



Immanuel
Lutheran
of Evanston

**The Great Three Days
Holy Week 2026**

Thurs. 7:30 PM; Fri. 7:30 PM; Sat. 7:30 PM

The Great Three Days

The Great Three Days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday's Great Vigil of Easter—though chronologically three days and seemingly three services, are actually liturgically a single, long service that gradually unfolds the unified mystery of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

Each evening we will hear part of the great drama and will experience once more the mighty acts of God in Christ Jesus, the Savior of the World. As much as we might want to, we cannot go straight to the glory of Easter and resurrection without first passing through the way of fellowship and mutual servanthood, the dark night of betrayal, the long day of suffering, the death on the Cross, the sealing of the tomb, and the anguished, numb waiting of Jesus' friends as they wonder what comes next ... and as they begin to realize the good news that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

These services are wonderfully participatory, and make use of all the senses. We invite you to enter into the drama, responding with your whole being to the awesome story of salvation.

Maundy Thursday

Worship with the Eucharist
and Stripping of the Altar

April 2, 2026, 7:30 PM



About tonight's worship...

This is the first of the Great Three Days: Holy Thursday, or “Maundy” Thursday. The word “maundy” was a garbled pronunciation of *mandatum*, the Latin for word for “commandment.” As we will hear in tonight’s Gospel reading, it is on this night, as Jesus enjoys a final meal with his friends, that he gives “a new commandment”—the commandment to love one another just as Jesus has loved us. Jesus gives this commandment as he gives up his role as master, and stoops as a humble servant to wash the feet of those who by rights should be washing his feet. This willingness to lovingly bend and serve one another is the very last message that Jesus wants to leave with his followers. That is the core of the Good News for the first part of this evening.

For those who wish, Pastor Mark will lay on hands and pronounce individual absolution for sins as we come to the end of Lent, the time of repentance, and as we prepare for the joy of Easter. We will sing together, pray together, and hear the words of scripture together. Then the ministers will lead us in washing one another’s hands or feet as we live out the reality that we are servants to one another. And then, just as Jesus and his friends did that night, we will share the Lord’s Supper together.

And then, just as Jesus and his disciples sang a song and went out into the night to go pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, we will enter into a time of prayerful meditation, followed by the solemn stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday as a psalm is sung. We strip away all those adornments that might distract us from our focus on the Cross that lies ahead. And then we go out into the night to wait to hear the next part of the story.

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister.....	Pr. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister.....	Anne Heider
Lector.....	Susan Ross
Acolyte.....	Kit McCarthy
Table Preparation.....	Kathryn Skelton
Music Director.....	James Morehead
Vocalists.....	Sara Krentz, Kevin McDaniel
Organists.....	Greg Hummel, Laurie Stivers
Audio-Visual Technicians.....	Tom Couch, Michael Kloster
Ushers and Greeters.....	Terri Hummel, Nicolai Schousboe

Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...*

P: Presiding Minister A: Assembly L: Leader R: Reader C: Choir

Prelude

"O Lam Gottes, unschuldig" BWV 656"

By J.S. Bach

The Assembly stands as directed.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Our loving Parent 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 keep silence after each petition for reflection and self-examination.

L Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples; we ask for your mercy and your help; our thoughtlessness and selfishness betrays you.

P Lord, forgive us.

A Christ, have mercy.

L We fail to share the pain of your suffering, or the suffering of those around us.

P Lord, forgive us.

A Christ, have mercy.

L We run away from those who heap scorn upon you, and from those who abuse the least of these.

P Lord, forgive us.

A Christ, have mercy.

L We are afraid of being known to belong to you.

P Lord, forgive us.

A Christ, have mercy.

P God loved the world in this way: He gave the only Son, in order that whoever believes in him should not perish, but should have eternal life. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, and for his sake, your sins are forgiven. May the servant Lord who loves us even to death on a cross, have mercy on us, pardon and deliver us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

A Amen.

Individual Absolution with Laying on of Hands

*During the singing of the hymn, all those who desire to receive the laying on of hands and individual absolution are invited to come forward and to kneel as the minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each person in turn: "In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins." You may respond: **Amen.***

Song

"Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now" (ROCKINGHAM OLD)

ACS 930

1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
 2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
 3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
 vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
 ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
 is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
 praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Greeting

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

A And also with you!

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.

A Amen.

R A reading from Exodus.

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.

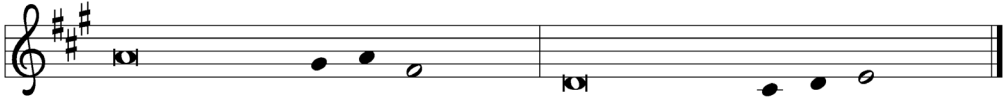
¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The organ will play the tone through. The organ will only accompany the first two verses. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. The organ accompanies the first two verses and the remaining verses are sung unaccompanied.

Tone:



- ¹I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
²**for the Lord has given | ear to me**
whenev- | er I called.
- ¹²How shall I re- | pay 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.

Reading from the New Testament

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

R A reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians.

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.

R The Word of the Lord. Or, Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

The Assembly stands to greet the Gospel.

Lenten Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

P The holy gospel according to John.

A **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 put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. 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 the table, 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 returned to the table, 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, servants 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 Judeans 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.”

P The gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel Acclamation is sung once again. The Assembly is then seated.

Sermon

Washing of One Another's Hands and Feet

The ministers will lead the Assembly in a rite of washing either hands or feet.

You may wash the hands of other family members who come forward with you, or the ministers will wash you.

