

MAUNDY THURSDAY



Lutheran Church of the Master
Lutheran Church of the Covenant
April 2nd, 2026 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is the Thursday before Easter. It commemorates the Last Supper, where Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. During this meal, Jesus established the practice of the Eucharist (Holy Communion), instructing his followers to partake of bread and wine in remembrance of him. The word Maundy comes from the Latin word 'mandatum', meaning command, referring to Jesus' instruction: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34).

Tonight we will celebrate Holy Communion, commemorating the institution of the Eucharist. Everyone is invited to share communion regardless of age, denomination, or background. The usher will invite you to come forward. Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion elements will be brought to those who need to remain seated in worship. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available, please let the pastor or assistant know if you desire these.

The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar. This symbolizes the abandonment that Jesus experienced and prepares us for the solemnity of Good Friday. Please maintain silence at the end of the worship service.

Baskets for offering are located in the back of the sanctuary.

During portions of the service marked with an asterisk () you are invited to stand as you are comfortable. Congregational responses are in **bold** type.*

Serving in Worship Today:

Master Altar Guild: Judy Detman Jill Moliff Betty Scheutte

Covenant Altar Guild: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein, Charlotte Zaranka

Assisting Minister: Allan Treichel

Reader: Carla Cashman

Do you work wonders for the dead?
Do the shades rise up to praise you?
Is your steadfast love declared in the grave
or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
Are your wonders known in the darkness
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

But I, O LORD, cry out to you;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
O LORD, why do you cast me off?
Why do you hide your face from me?
Wretched and close to death from my youth up,
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
Your wrath has swept over me;
your dread assaults destroy me.
They surround me like a flood all day long;
from all sides they close in on me.
You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;
my companions are in darkness.

*After the stripping of the altar, you may stay for quiet meditation
or leave in silence. Thursday is over, we will gather here again on
Friday.*

The Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

We gather here tonight the way that they gathered in an upper room on that last night: around a table, with the ones we love, not fully understanding what is about to happen. Like them, we have come here from our ordinary lives, carrying whatever this week has held for us. Like them, we will eat, and sing, and pray. And like them we will be forever changed by what happens before this night is over. We gather as they gathered: friends, community, people who belong to one another.

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.** Let us greet one another now, sharing the peace of Christ.



***Gathering SongELW 819**

Come, All You People

(next page)

The Stripping of the Altar



U - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
1 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Most High;
2 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Sav - ior;
3 Come, all you peo - ple, come and praise the Spir - it;



u - ya - i - mo - se, ti - na - ma - te Mwa - ri;
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u - ya - i - mo - se Zvi - no.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.
come now and wor - ship the Lord.

*Prayer of the Day

Holy God, we have come. Be with us in this room, at this table and in this story. Keep our hearts open to receive your love and grace, and show us how to love others. That is enough for us. **Amen.**

Psalm 88 is read while the altar is stripped by members of altar guild.

A Reading of Psalm 88

O LORD, God of my salvation,
at night, when I cry out before you,
let my prayer come before you;
incline your ear to my cry.

For my soul is full of troubles,
and my life draws near to Sheol.
I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;
I am like those who have no help,
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.
You have put me in the depths of the Pit,
in the regions dark and deep.
Your wrath lies heavy upon me,
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

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

Hymn of Response.....ELW 703

O God, Why Are You Silent?



1 O God, why are you si - lent? I can - not hear your voice;
2 My hope lies bruised and bat - tered, my wound - ed heart is torn;
3 Through end - less nights of weep - ing, through wea - ry days of grief,
4 May pain draw forth com - pas - sion, let wis - dom rise from loss;



the proud and strong and vio - lent all claim you and re - joice;
my spir - it spent and shat - tered by life's re - lent - less storm;
my heart is in your keep - ing, my com - fort, my re - lief.
oh, take my heart and fash - ion the im - age of your cross;



you prom - ised you would hold me with ten - der - ness and care.
will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep with - in?
Come, share my tears and sad - ness, come, suf - fer in my pain,
then may I know your heal - ing through heal - ing that I share,



Draw near, O Love, en - fold me, and ease the pain I bear.
Have you no word to cheer me when night is clos - ing in?
oh, bring me home to glad - ness, re - store my hope a - gain.
your grace and love re - veal - ing, your ten - der - ness and care.

The Anointing

As the scripture is read, the pastor will anoint you with oil as a sign of Christ's love and care.

A Reading from John 13:1-17

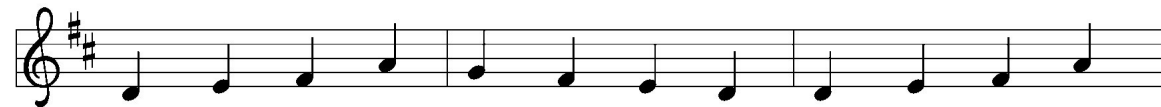
Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,

you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn of Response.....ELW 659 Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

John 18:1-12 The Arrest

Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

Luke 22:54-63 Peter's Denial

They seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 22:40-46 Gethsemane

When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done.” Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Let us pray:

Lord of the garden, we confess we know this story from the inside. We have meant to stay awake. We have wanted to be present to you and to each other and to this world, and we have fallen asleep anyway. Not from indifference, but from grief. Not from laziness, but from the weight of living. We sleep because we do not know what else to do when sorrow has no bottom. Forgive us for the moments we have missed you, for the prayers we meant to pray and the vigils we could not hold, for the times you were kneeling just ahead of us and we were somewhere else entirely. Wake us Lord, and give us the courage to rise. To pray when we are heavy. To stay when it is hard. And to remember that you are still at work in the hours we are not watching. Amen.

