

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

A PRAYER AS WE GATHER

Heavenly Father, we thank You that You have given us the promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation through the suffering and death of our Savior on the cross. We thank You, too, that You continue to demonstrate these promises for us in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Forgive us where we have sinned; strengthen our faith; and cause us to live lives that show forth Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

This day is known as Maundy Thursday which means, "The Thursday of the Commandment," referring to the new commandments of love given by Christ in the Upper Room the night before He died. He commanded His disciples to love one another as He had loved them. He then demonstrated His love in His gift of Himself in Holy Communion, and commanded His disciples to eat and drink.

The liturgical color for today is white. White is used on the "joy days" of the church year, symbolizing the purity, glory, and holiness that the Lord our God brings His people.

Holy Communion is part of the way God comes and cares for us, His disciples of today. It is a way in which we experience the presence of Christ – in, with, and under the bread and wine. It is also a way in which we proclaim to one another our faith in Christ Jesus our Savior until He comes again.

PRELUDE

“O Christ, Thou Lamb of God”

By Ludwig Lenel

The congregation turns and faces the cross as the procession approaches the altar reminding us that Christ leads us into the presence of God.

Please stand

OPENING HYMN

623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

INVOCATION / CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

People: **O Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sin, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, having been restored to God's family by the blood of Jesus Christ, we are called to live as children of God. Yet we confess before God and one another that we have not loved one another as we have been loved. We have sinned in our thoughts, in our words, in our actions, and in our lack of actions. Some of our sins we know; some remain unknown even to us. Let us silently reflect on our sins and confess them to God, our merciful Father.

People: **Amen.**

Silence for personal reflection on God's Word and confession of sins.

Pastor: With repentant hearts, we cry out:
People: **God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

Pastor: God is merciful. Even before we were aware of our sin, He sent His Son to die for us, and for His sake God forgives all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, and at the command and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

- 1** Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

- 3** Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.

- 6** Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **Holy Lord, You have poured out upon us Your never-ending love by giving Your Son Jesus Christ into death for us. Nourish Your Church through the sacrament of His body and blood. Strengthen us so that we may continue to proclaim Him who gives life to the world, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3-11

³ When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." ⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵ Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he sprinkled on the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." ⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." ⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

¹¹ When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

¹⁵ For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

¹⁶ In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, ¹⁷ because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. ¹⁸ This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. ¹⁹ When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. ²⁰ He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." ²¹ In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. ²² In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Just As I Am"

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
With many-a conflict, many-a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee I find,
O Lord of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Please stand

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷ On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹⁸ He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me."

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely not I, Lord?"

²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.

²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

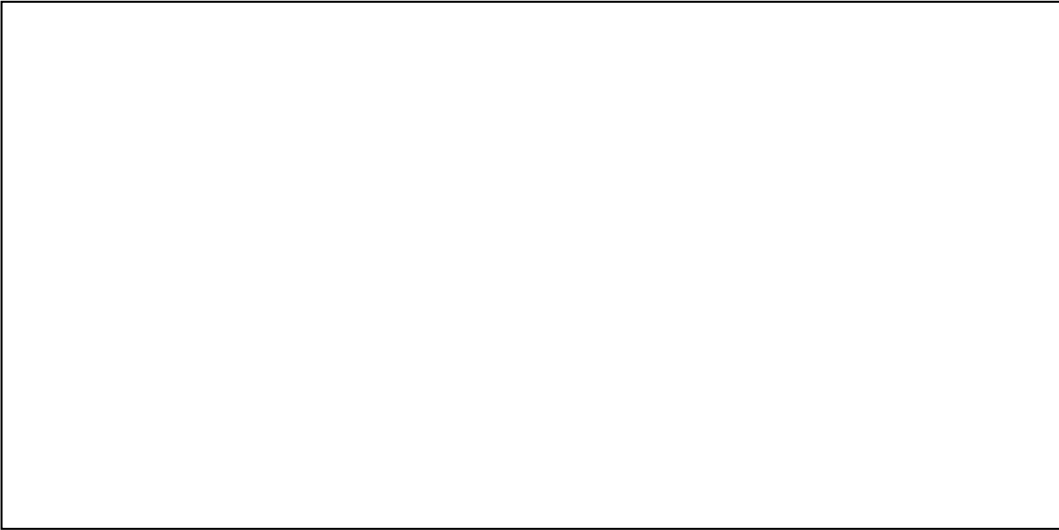
Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD



Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs: For courage to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, that we may be obedient to the command of our Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For strength to love others after the pattern of Jesus Christ, that our love may not be self-serving, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world, that it may be faithful to the proclamation of the Gospel for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our remembrance of Jesus Christ as we celebrate the foretaste of the feast to come, that as we receive His very body and blood our faith may be strengthened by the forgiveness of sins and we may be empowered to love as we have been loved, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For our observance of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, that we may more fully appreciate the great sacrifice of love on our behalf, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For all who are in need of special gifts from God; the lonely, the ill, the troubled, that they may know the love of God, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