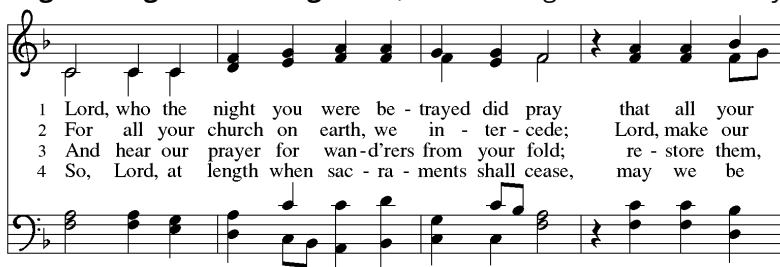
All those who wish to participate may come forward to either the hand- or foot-washing station.

Please wait until a station is open to come forward for the rite.

During this time, the Assembly sings.

P On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive 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 feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

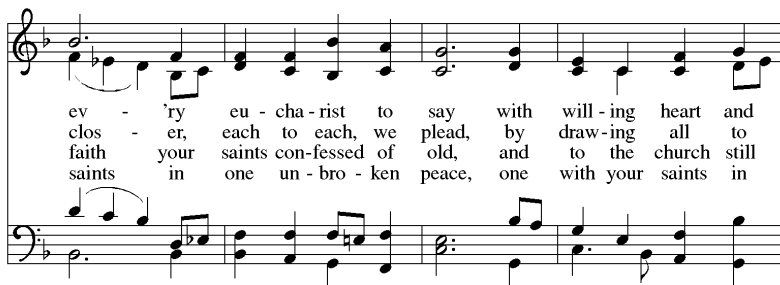
Songs During the Washing "Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed" (SONG 1) ELW 463



1 Lord, who the night you were be - trayed did pray that all your
 2 For all your church on earth, we in - ter - cede; Lord, make our
 3 And hear our prayer for wan - d'ers from your fold; re - store them,
 4 So, Lord, at length when sac - ra - ments shall cease, may we be



church might be for - ev - er one: help us at
 sad di - vi - sions soon to cease; draw us all
 too, Good Shep - herd of the sheep, back to the
 one with all your church a - bove— one with your



ev - 'ry eu - cha - rist to say with will - ing heart and
 clos - er, each to each, we plead, by draw - ing all to
 faith your saints con - fessed of old, and to the church still
 saints in one un - bro - ken peace, one with your saints in



soul, "Your will be done." Oh, may we all one bread, one
 you, O Prince of peace; thus may we all one bread, one
 pledged that faith to keep. Soon may we all one bread, one
 one un - bound - ed love; more bless - ed still, in peace and



bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 bod - y be, through this blest sac - ra - ment of u - ni - ty.
 love to be one with the Trin - i - ty in u - ni - ty.

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant" (THE SERVANT SONG)

ELW 659

1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" (CHEREPONI)

ELW 708

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

When directed, the Assembly stands for the Prayers.

Prayers of the People

- L 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.]*
- L 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.
- A Your mercy is great.**
- L God of healing, strengthen the resolve of church leaders to go out and do good works for our world. We pray for our bishops Yehiel and Wayne, our pastor Mark, our president Kit, our council, our ministries, and all who guide and instruct our community. Hear us, O God.
- A Your mercy is great.**
- L 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.
- A Your mercy is great.**
- L God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.
- A Your mercy is great.**

L Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer, especially Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Tom Couch, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Dennis Milbrandt, Shirley Patrick, Jan Rock, the family of Kurt Roderer, Ionie Smith, Steve Warner, Marina Yarnoff, and those we name now aloud or in our hearts [...]. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L 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.

A Your mercy is great.

L And now, sisters and brothers, for what else shall we pray?

The Assembly is invited to offer thanksgivings and petitions.

Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses, especially Benedict the African, who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

A 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.

A Amen.

Peace

P Jesus says to his friends, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you."

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

The Assembly is seated.

Meal: *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...*

Offering *An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.*

Offering Music

*Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exsultemus, et in ipso jucundemur,
timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum
et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

"Ubi Caritas"
By Maurice Duruflé
*Where true charity and love dwell,
God himself is there.
Since the love of Christ has joined us in one body,
Let us all rejoice and be glad now and always.
And as we hear and love the living God,
So let us in sincerity love all people.*

Presentation of Gifts "Now Is the Time of Grace" (NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE)

ACS 918

The Assembly stands and sings twice as the gifts are brought forward.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a first ending bracket over the first two measures, and a second ending bracket over the last two measures. The lyrics are: "Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion." The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

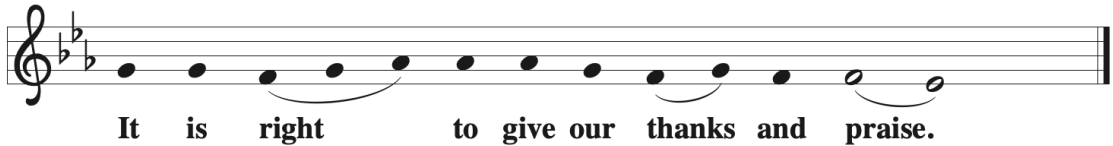
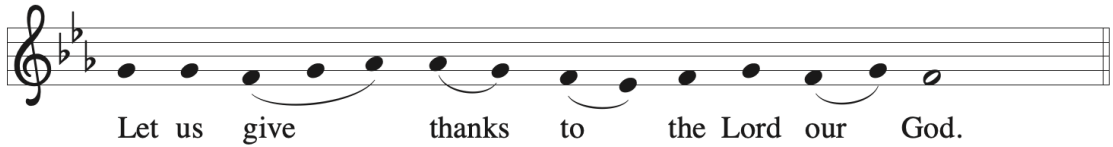
Offering Prayer

L Let us pray. *[Pause]* 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

A Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

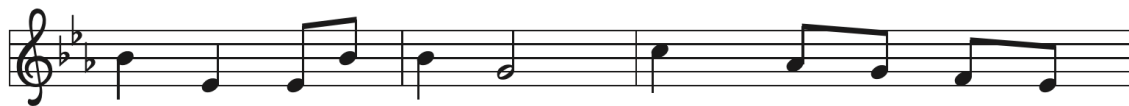
Dialogue



Preface The Presiding Minister begins the prayer:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy *The Assembly joins in singing:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
in the beginning you formed the heavens and earth
and created us in your likeness.

