

Thursday, April 2, 2026
Maundy Thursday
Sundays and Seasons 2026 Liturgy



INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

This evening 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. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

PRELUDE

**GATHERING HYMN: ELW # 334 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"
Verses 1, 2, 3, & General.**

AN INSTRUCTION ON THE DAY

The Lenten Season began on Ash Wednesday when we received the ashes on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality. Then throughout Lent we heard our Lord's call to intensify our 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 committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Tonight, we will come forward to receive the laying on of hands as a sign of God's forgiveness. Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

This forgiveness is highest expression of God's love. And we who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Jesus' commitment to this loving service was signified in the washing of his disciples' feet. We will signify it tonight by extending a gesture of peace to one another.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us draw near to God and make confession of our sin.

Almighty God, merciful Father:

**I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you
all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you
and for which I justly deserve your punishment.**

**But I am sorry for them, and repent of them,
and pray for your boundless mercy.**

**For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ,
be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being;**

forgive my sins,

**give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life,
and bring me to life everlasting. Amen**



The minister stands and addresses the congregation:

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

I invite you to come forward and, through the sign of the laying on of hands, receive personal assurance of your forgiveness.

Those in the congregation may come forward in single file. The minister will lay both hands on each person's head and address each as follows:

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.



Let us pray.

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.

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10], 11-14

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.

¹ The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² "This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell 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 household. ⁴ If 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. [⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire.] ¹¹ This 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. ¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³ The 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.

¹⁴ "This 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."

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

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

- 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: 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.

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.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – LENTEN

ELW Setting # 10 - S 205b

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind –
 slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL READING: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 other.

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 **Pastor Steven Kuhl**

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW # 347 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION



Pastor: 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer *especially those we name aloud or in our hearts. (A brief silence)*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: 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 – *collecting of our offerings.*

SPECIAL MUSIC (*during the offering*): “**At the Table of the Lord**” Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray, together.

O God,

maker of heaven and earth,

your steadfast love embraces all creation.

**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.**

**Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

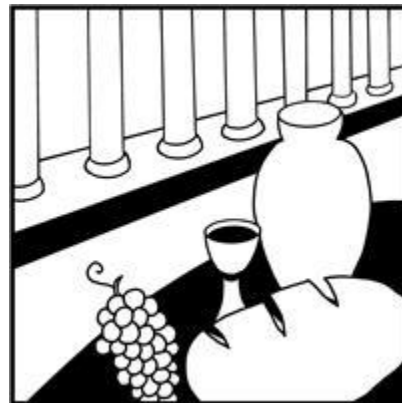
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,

whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
 You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
 transforming death into life.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW Setting # 10 - S207

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

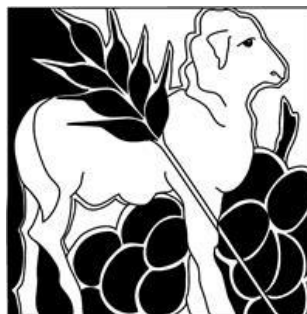
EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
 you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.
 You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
 that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.
 Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will
 and accomplished our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
 We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving Passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought, but as we are able;
and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,
and have our portion with all your saints.
All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 THE TABLE

Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy. Come.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW Setting # 10 – S 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

The Communion follows. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

BLESSING

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray, together...

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

Linens, paraments, ornaments, and candles are removed from the altar. Psalm 22 is sung or said by the pastor.

PSALM 22 (Read by Pastor Steven Kuhl)

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.*



SPECIAL MUSIC: “Song of Sighs” Lori Wargolet, flute & Rich Regent, clarinet

There is no benediction. All leave the church in silence and return in silence for the observance of Good Friday. After Good Friday all leave in silence until they return for the celebration of Easter. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are observed as one, extended service.

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Today's Lay Leaders

Lector: Judy Goodwin

Ushers: Bill Wakefield and Linda Kolar-Wood

Communion Assistant: Jeanette Nowakoski

Altar Guild: Deanna Posig

Altar Guilds on Wednesday Evenings: Joyce Weinert and Joann Voegeli

Music & Worship Coordinator: Barb Regent

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