

# Welcome to Gethsemane Lutheran Church



April 2, 2026  
Maundy Thursday

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*The name **Maundy Thursday** comes from the Latin word **mandatum** (“commandment”), and is taken from Jesus’ words to the disciples in John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you should love one another, even as I have loved you.”*

## THE OPENING HYMN

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LSB436 v.1&2

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,  
Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from His griefs away;  
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,  
View the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

## THE INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## WELCOME TO THE TABLE

- P** On Maundy Thursday we pause to remember the last Passover Meal Jesus shared with His disciples. On that night He gave a new meaning to the Passover Meal as He

declared the bread and wine was His body and blood, broken and shed for the forgiveness of sins. “Do this in remembrance of Me,” Jesus said.

What do we remember? First, we remember the new commandment: “To love one another as He has loved us.” Second, we remember how He came to serve the world by giving up His life for us as a ransom. Third, we remember that He sacrificed His very life that we may have forgiveness of our sins and eternal life with God. In these quiet moments, let’s reflect upon our relationship with Jesus. Let’s lay our burden of sin at the foot of His cross, and confess our faith together. Let’s declare with assurance and confidence that He has forgiven us and is the Lord and Savior of our lives.

### THE CONFESSION OF SIN

- P** Do you believe that you are a sinner?
- C** Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
- P** How do you know this?
- C** From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
- P** Are you sorry for your sins?
- C** Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
- P** What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

- C** His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.
- P** Do you hope to be saved?
- C** Yes, that is my hope.
- P** In whom then do you trust?
- C** In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
- P** Who is Christ?
- C** The Son of God, true God and man.
- P** How many Gods are there?
- C** Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- P** What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?
- C** He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

### THE ABSOLUTION

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Solo: Jesus, I’ve forgotten the words that You have spoken...

All: Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.

Solo: I have built an altar...

All: Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.

Solo: I have longed to know You...

All: Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy;

Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.

Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.  
Lord, have mercy;  
Christ have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy on me.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt,

"This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year.

Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household.

If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat.

The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight.

Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs.

That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast.

Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts.

Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it.

This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD.

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.

"This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.

## THE EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The

Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "**This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.**"

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.**"

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

## THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:1–11

### The Temptation of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve.”

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

## THE MESSAGE

### “Stones to Bread”

#### “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

I once was lost but now am found

Was blind but now I see

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear

And grace my fears relieved

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed

**My chains are gone, I’ve been set free**

**My God, my Savior has ransomed me**

**And like a flood His mercy reigns**

**Unending love, amazing grace**

The Lord has promised good to me

His word my hope secures

He will my shield and portion be

As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun for-bear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** Lord in Your mercy...  
**C** hear our prayer.  
**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**C** Amen.

#### THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

- P** The Lord be with you  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts  
**C** We lift them to the Lord

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.  
**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- 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 is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.  
**P** Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?  
**C** Yes, I believe it.

- P** What convinces you to believe this?
- C** The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.
- P** What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?
- C** We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.
- P** Why should we remember and proclaim His death?
- C** First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.
- P** What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?
- C** His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2 and Ephesians 5.
- P** Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?
- C** That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God

and my neighbor.

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** And also with you.

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the one true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage so that on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

#### THE BLESSING OF GOD

- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God!
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

## THE CLOSING SONG

### “Beautiful Savior” LSB537

Beautiful Savior,  
King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love Thee,  
Truly I'd serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows,  
Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer,  
Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine,  
Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter,  
Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior,  
Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor,  
Praise, adoration

Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Public domain

## THE POSTLUDE

*As we close our service this evening we move from the upper room of the Lord's Supper and His mandate to love one another to His betrayal, the mockery of His trial, and the brutal events leading us towards the Cross of Golgotha. As we follow our Savior on this journey, this night the Altar will be stripped bare calling us to be mindful of His Holy, innocent, bitter, suffering and death for us and for our salvation. Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus...*

*Depart in the Lord's peace....*

**Please join us on Friday, April 3, 2026 for:  
7:00 p.m. *Good Friday Tenebrae Service***

**Please join us on Sunday, April 5, 2026 for:  
7:45 a.m. *Sunrise Service*  
9:15 a.m. *Easter Breakfast*  
10:30 a.m. *Easter Celebration Service***

**There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday!**