You made us guardians of your good creation and left the earth in our care.
All through our weary years and our silent tears,
you did not abandon us to ourselves,
but sought us out in love.

When we were captives in Egypt, you did not abandon us.
When we wandered in the wilderness, you did not abandon us.
When we turned to false gods, you did not abandon us.
Through your holy prophets you called us to return
to your graciousness, to your mercy, and to your steadfast love.
In the crowning act of love you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him will have eternal life.
For you sent Jesus not to condemn the world,
but to save the world from sin.

Through his death on the cross, we who were once far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

- A** **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

- P** With this bread and cup, we remember Christ's life among us;
his association with outcasts, his eating with sinners,
his healing of the sick, his care for the poor.

Send, we pray, your Holy Spirit
upon us and upon this bread and wine,
that we who share this meal
may become a holy communion,
the body of Christ in the world.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

A

Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

P Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

A 🗣️ **We come to the table with open hearts.**

The Assembly is seated.

Communion Song Lamb of God



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, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. Those who are able may kneel. You will receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion.

P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.

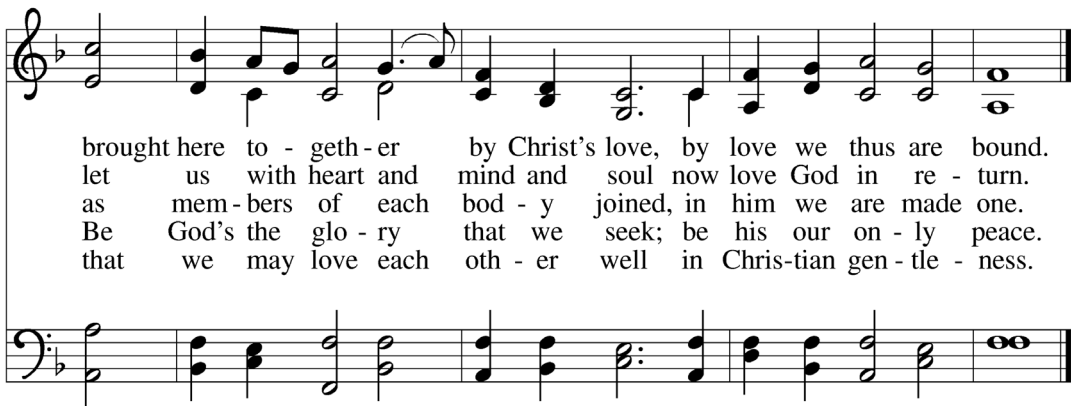
P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.

When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."

Communion Hymn"Where Charity and Love Prevail" (TWENTY-FOURTH) **ELW 359**


1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
 Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
 that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

*The Assembly stands as directed.***Blessing after Communion**

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L 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..

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated.

Stripping of the Altar

The sanctuary is stripped of all adornment as we strip away all that might distract us from our focus on the central mystery of our faith: the Cross of Christ.

The Assembly sits in awe and silence during the singing of the Psalm, marveling at the mighty thing that God has done as we enter into Good Friday.

Psalm 88

Sara Krentz & Kevin McDaniel

After the Ministers leave the sanctuary, the Assembly may depart in silence.

Good Friday

April 3, 2026, 7:30 PM



About tonight's worship...

Throughout his ministry Jesus turned things on their heads: the last became first, the poor were blessed, the blind could see. In parable and miracle Jesus brought a dominion that was set against the kingdoms of this world. In the circumstances of his death, he did away with the accepted structures of power and weakness, justice and retribution. Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate manifestation of the paradox of the dominion of God: the king who only days before rode triumphantly into the royal city is now crucified as a criminal. The Messiah is a suffering servant. The Son of God is willing to die so that we might live.

John's gospel tells the story of how God accomplished, in Jesus, the fulfillment of scriptural prophecy about the one who would bring God's people into reconciliation with God's own self. We will hear a translation that minimizes the anti-semitic bent of John's gospel. In the story of the passion, Jesus' inexorable journey toward the cross, which is the culmination of this prophecy, picks up speed. Then, with Jesus' dying breath, the journey is over. With the words "It is finished," or better translated, "It is accomplished," Jesus' mission is complete. His passion and his suffering are finished; the centuries-long wait for the Messiah is finished. God's ultimate disruption of our efforts to save ourselves, and the astounding reversal of human expectations, is accomplished.

On this evening, as we meditate on the consequences of God's sacrifice, the church proclaims the good news that the Cross of Christ is not only necessary, but also sufficient for our salvation. With the command of Maundy Thursday lingering in our ears and hearts, Good Friday reminds us that the freedom to obey Jesus comes as a gift from God through the Cross of Christ. At the Cross, our old life of captivity to sin is finished, and our new life of discipleship begins.

