

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the Eucharist is celebrated it is customary to "strip the altar," which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life.

SPECIAL MUSIC **“Easter Hallelujah”** **Worship Team**

(Leave in silence)

The following are receiving their First Holy Communion: *We welcome you to God's table.*

Avery Mae Bosma - daughter of Kim Bosma and Landon Bosma

Tommie Louise Chaulsett - daughter of Cory & Jessica Chaulsett

Troy Leland Chaulsett - son of Cory & Jessica Chaulsett

Ryne Kennedy Gordon - daughter of Erin & Jason Gordon

Zachary Steven Sneller - son of Lisa & Steve Sneller

What does the name “Maundy” mean?

The term "Maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum;" it is from a verb that means "to give" or "to order" -- command. After Jesus and the disciples finished the Last Supper and walked toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught them a new commandment "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34).

The Last Supper

On the first Maundy Thursday, after they had eaten, Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of their sins. Called Holy Communion or the Eucharist, Lutherans believe this to be one of two sacraments -- gifts from God. Most worship services focus on the meal and communion as a way to commemorate this day.

Good Friday ~ April 2

Noon throughout the afternoon the Church will be open for you to stop in, pray & meditate on the death of Jesus & what that means to you.

Easter Sunday ~ April 4

9:30am Festival Service/Holy Communion



“Blessed are the Peacemakers for they will be called Children of God”
Matthew 5:9

First Communion
April 1, 2021



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First Communion
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With nightfall 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. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO FIRST COMMUNION (Youth and parents)

P: Parents, when you brought your child to the font, here at First Lutheran or another congregation, you made certain promises to your child. You with the support of the church, promised to, "live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and holy supper, and to teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. You promised to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and nurture them in faith and prayer." By bringing them to worship and instruction you are fulfilling your promise to your child. Do you promise to continue the work God has begun in you and to continue to pass the faith on to your child, if so say, "I do."

Parents: I do.

P: The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. This meal was instituted by Christ himself. Jesus Christ's introduction of Holy Communion is found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and in Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Jesus took bread and wine and presented it as his body and blood to his disciples. The Christian church continues this sacrament to this day. Martin Luther in the Small Catechism asks, "What benefit do we receive from eating and drinking?"

First Communion Parents & Families: The benefit which we receive from Holy Communion is in the words: "Given and shed for you." In Holy Communion we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

Pastor: Youth you have been marked with the cross of Christ forever in your baptism. You have been instructed in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Do you promise to come to worship, continue to grow in learning about your baptism, and to come to the Lord's Supper often? If so say, "I do."

Youth: I do.

Pastor: May God continue to guide you as parents and encourage you as youth to seek his kingdom and to remember your baptism. Let us pray:

Gracious God, loving Lord, we thank you for these young people who will be receiving the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. As they grow in years, deepen their faith in Christ and their trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for parents and family members, and this church who love and support them. Guide them and renew their faith. Help us to encourage one another and see ourselves, others and the world through Jesus eyes. Amen. *(Invite Youth and parents to face congregation)*

C: We welcome you to the Lord's Table. Together we will explore the mystery and wonder of Holy Communion and accept Christ's gifts of grace through this Sacrament. May you always know that you are welcome here. Thanks be to God.

OPENING HYMN NO. 338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

CONFESSIO OF SINS

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to our holy and gracious God. God is gracious and merciful and will hear our confession and offer us forgiveness.

C: Lord, I confess that I have been poor in spirit. Pride, not meekness, has characterized me. I have hungered and thirsted for the things of this world rather than your righteousness. I have not shown mercy to others. I have delighted in conflict rather than peace. To avoid persecution, I have kept silent rather than give voice to your truth. God, be merciful to me, a sinner. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me so I may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, God's own Son, Jesus Christ, was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, I announce the grace and forgiveness

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Holy God, source of all love; on the night of His betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love as You have loved us. Put this commandment deeply into our hearts and give us the will to serve by following your teaching and example. Empower us to make your love known by how we live. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

SECOND LESSON

I Corinthians 11:23-26

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17

SERMON

Pastor Joyce Tollefson Capp

EVENING HYMN NO. 335

"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

C: God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord. **C: For it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS

483, 471, 496

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

C: 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.

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