

GRACE LUTHERAN



MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2, 2026 - 6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

6:30PM

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26

*(*Indicates when the congregation stands.)*

PRELUDE

"The Lamb"

Gerald P. Coleman

Piano Setting by James Marriott

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: On the night before He died, Jesus spoke to His disciples about many things—the betrayal and denial to come, the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and the peace that He alone can give:

Leader: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).*

People: **Jesus our Savior, grant us Your peace.**

Pastor: Jesus told His disciples that He was the true vine and that, abiding in Him, they would bear fruit in works of love. He gave them a new commandment:

Leader: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).*

People: **Jesus our Savior, teach us to love one another as You love us.**

Pastor: On that same night of His betrayal, the night He would be abandoned by His disciples, Jesus gave them a lesson in love and service. The Lord of all took up a towel and a basin of water and washed His disciples' feet. The next day He would lay down His life for them, for us, for all people. As Jesus had said of Himself,

Leader: *"The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).*

People: **Jesus our Savior, set Your cross before us to guide us in the way of service.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “When You Woke that Thursday Morning” *Hymn 445*
(*Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please be seated or kneel)

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, we have not followed our Savior in the way of love and service. We seek to serve ourselves. We want to fulfill our own selfish desires and turn away from the needs of others. Have mercy on us, and forgive us.

Pastor: God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to serve and save us. On the cross Jesus shed His blood to cleanse us from sin. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Lead us, Jesus, to walk in Your steps in the way of love and service.

***HYMN OF RESPONSE** “The Lamb” *Hymn 547*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 24:3-8*

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he

broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵ In the same way also 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."²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

"If Ye Love Me"
(Grace Chorale)

Thomas Tallis

***HOLY GOSPEL**

John 13:1-17, 34-35

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them... ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love

one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

***SERMON HYMN**

“O Lord, We Praise Thee”

Hymn 617

HOMILY

***HYMN OF RESPONSE**

“Abide with Me” (*verse 1*)

Hymn 878

***PRAYERS**

Pastor: Jesus our Savior, You gave to Your disciples and to us an example of service, taking up the work of a servant. As You, our Lord and Master, washed the feet of Your disciples, teach us to follow Your example and serve others in love. Servant, Lord Jesus Christ,

People: **Set Your cross before us to guide us in the way of service.**

Pastor: Jesus our Savior, You did not come to be served but to serve, and to give Your life as a ransom for many. On the cross, You suffered and died to save us, in the greatest act of love and service. Servant, Lord Jesus Christ,

People: **Set Your cross before us to guide us in the way of service.**

Pastor: Jesus our Savior, on the night before Your death on the cross, You gave us the gift of Your Holy Supper. As we receive Your body and blood in Holy Communion, we proclaim Your death until You come again. Servant, Lord Jesus Christ,

People: **Set Your cross before us to guide us in the way of service. Amen.**

***HOLY COMMUNION**

WORD OF PREPARATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***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.

***AGNUS DEI**

“Lamb of God”

Hymn 550

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

“Abide” (*Vocal Solo*)
“Abide with Me” (vv. 2-6)

Aaron Williams
Hymn 878

***BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

In this liturgical act, a transition is made from the Eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of His power and glory, is now in the hands of His enemies. Because we are certain of the Easter victory, this symbolic service reminds us of the magnitude of our Savior's love.

Pastor: After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly:
prayer in Gethsemane
betrayal by Judas
arrest, mock trial, painful beating
the trudge to Golgotha and execution

As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us. The flower vases, which hold the flowers that remind us of God's creation, are now removed. As there were no flowers at the cross of Christ, so we remove the flowers that adorn our Chancel.

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Hymn 449

**O sacred Head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown.
O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss, till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine.**

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.” The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we have extinguished our candles and now remove them.

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor, And grant to me Thy grace.**

Pastor: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our commitments and offerings.

**What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest Friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever! And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never, Outlive my love for Thee.**

Pastor: The missal stand holds the worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

**Be Thou my consolation, My shield, when I must die;
Remind me of Thy passion When my last hour draws nigh.
Mine eyes shall then behold Thee, Upon Thy cross shall dwell,
My heart by faith enfold Thee. Who dieth thus dies well.**

Pastor: Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the Symbols of this Sacrament.

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended
That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon Thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone Thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied Thee; I crucified Thee.**

Pastor: Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

**Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while He nothing heedeth, God intercedeth.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay Thee,
I do adore Thee, and will ever pray Thee;
Think on Thy pity and Thy love unswerving, Not my deserving.**

*(Because this liturgy flows directly into the Good Friday liturgy,
there is no blessing or postlude.)*

(All leave in silence.)

THE PARTICIPANTS

Preacher	Vicar Stephen Moore
Celebrant	The Rev. Charles T. Reich
Liturgist	The Rev. Steven M. Braun
Organist/Choir Director	Thomas Schulteis
Vocalist	Laura Louiceus
Guitarist	Jay Nerove
Communion Deacons	Carl Locke, Jennifer Smith, Roger Walker
Elder on Duty	Lowell Fricker
Lectors	Scott Lehning, Cindy Sensabaugh
Acolyte Team	Confirmands
Greeters	Gale & Carol Seyfert
Ushers	Janice Graydon, Douglas Hall, Ernie Harben, Bonnie Petersilge, Rob Petersilge, Carl Rod, Larry Walker
Confirmands	Kate Alexander, Gabriel Franco, Aubrey Garcia, Nathaniel Groskopf, Reese Lansford, Carsyn Painter, Amelia Palmer, Hudson String, Sylvia Ullrich

CREDITS

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