In our worship, we cry out with the psalmist, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?", the same words that Jesus cries out on the Cross. We pray for the whole world that Christ came to redeem. We stand in reverence and then bow in awe as the Cross is brought before our eyes. We hear the Crucified One speak to us in the ancient words of the Solemn Reproaches, challenging us for the ways in which we fail to live as people of the Cross and of the Resurrection. We then contemplate the Cross on which was hung the Savior of the whole world. We then sing a song of praise, hear a loud sound to symbolize the stone sealing the tomb, and when we are ready, we depart.

Thanks be to God, Good Friday and the Cross are not the end of the story. Tonight's liturgy is a continuation of last evening's worship, and is completed tomorrow evening as we gather for the Great Vigil, where we will hear the stories of God's saving acts throughout all of history, and then will join in the feast as we hear the great good news of the Resurrection proclaimed. Please join us!

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister.....	Pr. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister.....	Chris Djuric
Lector.....	Chris Djuric
Music Director & Cantor.....	James Morehead
Organists.....	Greg Hummel, Laurie Stivers
Audio-Visual Technician.....	Tom Couch, Michael Kloster
Ushers.....	Joe & Terri Simchak

Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...*

Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

P: Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **C:** Choir **A:** Assembly

✙ *All may make the sign of the cross.*

All gather in silence. The Assembly stands when the Ministers stand.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. *[pause]* Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

A Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13--53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

^{53:1}Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no
violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God



Psalm 22

Tone 9, 1 flat

The organ will play the tone, and then the refrain, and then the Assembly will sing the refrain through. The right side of the Assembly sings the lightface verses to the tone; the left side of the Assembly sings boldface verses. All sing the refrain where indicated by "R."

Tone:



Refrain:



My God, my God, why have you for - sa - ken me?

- ¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?
- ²**My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;
by night, but I | find no rest.**
- ³Yet you are the | Holy One,
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.
- ⁴**Our ancestors put their | trust in you,
they trusted, and you | rescued them. R**
- ⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶**But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,
scorned by all and despised | by the people.**
- ⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
- ⁸**"Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him." R**
- ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,
and kept me safe on my | mother's breast.
- ¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my | mother's womb.**
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
and there is no | one to help.
- ¹²**Many young bulls en- | circle me;
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me. R**

- ¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,
like a slashing and | roaring lion.
- ¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**
- ¹⁵My 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.
- ¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;
they pierce my hands | and my feet. R**
- ¹⁷I can count | all my bones
while they stare at | me and gloat.
- ¹⁸**They divide my gar- | ments among them;
for my clothing, | they cast lots.**
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not | far away;
O my help, hasten | to my aid.
- ²⁰**Deliver me | from the sword,
my life from the power | of the dog.**
- ²¹Save me from the | lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.
- ²²**I will declare your name | to my people;
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you. R**
- ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.
- ²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the
LORD's face hid- | den from them;
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**
- ²⁷All 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 o- | ver the nations. R**
- ²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!" R

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25

[After the Holy Spirit says,] ¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds,”

¹⁷he also adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord

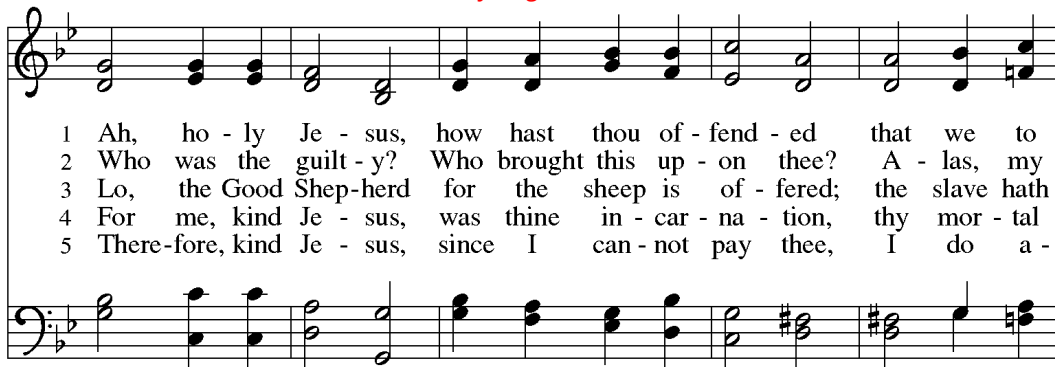
A Thanks be to God!

THE PASSION OF JESUS ACCORDING TO JOHN 18:1-19:42

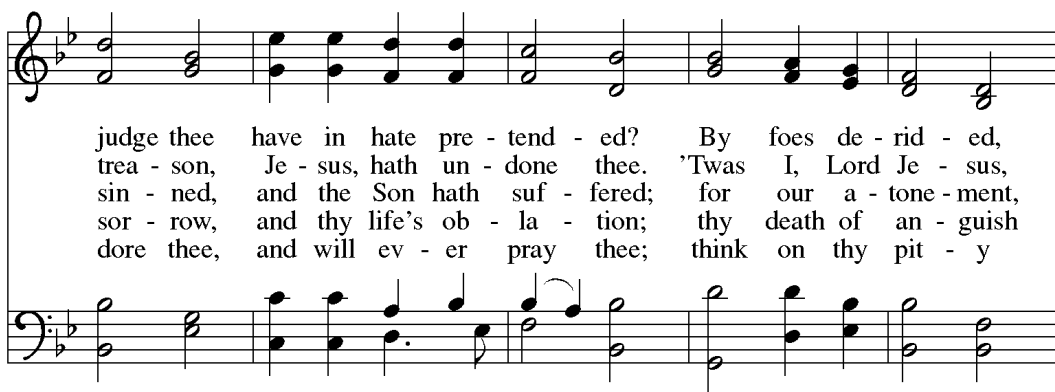
*We will hear a translation that minimizes the anti-semitic bent of John's gospel.
We remain seated for the reading.*

