

Mauudy Thursday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 28, 2024 - 7:00 pm



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Dallas, PA
Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Margaret Quintanar, Dir. of Music - Organist

MAUNDY THURSDAY is the beginning of the Three Days – the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days is one liturgy extending from Thursday through the Saturday Easter Vigil.

The Maundy Thursday liturgy focuses on three significant actions. First, the confession of sins and announcement of forgiveness brings to a conclusion the Lenten discipline of repentance that began on Ash Wednesday. Second, the church obeys Jesus' command (in Latin, *mandatum*, from which this day receives its name) to follow his example and wash each other's feet. Third, we celebrate our meal of deliverance, taking our place at the supper Jesus shared with his disciples on this night.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeter:	Karen Mertz
Assisting Minister & Lector:	Gail Smallwood
Psalm 22:	Gail Ide and Ray Mancke
Altar:	Cookie Fetterman and Martha Kush
Communion Bread:	Carol Fett

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Noon – St. Paul's Lutheran (also on Zoom) – Father Joseph Rafferty, Preacher

7:00 pm – Prince of Peace Episcopal Church – Stations of the Cross

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE - 8:00 pm Saturday at Prince of Peace Episcopal
Rev. Charles H. Grube, Preacher

EASTER SERVICES

9:30 am – St. Paul's Celebration of the Resurrection

No Sunday School Easter Sunday

ORDER OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

Michael D. Costello

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The minister invites the congregation to Confession.

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.

All kneel or sit and keep silence 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.

Sit.

INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION

*Those who desire may come forward to receive the laying on of hands for individual absolution.
The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn.*

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.
The person may respond Amen.

When all have received the laying on of hands, stand as you are able for the hymn.

GATHERING HYMN # 358 *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

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 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.

Sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

A reading from Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

“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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-2, 10-17 (NRSVUE)

The psalm is read responsively by the lector and congregation by whole verse.

I love the Lord because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

I kept my faith, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;

**I said in my consternation,
“Everyone is a liar.”**

What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?
**I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord;**

I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.
**Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.**

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

A reading from First Corinthians.

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, 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." 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your

feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By 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.

Sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection

Stand as you are able

HYMN *"He Gives Himself in Service"*

(Lyrics written by Pastor Grube on March 18, 1998. The hymn is sung to "Munich", 76 76 D "I Lay My Sins on Jesus").

1. He gives himself in service. He gives himself in love.
At Passover they gathered, Christ Jesus with the Twelve.
And taking towel and basin, his servant love to prove,
He gives himself in service. He gives himself in love.
2. As Teacher, Lord and Master, he is God's holy Word.
He shows us holy mercy. He shows us holy love.
Yet not above his fol'wers, this servant from above.
He gives himself in service. He gives himself in love.
3. He washes them. He serves them. He loves them to the end.
No greater love is offered, or for a friend is giv'n.
And thus the new commandment to follow as he shows:
To give myself in service, to give myself in love.

4. The loaf he lifts before them, the cup he offers, too:
“My body which is broken, my blood spilled out for you.”
He comes to us – his presence – in sacramental food.
He gives himself in service. He gives himself in love.
5. For us, for our salvation, no greater love can be,
He gives himself, his lifeblood; he dies upon the tree.
The cross, the new commandment, his body and his blood.
He gives himself in service. He gives himself in love.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for new life in the church, new hope for the world, and God's love for all who are in need.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray to you, O God, in the name of the one who endured the cross, forgives our sin, and feeds us at his table, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

Sit.

ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love Is This

Trad. American Folk Hymn
Arr. Mark Hayes

MEAL

The presiding minister unveils the paten and chalice and prepares for the communion.