The Eucharist

A Reading from Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

***Holy Communion**

Dearly Beloved, this is no ordinary meal, for Jesus himself has invited us, and in it we experience his presence: in the bread and wine, in the sharing, and in one another.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus’ ministry was teaching and healing; it was also eating and drinking, with friends, with strangers, even with enemies. The accusation against him was true: “He eats with sinners.” And so he invites us to dine with him, in love, in forgiveness, in community.

Thanks be to God.

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 Holy One, our God.

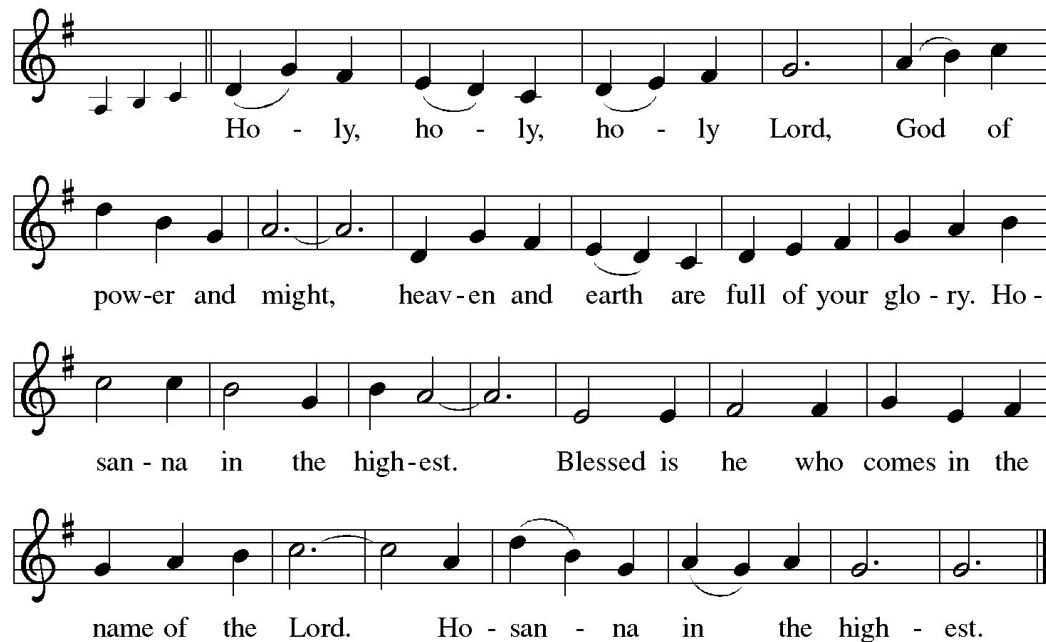
It is good and beautiful to give God our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the Universe,
Infinite Love at the heart of all things.

You have given us the gifts of earth and food,
of life and blessing, and we thank you.

As we bless this bread and wine we thank you for all your gifts
and praise you for all your blessings.

Therefore we offer this song of thanksgiving
and call upon your holy name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

John 17:1-26 The High Priestly Prayer

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

“I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

The candles are extinguished as Jesus and the disciples leave the Upper Room for the Garden of Gethsemane.

John 13:31-36 The New Commandment

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Hymn of Response.....ELW 359 Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ our Lord. With thanksgiving, we remember that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, This is my body that is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

We ask your blessing on these ordinary elements, the bread and the wine. We believe you feed us in ways that go far beyond our understanding. Through the awesome wonders of creation to the joy of human love you have blessed us. You became present to us in Jesus and remain present to us in the working of the Holy Spirit. We give thanks for all the ways you show your love for us as pray together using the words Jesus taught us:

**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.**

***Communion Hymn.....ELW 469**
By Your Hand You Feed Your People



1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
 2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus, by the saving power of the life you give, you strengthen us. May this sacrament of your body and blood work in us, so 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.**

The Word

John 13:21-30 The Betrayal Foretold

Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.”

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit and declared, “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.” The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining close to his heart; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?” Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “Do quickly what you are going to do.” Now no one knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the festival,” or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

Confessional Prayer

Jesus, **surely I would never betray you, never deny you. Surely? Savior, give me the faith to doubt my righteousness. Give me the assurance to question, to examine myself honestly, to ask. Give me the confidence to wonder how I might betray your perfect love. Give me the peace to be troubled by my unrighteousness, and repent. Open my eyes to see that you see, what you know— and knowing, you keep right on eating with me, offering me your very self. Amen.**