John 18:1-27

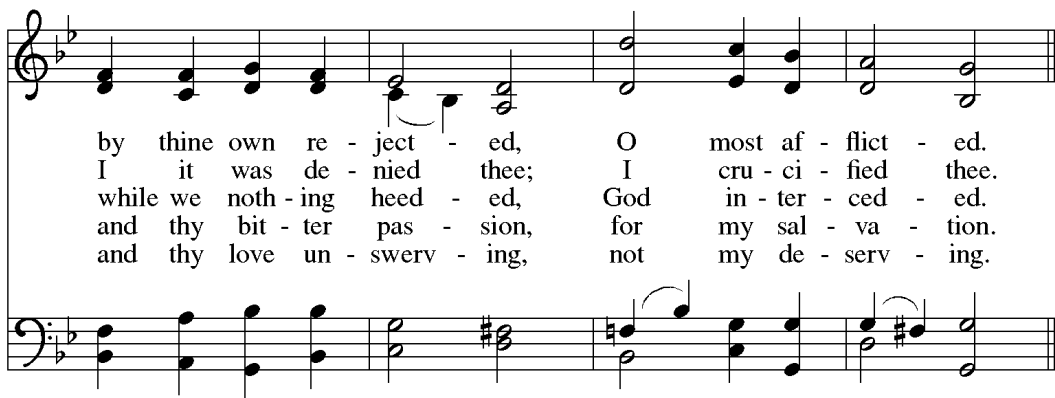
The Assembly sings Verses 1, 3, & 5



1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep-herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There-fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -



judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y



by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

John 18:28 - 19:16

Hymn

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN) ELW 351

The Assembly sings Verses 1 & 4

1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn;
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
mine, mine was the trans - ges - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

The Assembly sings verses 1-3

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

The Assembly sings "Were You There" verses 4 & 5

Bidding Prayer

The Ministers kneel. The Assembly is seated, bowed in a posture of worship.

After the Assisting Minister invites you to prayer with each petition, please pray silently for that need.

- L Let us pray, brothers and sisters, for the holy church throughout the world. *[Silent prayer.]*
- P Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit guide the church and gather it throughout the world. Help it to persevere in faith, proclaim your name, and bring the good news of salvation in Christ to all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.**
- L Let us pray for our bishops Yehiel and Wayne, our pastor Mark, our president Kit, our council, and our ministries, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God. *[Silent prayer.]*
- P Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold bishops, pastors, other ministers, and lay leaders. Keep them in health and safety for the good of the church. Help each of us in our various vocations to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.**
- L Let us pray for those preparing for baptism. *[Silent prayer.]*
- P Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.**
- L Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ. *[Silent prayer.]*
- P Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.**
- L Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God. *[Silent prayer.]*
- P Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- A Amen.**

L Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. *[Silent prayer.]*
P Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

L Let us pray for those who do not believe in God. *[Silent prayer.]*
P Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

L Let us pray for God's creation. *[Silent prayer.]*
P Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

L Let us pray for those who serve in public office. *[Silent prayer.]*
P Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

L Let us pray for those in need. *[Silent prayer.]*
P Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

L Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

**A Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Procession of the Cross

*The Assembly stands and sings as the cross is brought in.
The cross is brought further forward and is placed in the center of the worship space.*

Hymn

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (ST. CHRISTOPHER)

ELW 338

The Assembly sings Verses 1 & 3 only

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Solemn Reproaches

The Solemn Reproaches are the voice of the Crucified One speaking to us, calling on us to remember the mighty and gracious things God has done for us in spite of our failings.

We respond by acknowledging God's holiness, and by asking for God's mercy.

Each time the Presider says, "...but you have prepared a cross for your Savior," the Assembly responds.

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you?...
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**A Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Veneration of the Cross


During the singing, in the silence following, you are invited to come to the large cross to make a sign of reverence such as pausing before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayer, or touching it.

Choir Anthem


"Christus factus est"
By Carlotta Ferrari

Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum et dedit illi nomen,
quod est super omne nomen.


Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even to the death, death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted Him and gave Him a name
which is above all names.




1 Sing, my tongue, of the glo - rious bat - tle; tell the
2 God in mer - cy saw us fal - len, sunk in
3 Tell how, when at length the full - ness of the ap -
4 Thir - ty years a - mong us dwell - ing, Je - sus
5 Bend your boughs, O tree of glo - ry, your re -



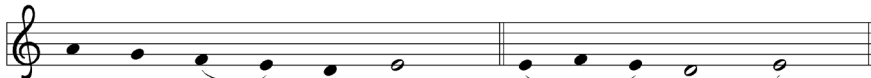
tri - umph far and wide; tell a - loud the won - drous
shame and mis - er - y, felled to death in E - den's
point - ed time was come, Christ, the Word, was born of
went from Naz - a - reth, des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed,
lax - ing sin - ews bend; for a while the an - cient



sto - ry of the cross, the Cru - ci - fied;
gar - den, where in pride we claimed the tree;
wom - an, left for us the heav - 'nly home,
will - ing, did his work, and met his death;
rig - or that your birth be - stowed, sus - pend;



tell how Christ, the world's re - deem - er, van - quished
then an - oth - er tree was chos - en, which the
blazed the path of true o - be - dience, shone as
like a lamb he humb - ly yield - ed on the
and the Lord of heav'n - ly beau - ty gent - ly



death the day he died.
world from death would free.
light a - midst the gloom.
cross his dy - ing breath.
on your arms ex - tend. (7) A - men.

