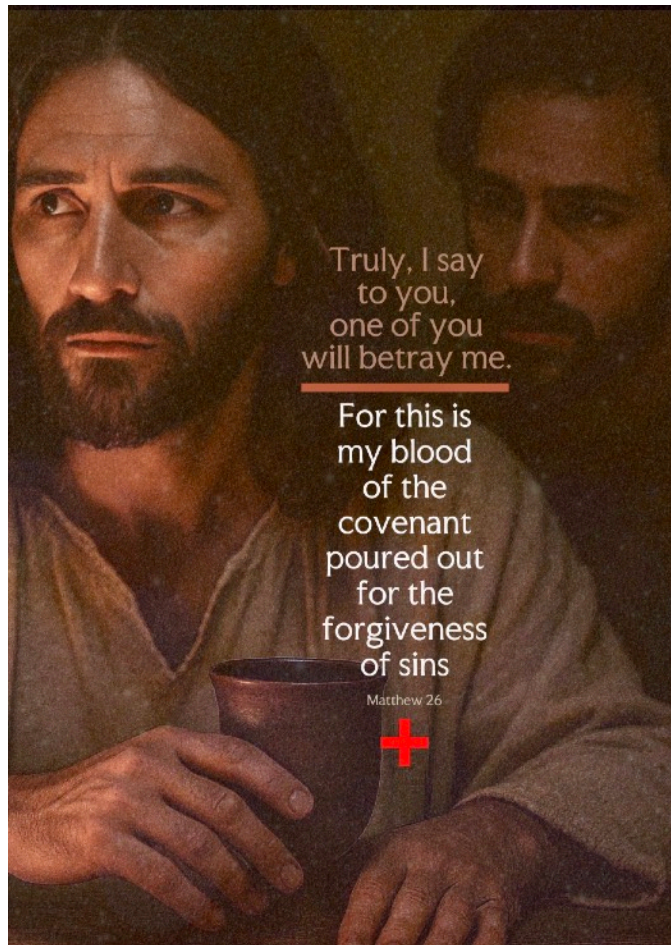


# Maundy Thursday



## St. John's Lutheran Churches

[stjohnslutheranjc.com](http://stjohnslutheranjc.com)

April 1, 2026

### Babbtown

7075 Highway P 4409  
Westphalia, MO 65085

April 2, 2026

### Schubert

Saint Johns Road  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**Pastor:** Rev. Ryan Groh  
[groh.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:groh.stjohns@gmail.com)

***About This Service:*** Maundy Thursday, occurring on the eve of our Lord's crucifixion, begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the Triduum. The service on this day culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy.

## **SERVICE OF CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

*(All responses are spoken until the Salutation and Collect)*

### *Stand*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C: Amen.**

P: I will go to the altar of God,

**C: to God my exceeding joy.**

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

### *Sit*

P: During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other...May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

**C: Amen.**

P: Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

### *Stand*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**C: Amen.**

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

**C: Yes.**

P: Let it be done for you as you believe.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C: Amen.**

### **Salutation and Collect** *(Responses sung)*

*TLH Page 19*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with Thy Spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading – Exodus 24:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” <sup>4</sup>And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” <sup>8</sup>And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. <sup>11</sup>And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

### **Epistle Reading – Hebrews 9:11-22**

<sup>11</sup>When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup>For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup>Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup>For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” <sup>21</sup>And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup>Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

### **Holy Gospel – Matthew 26:1-27:66**

<sup>17</sup>Now 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?” <sup>18</sup>He 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.’” <sup>19</sup>And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” <sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” <sup>23</sup>He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>The 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.” <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup>Now 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.” <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I 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.”

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

The Gospel ended, the congregation sings...

**C: PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST!**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn TLH 310 "Thy Table I Approach"

Thy Table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer;  
Oh, let no unrepented sin Prove hurtful to me there!

Lo, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Thy hands.

Thy body and Thy blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken here with mouth and soul, I blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than seemeth plain to thee.

Vouchsafe, O blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May ne'er about this Sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank Thee day and night  
For Thy true body and Thy blood, O God, my Peace and Light! Amen.

