





# March 28, 2024 Maundy Thursday

n this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy services includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*mandatum*, from which Maundy comes) to love one another.

The Maundy Thursday service is one of endings and beginnings. What was begun on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close here today. What begins today does not end until the resurrection of Easter. It is the ancient Triduum, "The Three Sacred Days," which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

The theme is love, our Savior's love for us, expressed in the washing of the disciples' feet, in giving himself in bread and wine, in dying upon the cross.

An invitation to confession is given. The focus is on forgiveness. On Ash Wednesday, we began Lent with a major act of confession and ashes. but we did not receive forgiveness in the absolution. Tonight our forgiveness comes now "in the name and by the command of our Lord," at the service celebrating Christ's love. The peace is shared after absolution and seals that forgiveness in a loving embrace, as if embraced by Christ himself.

The lessons of love are read. A new command derives from it: "Love one another." A song and a sign of love goes with it.

The prayers are said. The table is made ready. The time of the Lord's Supper arrives, and our Lord is revealed in bread and wine as once he "revealed himself to his disciples." It is a solemn moment, but we cannot linger here. Nor could the Lord. His betrayal was imminent.

Before we know it, the markings of betrayal are seen before us. The symbol of Christ in our midst, the altar, is stripped bare. Christ is stripped of his power and glory. Good Friday is inescapable. The powers of darkness work upon him.

In silence, we depart without benediction. The Three Sacred Days continue with Good Friday. There will be Stations of the Cross at 12 noon and service at 7pm.

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#### Welcome to Church of the Savior – Lutheran:

We are a community of believers, seekers, and doubters. We affirm all of God's people just as they are. We are a welcoming and inclusive community that does not require you to change in any way to worship with us.

We strive to make love grow both in our congregational life and in our nursery school. We recognize all the love we have is given to us from the Holy Spirit, we are but reflections of God's love. One of the ways we make love grow is by being accepting and existing the way Jesus taught us; living in harmony together no matter one's race, nationality, or gender. We strive to create and ensure the safest and most loving environment for everyone. We look forward to growing in faith with you.

### With Regard to Holy Communion:

We celebrate Holy Communion nearly every week at Church of the Savior. Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood "in, with, and under the forms" of the consecrated bread and wine. All of God's beautiful children are welcome to our Lord's table — it's our Lord's table, after all, and all are invited. Let's be clear — it is not "my" table, or "our" table or a "Lutheran" table. It is our Lord's table, and he sends out the invitations — to everyone under the sun. This includes you to come forward just as are.

For the bread we provide two types of host, with gluten and without. If you would like gluten free let Pastor Paul know when you come forward. We offer both red wine and white grape juice.

#### To the Parents of Children:

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is going on. Little one's tire of seeing the back of others' heads.

Explain the parts of the service and actions of the pastor, ushers, choir, and the people who make worship happen. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in their house of worship. The presence of your child is a gift to Church of the Savior. We are blessed to welcome and worship with our children. We know that is took a lot of work to get to this pew today; you are doing a really good job!

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended



#### CONFESSION AND INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION

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.

Silence is kept 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.

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  $\pm$  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. **Amen.** 



#### **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

#### PEACE OF THE LORD

# FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14

<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. 5Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They 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. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <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.

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.



PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication, <sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me? <sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lector: Word of God, Word of Life

People: Thanks Be to God.

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35 People: Glory to you, O Lord.

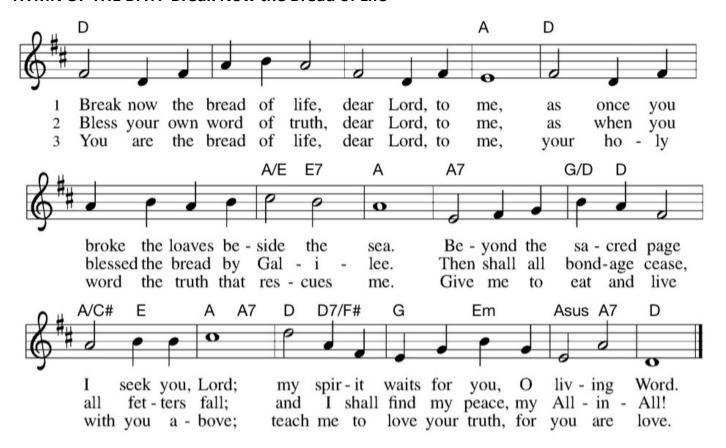
<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray 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 Jews 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."

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### HYMN OF THE DAY: Break Now the Bread of Life



**SERMON: Pastor Paul Miller** 



#### **HANDWASHING**

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who received God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of the hands, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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.