6 Faithful cross, true sign of triumph,
be for all the noblest tree;
none in foliage, none in blossom,
none in fruit your equal be;
symbol of the world's redemption,
for your burden makes us free.

7 Unto God be praise and glory;
to the Father and the Son,
to the eternal Spirit honor
now and evermore be done;
praise and glory in the highest,
while the timeless ages run. Amen.

Departure

Before the Ministers depart, a loud sound is heard, signifying Christ's death and entombment.

You may stay and contemplate the great mystery of the Cross as long as you wish.

When you are ready, please depart in worshipful silence.

The Great Vigil of Pascha

April 4, 2026, 7:30 PM



About tonight's worship...

The Great Vigil of Pascha ("Passover") is a special night. We hear some of the greatest stories of our faith heritage unfurled in one setting, like telling our shared stories around a fire. In hearing these stories, we connect with the heart of our own faith story.

As the people of God, we have through history ached in suffering, celebrated in praise, begged for help, offered generous service, and in general led lives full to the brim. The stories of the Easter Vigil remind us of the range of faithful moments, including both joy and desolation. Witnessing these ancient stories, we discover anew how God's great story is for *us*. These stories are indeed *our* stories.

God brings us through fire and water, out of death and night, welcoming us into the light of life. This night we light the Paschal candle from a new fire. By the light of that flame we gather in a circle to hear and to remember who we are and where we have come from. We gather at the baptismal font, giving thanks for water that is a sign of death to sin and rebirth into eternal life and for the fire of the Spirit, animating ashes and dry bones. Tonight, as the church around the world welcomes new brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism, as we ourselves welcome two new brothers, and as we renew our baptismal vows, we remember how on the first Easter Christ welcomed Mary: calling her by name, bringing her out of weeping into the joyous light of Easter morning.

Through the drama of the Great Vigil, our communities of faith are invited to honest reflection and real renewal. On this night we remember that God's great story holds all of our little stories: the joy and fear of a new baby, changing jobs, cancer, celebrating friendship, waiting for new faith to emerge. All of us are written into God's ongoing and welcoming narrative of passionate grace and service.

Serving in worship this evening...

Presiding Minister.....	Pr. Mark Sloss
Assisting Minister.....	Kit McCarthy
Lectors.....	Kathryn Skelton, Susan Ross, Chris Djuric, Kit McCarthy, Pr. Mark Sloss, Melanie Anderson, Dana Barron
Acolyte.....	Elora Kloster
Music Director.....	James Morehead
Organist.....	Greg Hummel, Laurie Stivers
Table Preparation.....	Barbara Huffman
Audio-Visual Technicians.....	Tom Couch, Michael Klsoterl
Ushers.....	Marlene Chatain & Nicolai Schousboe

Gathering: *The Holy Spirit assembles us as the People of God ...*

This is the night of salvation! At the Vigil of Easter, we gather around fire, word, water, bread, and wine, proclaiming through story and song that ours is a God who continuously brings life out of death. On this night we experience again the heart of God's baptismal promise and the center of our faith: we are claimed and cleansed, renewed in the death and resurrection of Christ. We gather with all the saints of every time and place to celebrate the good news: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: Presiding Minister **L:** Leader/Assisting Minister **R:** Reader **A:** Assembly

✠ *All may make the sign of the cross.*

Welcome and Explanation

The Great Vigil begins after sunset after darkness has begun to descend, as a reminder of the darkness that is pierced by the blinding light of the resurrected Christ. The service begins outside.

The new fire represents God's creative energy that is sparked again and again in our world.

The Paschal Candle recalls for us the pillar of fire that led the Children of Israel through the desert, and represents for us tonight the light of Christ, leading us to freedom.

Your unlighted candle represents the soul waiting to be kindled by the fire of God's Spirit.

Greeting

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

A Amen.

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy night when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory.

Prayer

P Let us pray. Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

Blessing of the Paschal Candle

The Presiding Minister traces the symbols on the Paschal Candle as he prays.

- P Christ yesterday and today, (✠)
the beginning, (Alpha-A)
and the ending. (Omega-Ω)
To Christ belongs all time and all the ages. (year)
To Christ belongs all glory and dominion, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Paschal Candle is lighted from the new fire.

- P The light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

The Assisting Minister lifts the candle for all to see.

- P Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share this night in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

Procession

The Assisting Minister leads the assembly to the entrance of the worship space and holds the paschal candle at the entrance of the sanctuary for the assembly to light their candles and bring the light into the darkened sanctuary.

The Assisting Minister then bring the paschal candle into the sanctuary.

The candle is held aloft three times along the way, to sing our thanks for Christ, our Light.

The Cantor sings and the Assembly responds. At the entrance to the worship space:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The second staff has the same notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The lyrics "The light of Christ." are under the first staff, and "Thanks be to God." are under the second staff.

In the middle of the sanctuary:



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The second staff has the same notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The lyrics "The light of Christ." are under the first staff, and "Thanks be to God." are under the second staff.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand.



The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The second staff has the same notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half). The lyrics "The light of Christ." are under the first staff, and "Thanks be to God." are under the second staff.

Exsultet

*The Cantor sings out an ancient hymn of praise called the Exsultet (Latin for "Rejoice!").
The song announces Christ's resurrection and calls on all creation to join in praise and thanksgiving.
Please join in singing after the Cantor, as you are directed.*

- L Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!
Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;
and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.
Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your king!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever.
Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.

