

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

6:30 pm

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

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 and 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.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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.**

Opening Hymn: ELW #347 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

- 1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power, your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour, turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2. Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned; all the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**
- 3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet, mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete. "It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.**
- 4. Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay; all the solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away? Christ is risen He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us how to rise.**

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you. **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.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Gospel according to the Gospel of Luke in the 22nd Chapter

Gospel Reading: Luke 22:7-23

As the Passover begins, Jesus and his disciples once again enter Jerusalem and he instructs his disciples to find a place to celebrate the Passover. It is in the upper room where not only they celebrate the meal, but Jesus shares the new meal, a meal of remembrance and a new covenant of his eternal love.

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. **8** Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." **9** "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. **10** He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, **11** and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" **12** He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." **13** They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. **14** When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. **15** And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." **17** After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. **18** For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." **19** And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." **20** In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. **21** But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. **22** The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" **23** They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #487 "What Feast of Love"

- 1. What feast of love is offered here what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life What gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the King The bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**
- 2. What light of truth is offered here What covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life What wondrous word is given? This, this is Christ the King The sun come down from heaven. Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

3. **What wine of love is offered here. What crimson drink from heaven? What stream of everlasting life What precious blood is given? This, this is Christ the King. The sweetest wine of heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

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Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

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

Offering

Offering Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. We pray: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and provide and nourish through your rain and sunshine that all people may be fed and every living thing flourishes.

We pray: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable.

We pray: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of your people. Help all in pain to know that you are near Arlen, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Denny, Donna Richards, the family of Beverly Devoe, the Hruska family, the Sween Family, the Family of Bud Tryhus, the Door Family, Pastor Jenna, Bev Tews and Chloe Junker. We pray: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to people celebrating first communion today, and to all who share the meal. Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage. We pray: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**
Here other intercessions may be offered.

God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints. In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. We pray: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

The 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 thanks and praise.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Lord's Prayer

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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, to strengthen our faith.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #616 "Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, Remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, Remember me when you come into your kingdom. (*Sing 3 times*)

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Post-communion Blessing

Now may the Sacrament of our Lord and Savior in which we remember this Holy Night, strengthen us in our faith this day and also.

Prayer after Communion

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

The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books, are all removed from the worship space.

Reading: Psalm 22

(After the reading of Psalm 22, you may stay in the sanctuary as long as you wish. When leaving the sanctuary, please leave in silence until you are outside of our church. Thank you.)

Psalm 22

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
- ² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest.
- ³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴ In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
- ⁵ To you they cried and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ But I am a worm and not human, scorned by others and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me mock me; they sneer at me; they shake their heads;
- ⁸ Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"
- ⁹ Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- ¹⁰ On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
- ¹¹ Do not be far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.
- ¹² Many bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
- ¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴ 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;
- ¹⁵ my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶ For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they bound my hands and feet.
- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
- ¹⁸ they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
- ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
- ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me but heard when I cried to him.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord

31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Depart in silence.

- ✚ **Men's Group** will be cooking sausage on Saturday, April 4 starting at 8:00 am.
- ✚ **Easter Worship April 20, 2025:** Pancake Breakfast at 8:30, Worship at 10:15 am.
- ✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Denny, Donna Richards, the family of Beverly Devoe, the Hruska family, the Sween Family, the Family of Bud Tryhus, the Door Family, Pastor Jenna, Bev Tews and Chloe Junker.

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