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, receive our prayer.

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, **receive our prayer.** 

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, **receive our prayer.** 

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 near (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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*). In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.** 

Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **Amen.** 

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Response: Receive our prayer

SHARING OF THE PEACE

SPECIAL MUSIC: Bill Vollinger: I Stood at Calvary

**OFFERING** 



# Please mail your offering to: Church of the Savior 643 Forest Avenue - Paramus, NJ 07652 OR Use the QR code on right for your offertory giving.





**PASTOR**: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.** 

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

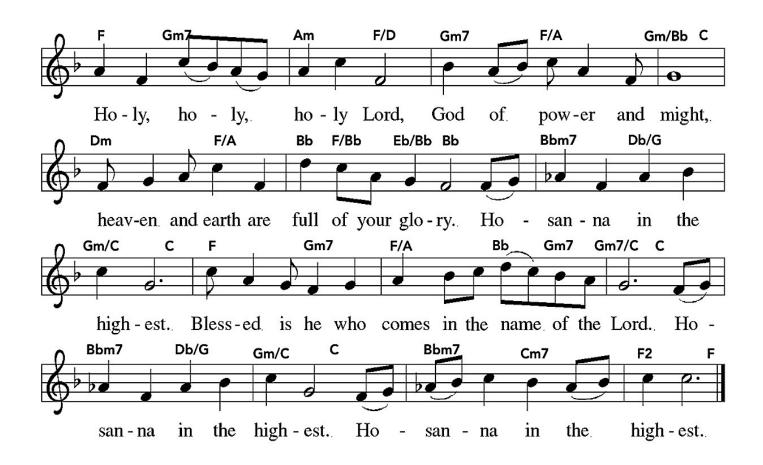
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### PREFACE FOR THE SEASON

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Hear the Gospel Account from Mark of the Jesus's Last Supper: (Mark 14: 22-25) People: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." <sup>23</sup>Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. <sup>24</sup>He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

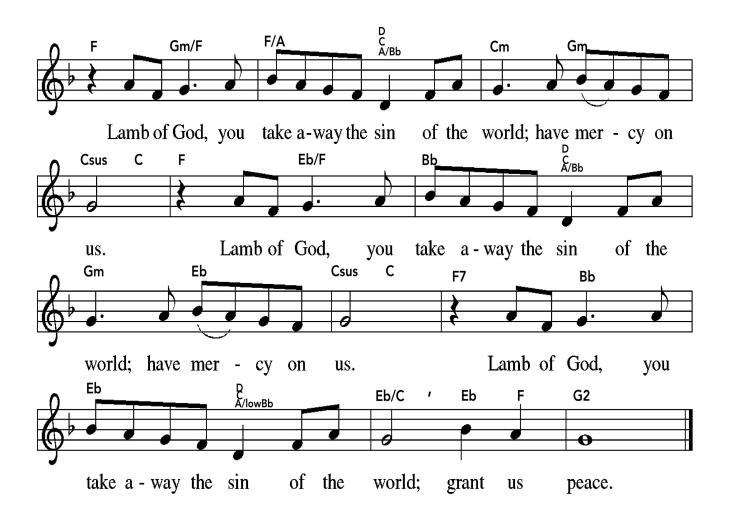
....proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

At conclusion of Eucharistic Prayer ....

People: Amen

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER



#### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**



#### **COMMUNION HYMN: Eat This Bread**



those who trust in you will not thirst.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Je - sus Christ,

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ris - en Lord,



#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**PASTOR:** May the Body and Blood of our Lord strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen** 

#### **SENDING**

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.

#### **CLOSING HYMN: Go to Dark Gethsemane**



#### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The linens, paraments, ornaments, and candles are removed from the altar and chancel. Psalm 22 will be read during the stripping of the altar. We will all depart in silence.

**PSALM: Psalm 22** 

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup>My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest. <sup>3</sup>Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup>Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them. <sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame. <sup>6</sup>But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people. <sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads. <sup>8</sup>"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him." <sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb, and kept me safe on my mother's breast. <sup>10</sup>I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb. <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help. <sup>12</sup>Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me. <sup>13</sup>They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion. <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax. <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death. <sup>16</sup>Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me; they pierce my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

<sup>18</sup>They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots. <sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid. <sup>20</sup>Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me. <sup>22</sup>I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel. <sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them. <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD. <sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

28 For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"



The Three Sacred Days continue with Good Friday Service tomorrow with a 12 Noon 'Stations of the Cross' and 7pm Tenebrae Service.