The musical notation consists of three staves. The first staff is for the Leader and the Assembly, with lyrics: "The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**" The second staff is for the Leader, with lyrics: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The third staff is for the Assembly, with lyrics: "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

- L It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that with full devotion of heart and mind and voice
we should praise the invisible God, and the only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
who, by his precious blood, redeemed us from bondage to the ancient sin.
For this indeed is the Paschal Feast in which the true Lamb is slain,
by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is for the Leader, with lyrics: "This is the night" The second staff is for the Assembly, with lyrics: "**This is the night**"

- L in which, in ancient times,
you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel,
and led them, dry-shod, through the sea. *[cont.]*

Prayer of the Day

P O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Assembly is seated. Please extinguish your candles.

Vigil Readings

At this point in the Vigil, we hear our “family stories,” the stories and songs of the Hebrew Scriptures that recount God’s marvelous acts in creation and in delivering God’s people over and over again from their captivity and exile, bringing life and salvation out of death and despair. As we listen, we hear how God has acted in the past, knowing that God is acting now in the resurrection of Jesus and in our own deliverance from all that binds us.

Invitation

P Sisters and brothers, let us now hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how God saved God’s people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

First Reading: Creation

Genesis 1:1—2:4a

F C F B♭ F Dm B♭ C F

1 We thank you, Lord, for you are good;
 2 You, Lord, a - lone did won - drous deeds; your mer - cy lives for - ev - er.
 3 You made the star - ry lights to rise;
 4 You res - cue us from ev - 'ry foe;

6 F C F B♭ F Dm

Your kind - ness from of old has stood;
 From you a - lone all good pro - ceeds; your love will keep us
 Your glo - ries shine in ra - diant skies;
 You feed your crea - tures here be - low;

10 B♭ C F B♭ C Am B♭ F

ev - er. O God of gods, O sov - 'reign Lord, we
 Your wis - dom made the heav'ns to be; you
 Your glow - ing moon en - hanc - es night. Your
 We give you thanks, Cre - a - tor, Lord; we

14 C F G C F/A B♭ C F B♭ C F

bless you now with one ac - cord:
 formed the earth a - bove the sea; your love is ev - er - last - ing.
 sun brings forth each morn - ing's light;
 sing the glo - ries of your word;

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Amen.

Second Reading: Deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Response *(Choir only)*

Go Down Moses arr. by Anne Heider

*When Israel was in Egypt's land, Let my people go.
Oppressed so hard they could not stand. Let my people go.
Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,
Tell old Pharaoh to let my people go.*

*Thus saith the Lord, bold Moses said, Let my people go.
If not I'll smite your first-born dead, Let my People go.*

*Your foes shall not before you stand. Let my people go
And you'll possess fair Canaan's land. Let my people go.*

*Through wilderness God led the way, let my people go.
With fire by night and cloud by day, Let my people go.*

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day: By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, a sign for us of the salvation offered to everyone by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of earth may partake in the salvation of the Israelites and together dance on the safe side of the sea, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

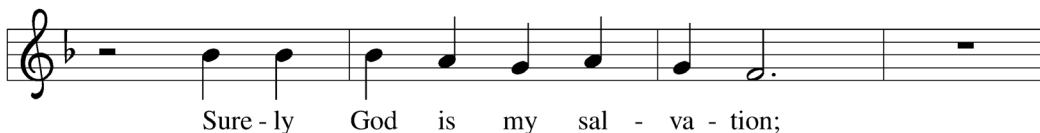
A Amen.

Third Reading: Salvation Freely Offered to All

Isaiah 55:1-11

Response "Surely God is My Salvation"

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A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. Holy God, you created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the whole earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to all who thirst for you, that, rejoicing in your covenant of mercy, we may bring forth abundant fruit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Fourth Reading: A New Heart and a New Spirit

Ezekiel 36:24-28

Response (Choir only)

"Sicut Cervus" By G.P. da Palestrina

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum: ita desiderat anima mea ad te, Deus.
As the hart desireth the water brooks, So longeth my soul after thee, O God.

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. God of holiness and mercy, in the dying and rising of Christ you have established a new covenant of reconciliation for us all. Cleanse our hearts and give us a new spirit, that by your saving grace we may live as your people, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A Amen.

Response

Jonah Prayed

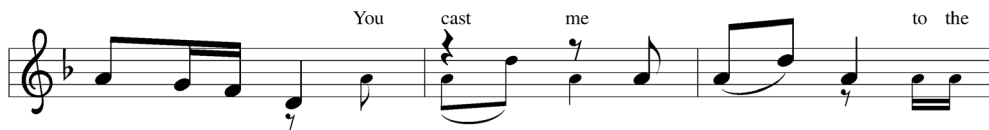
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Jo-nah prayed from the bel-ly of the fish,



say-ing, "Thank you, God; you



You cast me



to the mid-dle of the sea; and the



waves rose and the bil-lows cov-ered me.

Continued on the next page...

life was ebb - ing a - way I re -

As my life was ebb - ing a - way

mem - bered you, my God; I lift - ed up my

I re - mem - bered you, my God;

prayer, and you an - swered me.

I lift - ed up my prayer, and you

With grate - ful heart I will

an - swered me. With grate - ful heart

pay my vows. De - liv - 'rance, LORD,

I will pay my vows. De -

be - longs to you!" 1 With 2

liv - 'rance, LORD, be - longs to you!" longs to you!"

Sixth Reading: Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace

Daniel 3:1-29

Response

"All You Works of the Lord"

By Roger T. Petrich

The Choir sings the verses, the Assembly sings the refrain.

Praise Him and mag-ni-fy Him for - ev - er! er!

