again.

Children: **Why do we eat bread at this table?**

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Children: **Why do we drink from the cup at this table?**

The same night Jesus took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Children: **Why do we remember this table?**

We remember God's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

> **Christ has died.**
> **Christ is risen.**
> **Christ will come again.**

And so, God, in memory of Jesus, we your children offer to you these gifts. We call now on your Holy Spirit to bless them – the holy bread of life and the cup of eternal blessing – and to make them be for us the food of heaven.

Accept with them the sacrifice of our hearts, that all who share in the bread and this cup may be bless in your love, and through this love, may we be instruments of your peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who taught us to pray, saying:

The 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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution of the Elements

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

STAND

Post Communion Blessing

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you keep you in his Grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

[1]My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

[2]My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.

[3]Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

[4]Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

[5]They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

[6]But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

[7]All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

[8]"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him."

[9]Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast.

[10]I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

[11]Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

[12]Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

[13]They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

[14]I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.

[15]My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof[l] of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.

[16]Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers' circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

[17]I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

[18]They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

[19]But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid

[20]Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

[21]Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls, you have rescued me.

[22]I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly, I will praise you.

[23]You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-spring of Israel.

[24]For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.

[25]From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

[26]The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.

29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

30Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

31They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Depart in silence.

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