

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church



Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

7:00 p.m.

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.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

HOLY COMMUNION

† *Congregation stands as able*

GATHERING

† Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins)

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against the devil, the world, and the flesh—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

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.

All kneel or sit and keep silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: 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**

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 we have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith.

C: Amen

Gathering Hymn

"Where charity and love prevail"

ELW #359

Kyrie

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen, amen.**

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.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴If 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.

⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

¹¹This 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. ¹²For 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.

¹³The 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.

¹⁴This 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

¹I 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.**

¹²How 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.**

¹⁴I 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.**

¹⁶O 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.**

¹⁸I 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

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For 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 13:2b-17, 34-35

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

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

^{2b}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. 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."

P. The Gospel of the Lord

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Life in the Household

Pastor Taylor Burton Edwards

Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing flourishes. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to people
B: celebrating first communion today, and to all who share the meal.
Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: For all of those who have asked us to pray for them...

C: receive our prayer.

A: God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints especially, Keandra Bashful, WJ Barrs, and Eva Brown. In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen

MEAL

The gifts may be brought forward.

Offering Prayer

† Great Thanksgiving

Holy, Holy, Holy (spoken)

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Anaphora

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Lord's Prayer "Our Father, who..."

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Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and 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 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.

C: **Amen**

Sending Hymn

“Go to dark Gethsemane”

ELW #347

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*Following the reading of Psalm 22,
the congregation is asked to leave in silence.*

The service this evening has no benediction or closing voluntary and concludes with the stripping of the altar. The stripping of the altar reminds us that “Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.” Worshipers are asked to leave the Sanctuary in silence.



Good Friday, March 29, 2024

7:00 PM

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Easter Day, March 31, 2024

9:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

10:30 AM – Service of Holy Communion

Servers for Maundy Thursday

Lector:	Katherine Kelly
Worship Assistant:	Rose Johnson
Communion Assistant:	Rachel Zarnke
Ushers:	Sean Jeffery/Jim Sperry

ST. MATTHEW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

Southeastern Synod

www.stmatthewcolumbusga.com

The Rev. Taylor Burton Edwards, Pastor
Sonja Metcalf, Parish Administrator
Lisa Pettit, Sexton

Sandra Nearhoof, Minister of Music
Penny Davis, Nursery Director