



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026; 7 p.m.



St John's
Lutheran Church

(An usher rings the church bell at 6:55 p.m.)

Prelude

(Acolytes light the candles)

Linda Ranney

Confession and Forgiveness *(please stand)*

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.

(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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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.

Laying on of Hands

(assembly is invited to come forward for a prayer of healing and forgiveness)

An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare vs. 1-3

- 1 An upper room did our Lord prepare
for those he loved until the end:
and his disciples still gather there
to celebrate their risen friend.
- 2 A lasting gift Jesus gave his own:
to share his bread, his loving cup.
Whatever burdens may bow us down,
he by his cross shall lift us up.
- 3 And after supper he washed their feet,
for service, too, is sacrament.
In Christ our joy shall be made complete:
sent out to serve, as he was sent.

(additional instrumental music may be played as needed)

Apostolic 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

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.**

Reading: Exodus 12: 1-14 *(please sit)*

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.”

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *(please stand)*

Return to God: from Now The Feast and Celebration by Marty Haugen
Congregation:



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and



mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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

¹Now 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."
¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If 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. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By 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

"A Final Meal" -- Rev. Eric Nielsen

Washing of Feet

(assembly is invited forward to participate)

ACS #1041; *God is Love*

God is love. God is love;
let us love one another as God first loved us.
God is love. God is love.
God is love.

Prayers of the People *(please stand)*

Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need.

Petition:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always!

And also with you.

Offering *(please sit)*

(Ushers collect offering)

No Greater Love by Michael Joncas; St. John's Choir

(assembly invited to sing final refrains)

Refrain

There is no great-er love, says the Lord, than to
lay down your life for a friend; there is no great-er love,
no great-er love, than to lay down your life for a friend.

Offertory *(please stand)*

ELW #358; *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us* vs. 1, 4

- 1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

- 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord!**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

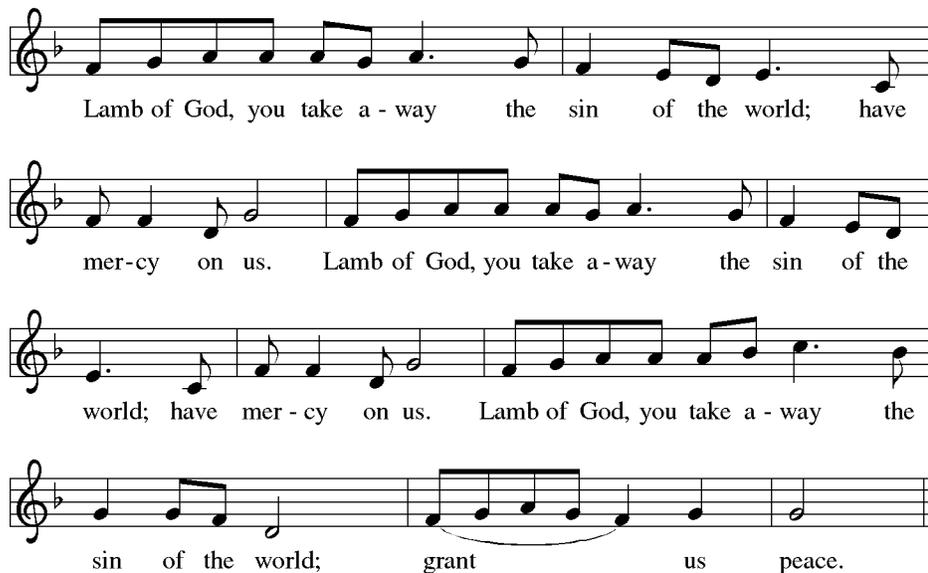
The Lord's Prayer

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 the Table *(please sit)*

(Acolyte comes forward for communion. Two ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive communion)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

ACS #966; *Loaves Were Broken*

- 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*

Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer

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

Let us pray. 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

(Altar care members come forward to strip the Altar)

Psalm 22 setting attributed to J.S. Bach; arr. Mark Mummert
Refrain: *(assembly joins in singing at Cantor's invitation)*



(following the Psalm, all depart in silence)

Serving at Worship Today

Presider	Pastor Christine Emerson
Preacher	Rev. Eric Nielsen
Lector	
Acolytes	
Ushers	
Greeters	
Communion Servers	
Media & Streaming	
Screen Operator	
Musicians	Linda Ranney, accompanist; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St. John's Choir

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