

Order of Worship for April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday

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. On this night 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Greeting

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

Holy God, source of all love, **on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Psalm: 116:1-2, 12-19

¹ I 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.**

¹² How 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.**

¹⁴ I 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.**

¹⁶ O 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.**

Second Reading:

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.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God.

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Gospel: 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 another.

The holy gospel according to _____. **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 decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ Jesus 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If 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. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little 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.'³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.³⁵ By 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

Hymn of the Day ACS #966 Loaves were Broken, Words were Spoken

1 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven,
was their food forevermore.

Refrain

By your body broken for us,
by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people.
Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

2 Loaves were broken, words were spoken
in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them,
Christ, you came as Light from Light. *Refrain*

3 Loaves are broken, words are spoken,
as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages:
"I am with you; do not fear!" *Refrain*

4 By the loaves you break and give us,
send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger,
words that tell your love and care. *Refrain*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

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Hand Washing

Prayers of Intercession

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. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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

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. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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. Let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

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.**

Offering Prayer

Loving God, **everything you make is good. May these gifts be used to share your love to all people. In your name we pray, Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

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,... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of might and mercy,

Your glory fills all heaven and earth. You are holy, God.

Blessed be the Savior, the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest. You are holy, God.

Words of Institution

In the night in which 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 the 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 the remembrance of me.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion

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.

Meal of Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn ACS #930 Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now

- 1 Three holy days enfold us now
in washing feet and breaking bread,
in cross and font and life renewed:
in Christ, God's firstborn from the dead.
- 2 The myst'ry hid from ages past
is here revealed in word and sign,
for Jesus' story is our own:
new life through death is God's design.
- 3 Christ, lifted high upon the tree,
before you ev'ry knee shall bend
and ev'ry tongue in praise proclaim:
"You are the Lord of all. Amen."

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept.

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 88

¹ O Lord, God of my salvation, at night, when I cry out before you,

² let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.

³ For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.

⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help,

⁵ like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶ You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

⁸ You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;

⁹ my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you?

¹¹ Is your steadfast love declared in the grave or your faithfulness in Abaddon?

¹² Are your wonders known in the darkness or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

¹³ But I, O Lord, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴ O Lord, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?

¹⁵ Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.

¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.

¹⁷ They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.

¹⁸ You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

The service concludes with the stripping of the altar, symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands. As this is done, a Psalm is read. There is no benediction, postlude, or greeting at the door.

We end in silence as this worship continues through Good Friday and concludes on Easter Sunday as we celebrate Christ's resurrection.

All depart in silence.

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