

# St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

This evening we gather with Christians around the world to hear Christ's commandment, to love one another as he has loved us. 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.

## Holy Communion

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

(ELW Setting 9, page 193)

† Congregation stands as able

## GATHERING

Prelude

Sandra Nearhoof



P. Blessed be God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C. And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.**

P. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

P. Gracious God,

**C. Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P. 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.

**C. Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"*

**ELW#708**

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day:

P. 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.

**C. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**First Reading**

**Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

**Tone 8**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has <sup>1</sup>heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup>supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given <sup>1</sup>ear to me  
whenever <sup>1</sup>er I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- <sup>1</sup>pay the LORD  
for all the good things God has <sup>1</sup>done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup <sup>1</sup>of salvation  
and call on the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup>to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup>all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your <sup>1</sup>sight, O LORD,  
is the death <sup>1</sup>of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I <sup>1</sup>am your servant; I am your servant,  
the child of your handmaid; you have freed me <sup>1</sup>from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice <sup>1</sup>of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup>to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup>all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of <sup>1</sup>the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, <sup>1</sup>O Jerusalem.**

### **Second Reading**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup>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, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

L: The word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the religious authorities so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Served to Serve*

Reverend Taylor Burton Edwards

✠ Hymn of the Day *"Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"* **ELW #358**

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*You may sit, stand or kneel for the prayers.*

## Prayers of Intercession

**A:** 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.*

**A:** 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.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

A: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they would power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: For all those who have asked us to pray for them...Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: 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.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## MEAL

Anthem

*"In Remembrance"*

Choir

*The gifts may be brought forward.*

Offering Prayer

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

See Insert

Holy, Holy, Holy

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Lord's Prayer

"Our Father, who..."

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Lamb of God

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### **Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond, Amen.*



Table Blessing

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

**C: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

**A:** Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament your 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*You may sit or kneel.*

***All depart in silence after the altar is stripped.***

**St. Matthew Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
Mission Statement**



Reach in to grow in Christ  
Reach up to worship God  
Reach out to welcome and witness

**ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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*A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*

*Southeastern Synod*

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Penny Davis, Nursery Director