“O Christ, Thou Lamb of God”

by David Schack

OFFERTORY

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.</p> | <p>2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Public domain

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

The Lord's Supper is a gift Christ gives to His Church. In it, He offers His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine. When received in faith, it brings forgiveness, new life, and salvation. In response to God's command in Scripture, we are to examine ourselves prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are five basic questions by which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I a baptized believer? 2) Do I believe I am a sinner and am truly sorry for my sins? 3) Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin? 4) Do I promise with God's help to turn from sin and live a God-pleasing life? 5) Do I believe in the true teachings of God's Word, namely that the Body and Blood of Jesus are truly present, powerful, and effective in the Sacrament? Any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a differing confession and yet desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. (see Matthew 26:26-29; 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:17- 34)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

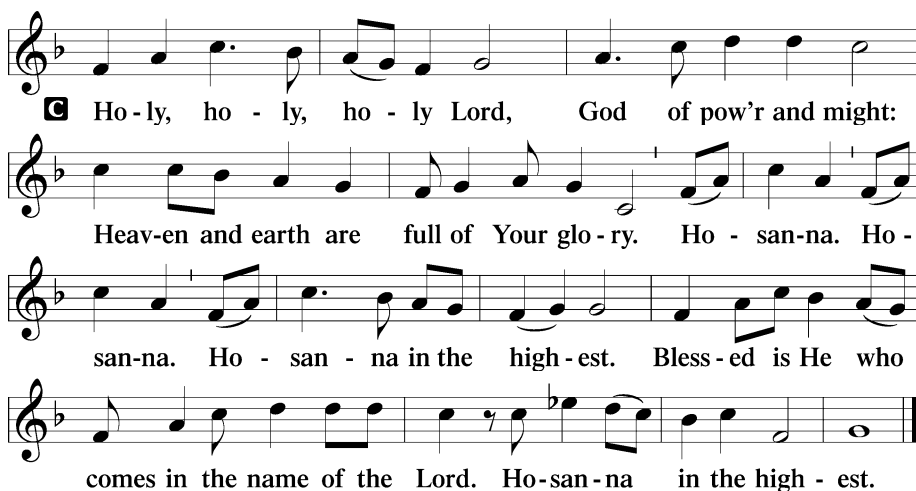
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed good and right to give praise to You, holy Lord, heavenly Father, everlasting God. You sent Your only Son, Jesus to hang on a cross to give salvation to all mankind. Through Your holy supper, You offer to us life and salvation through Your Son's very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Therefore with all the angels and the multitude of saints in heaven, we join that everlasting chorus evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the Disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI

C 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.

If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.

When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.

Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.

Children and those who cannot yet commune are invited to come forward and kneel at the rail with arms crossed to receive a blessing.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

- 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning
427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory
619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- Pastor: Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, gracious God, for this gift of forgiveness and
 life, a foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift,
 that we may love as we have been loved, and serve You with cheerful
 hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- People: **Amen.**

11:00 a.m. only

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Please turn towards the cross as it is carried out of the church, and remain facing it until the hymn is completed. This symbolizes our following Christ into the world as we leave.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

- 1** **Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.**

- 2** **Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner's deep distress.**

- 3** **Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior's side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE

"Tone III"

by Franz Murschhauser

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR – 6:30 p.m. only

Stripping of the altar (removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments) is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It points to the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.

PSALM

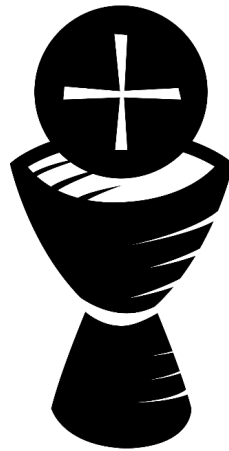
The Psalm is spoken during the stripping of the altar.

Psalm 22:1-18

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ² O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.
- ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.
- ⁴ In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.
- ⁵ They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.
- ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:
- ⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."
- ⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.
- ¹⁰ From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb 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 surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- ¹³ Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.
- ¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.
- ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.
- ¹⁷ I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.
- ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

(Upon completion of the Psalm, all may leave the church silently)

THIS IS MY
BODY
THIS IS MY
BLOOD



Serving at Chapel

Preacher:		Charles Wallace
Liturgist:		Theodore Laesch
Acolyte:	6:30 p.m.	Eve Zvirgzdins
Soloist:		Mark Petersen
Accompanist & Organist:		Rev. Arthur Eichhorn

Good Friday Services

12:00 noon & 6:30 p.m.

Easter Vigil Service

Saturday – 5:00 p.m.

Easter Services

Sunday – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

*Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran, 11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO
(314-741-3737)*

*Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com
Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.*