The Sermon

*The Offering and Offertory are omitted*

Prayers

TLH Pages 23-24

### **ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION**

The Preface: TLH Page 24 [Responses Sung]

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God ... therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

**The Sanctus:** *TLH Page 26 [Sung]*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory;  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, Blessed is He,  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**The Lord's Prayer:** *TLH Page 27*

**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;**

*[Sung]* **For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Words of Institution:** *TLH Page 27*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**The Pax Domini:** *TLH Page 27*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *[Sung]* **A - - - - men.**

**The Agnus Dei:** *TLH Page 28 [Sung]*

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. A - - - - men.**

**The Distribution** *(We invite those who are communicant members of the LC-MS to commune with us.)*

**Distribution Hymns TLH 307** "Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord"

**Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord And drink the holy blood for you out-poured.  
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the Victim and Himself the Priest.**

**He that His saints in this world rules and shields To all believers life eternal yields,  
With heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole, Gives living waters to the thirsty soul.**

**Approach ye, then, with faithful hearts sincere And take the pledges of salvation here.  
O Judge of all, our only Savior Thou, In this Thy feast of love be with us now. Amen.**

**TLH 315** "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

**I come, O Savior, to Thy Table, For weak and weary is my soul;  
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole.**

**REFRAIN: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood be for my soul the highest good!**

**Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now approach Thy heav'nly Board  
And, as I lowly bow before Thee, Look only unto Thee, O Lord! REFRAIN.**

Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,  
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful Shepherd art: REFRAIN.

Oh, let me loathe all sin forever As death and poison to my soul  
That I through willful sinning never May see Thy Judgment take its toll! REFRAIN.

Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see  
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. REFRAIN.

Weary am I and heaven laden, With sin my soul is sore opprest;  
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest. REFRAIN

Thou here wilt find a heart most lowly That humbly falls before Thy feet,  
That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely Thy merit pleads, as it is meet. REFRAIN.

By faith I call Thy holy Table The testament of Thy deep love;  
For, lo, thereby I now am able To see how love Thy heart doth move. REFRAIN.

What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;  
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. REFRAIN.

This feast is manna, wealth abounding Unto the poor, to weak ones power,  
To angels joy, to hell confounding, And life for me in death's dark hour. REFRAIN.

Thy body, given for me, O Savior, Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,  
These are my life and strength forever, By them my hungry soul is fed. REFRAIN.

With Thee, Lord, I am now united; I live in Thee and Thou in me.  
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted It find its only joy in Thee. REFRAIN.

Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is nigh, who justifies.  
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise. REFRAIN.

Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer;  
For He who is of death the Master With aid and comfort e'er is near. REFRAIN

△ My heart has now become Thy dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.  
With angels I, Thy praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally. REFRAIN. Amen.

*Following the final dismissal from the altar, the service continues simply with the Post-Communion Collect on page 30. Due to the unified character of the services of the Triduum, the Benediction is omitted on this day.*

**The Post-Communion Collect: TLH Pages 30-31**

P: ...through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God,  
world without end.

C: [Sung] A- - - - men.

## The Reading of Psalm 22

*On Holy Thursday, the Church and her catechumens begin the journey through the three days of Christ's Passover from death to life and from captivity to freedom.*

*The congregation speaks Psalm 22 responsively, beginning with the lectern side. At the conclusion, all leave the church in silence.*

### Psalm 22

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

**C: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.**

P: Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**C: In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

P: To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

**C: But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

P: All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

**C: "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"**

P: Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

**C: On you was I cast from my birth,  
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.**

P: Be not far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.

**C: Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

P: they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

**C: I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;**

P: my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

**C: For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—**

P: I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;

**C: they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

P: But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

**C: Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!**

P: Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

**C: I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

P: You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

**C: For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him.**

P: From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

**C: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!**

P: All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.

**C: For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.**

P: All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

**C: Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**

P: they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people  
yet unborn, that he has done it.

*All leave the church in silence*

\* \* \* \* \*

**Cover pic artwork:** Allan Forbis

**The Lutheran Hymnal:** St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, © 1941.

Hymn #307: Scripture: Psalm 34:8; Sancti, venite, corpus Christi sumite; Latin Author Unknown, (circa 680), Translator: John M. Neale (1851, cento, alt.); Tune: Old 124<sup>th</sup>; Source: "Genevan Psalter," 1551.

Hymn #310: Scripture: Mark 14:22-25; Ich trete frisch; Thy Table I Approach; Author: Gerhard W. Molanus, (1673, cento.); Tr., Matthias Loy (1850, alt.); Tune: St. Michael; Source: "Genevan Psalter," 1551.

Hymn #315: Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:28; German: Ich komm'zu deinem, Abendmahle; I Come, O Savior, To Thy Table; Author: Friedrich C. Heyder (1710, cento); Translator: Composite; Tune: Ich Sterbe Taglich; Source: Ms., Municipal Library Leipzig, 1756; Translator: © 1941, Concordia Publishing House.

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