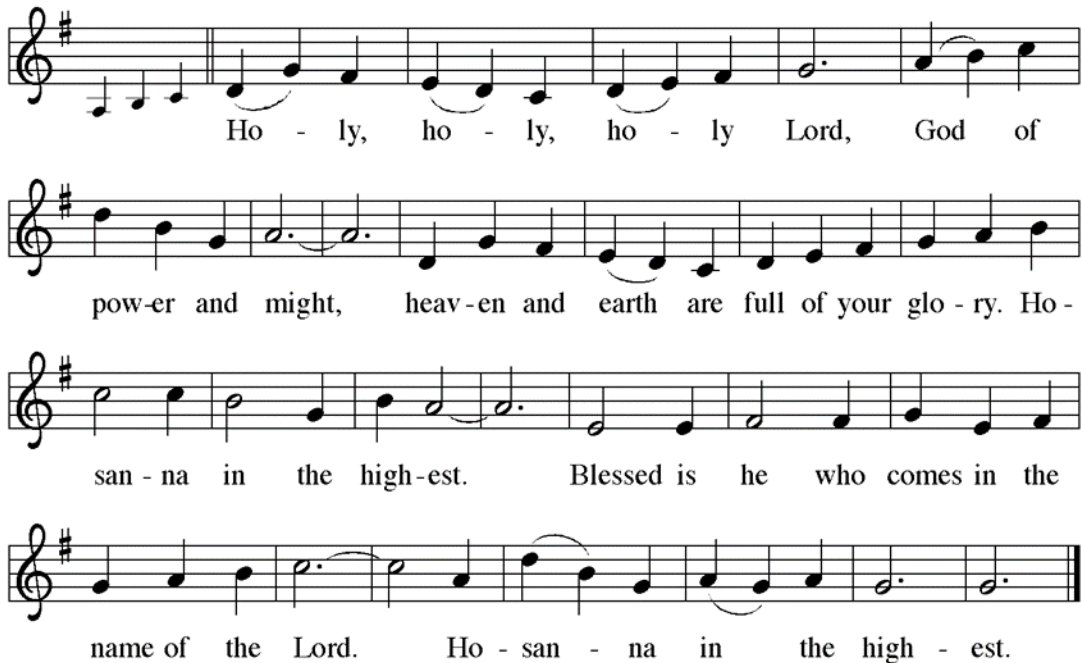
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presider proclaims praise to God for creation and salvation and the grace of God's gift in Jesus' own words of promise and command at the table, concluding,

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting...
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection... Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Holy Spirit... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones... O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION

Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

Sit.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

The bread is broken for the communion and the assembly is seated. Online worshipers receive the word The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step. The communion ministers will move around the predella step counterclockwise communing you in turn. The person seated closest to the ambo comes to the first place by the ambo, and those behind and to their right follow in turn by taking the next open position, filling the predella step around the table. We progress from that seat section counterclockwise through each seat section in turn to the choir, who communes last. When you have communed, return to your seat, and the next person can take that position. Remain seated to sing the hymns while you wait your turn.

Take an empty glass from the tray to be filled with wine from the pouring chalice. Prefilled glasses of juice are available for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine.

We invite all Baptized Christians and those who commune in their own churches to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children and those not communing may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward to receive Holy Communion, please inform an usher or neighbor of your desire to commune so they can inform the communion ministers, and they will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say,
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.*

During the distribution, the following hymn is sung:

HYMN #485 *I Am the Bread of Life*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

Sit.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The deliberate and unhurried stripping of the Altar is the stripping of Christ, his humiliation at the hands of the soldiers. Clearing the chancel of all its adornments prepares us for the solemn event of Good Friday. Psalm 22, the cry of Jesus from the cross, is said during the stripping. The benediction is omitted at this and Good Friday services, since the three services – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter – are a continuous liturgy that celebrates the central event of Christianity – the death and resurrection of Christ.

Lights are dimmed as the worship space is stripped.

PSALM 22

The Psalm is read by two lectors

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;

in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;

scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;

you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

**I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.**

For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shriveled;
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

**But you, O Lord, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!**

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.

**From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

**To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**

The blessing and dismissal are omitted. All depart in silence.

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