All you works of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You angels of the Lord, | bless the Lord;

you heavens, | bless the Lord;

all you powers of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You sun and moon, | bless the Lord;

you stars of heaven, | bless the Lord;
you rain and dew, | bless the Lord. **R**

You winds of God, | bless the Lord;
you fire and heat, | bless the Lord;
you winter and summer, | bless the Lord. **R**

You dews and falling snow, | bless the Lord;
you frost and cold, | bless the Lord;
you ice and snow, | bless the Lord. **R**

You nights and days, | bless the Lord;
you light and darkness, | bless the Lord;
you lightnings and clouds, | bless the Lord. **R**

Let the earth | bless the Lord;
you mountains and hills, | bless the Lord;
all you green things that grow on the earth, | bless the Lord. **R**

You wells and springs, | bless the Lord;
you seas and rivers, | bless the Lord;
you whales and all that swim in the waters, | bless the Lord. **R**

All you birds of the air, | bless the Lord;
all you wild animals and cattle, | bless the Lord;
all you children of mortals, | bless the Lord. **R**

You people of God, | bless the Lord;
you priests of the Lord, | bless the Lord;
you servants of the Lord, | bless the Lord. **R**

You spirits and souls of the righteous, | bless the Lord;
you holy and humble in heart, | bless the Lord;
let us bless the Father and the Son and the | Holy Spirit. **R**

A time of silence for reflection

Prayer

P Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the only hope of the world, by the proclamation of your prophets you declare to us the word of salvation. By the grace of your Spirit increase the devotion of all the baptized, that, strengthened by your presence, we may withstand hardship and sorrow and be united with your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A **Amen.**

R A reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

R Word of God, word of life.

A Thanks be to God!

Announcement of the Resurrection

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

A Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

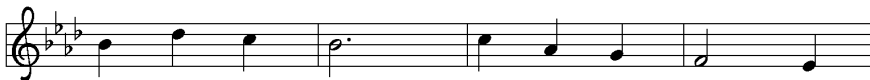
As we sing "Alleluia, Jesus Is Risen," we ring bells and sing joyfully. Please remain standing, as you are able. The worship space is adorned with flowers and banners and paraments as a sign of resurrection.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
 2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
 3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
 4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
 tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
 life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
 death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
 gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
 break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
 heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
 Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
 riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
 Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
 gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to
 me. Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
 sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel

John 20:1-18

P The holy gospel according to John.

A Glory to you, O Lord!

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon

Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ!

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

A Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Assembly is seated.

Sermon

Time of Silence

A bell will sound to signal a time of silence for reflection.

During this time, you may want to meditate on what from the scriptures stands out to you, asking the Spirit to show you how it applies to your own life.

When the bell sounds a second time, the Assembly stands to respond to the Word with song.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; now is the vic - tor's
 2 The pow'rs of death have done their worst; Je - sus their le - gions
 3 The three sad days have quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es glo - rious
 4 Christ closed the yawn - ing gates of hell; the bars from heav'n's high
 5 Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed you, from death's sting free your

tri - umph won! Now be the song of praise be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 has dis - persed. Let shouts of ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 from the dead. All glo - ry to our ris - en head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 por - tals fell. Let hymns of praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ser - vants too, that we may live and sing to you. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Affirmation of Baptism: *We renew our baptismal vows...*

P Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism
as we come before God to make public affirmation of *our* baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Profession of Faith

As you profess your faith with the Apostle's Creed, the Ministers will sprinkle you with water in remembrance of baptism.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

A I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

A I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

A I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**A I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

A I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✠ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

P You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

A I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

A We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Stir up in your people the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence both now and forever.

A Amen.

Prayers of the People

L Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

[A brief silence]

For the church universal, that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection may journey together in newness of life, boldly proclaiming the good news of deliverance. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L For our congregation and church community, who serve in love and good will. We pray for our bishops Yehiel and Wayne, our pastor Mark, our president Kit, our council, our justice ministries and all who guide and instruct our communities. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L For the well-being of all creation, that the power that brought forth all life may renew the earth. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L For the nations and those in authority, that they may be transformed by the love of Christ and work together for the peace and freedom you have promised to all peoples. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L For all who suffer in poverty, pain, or despair, that like your people in Egypt, they may be set free to live abundantly in the promised land of your love. We especially pray for Maren Baylaender, Rebecca Bernstein, Serena Bernstein, Tom Couch, Jim Jung, Nancy Lang, Dennis Milbrandt, Shirley Patrick, Jan Rock, the family of Kurt Roderer, Ionie Smith, Steve Warner, Marina Yarnoff, and those we name now aloud or in the silence of our hearts... Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L For this congregation, that we who have passed over from death to life through baptism may, like Mary Magdalene, share the good news of Christ's resurrection in word and deed. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

L We give thanks for the faithful departed especially Benedict the African, trusting that all who died with Christ live with him forever, sharing fully in Christ's victory over sin, death, and the grave. Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

A Amen.

Peace

P The peace of the Risen One be with you always.

A And also with you.

Greet one another in the peace of the Risen Christ, saying "Peace be with you," "The peace of the Lord," or similar words.

Meal: *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ ...*

Offering *An offering for doing God's mission, including the care of those in need.*

Offering Music

"Glory to God"

By Undine Smith Moore

Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth good will to all.
Oh yes! Glorty to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to all.

The Assembly stands and sings Verse 4 only as the gifts are brought forward.

1 Praise we the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Praise we the vic - t'ry God has won! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Praise we the Lamb who reigns a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia! _____

7 Praise we the King whose rule is love! Al - le - lu - ia!

Offering Prayer

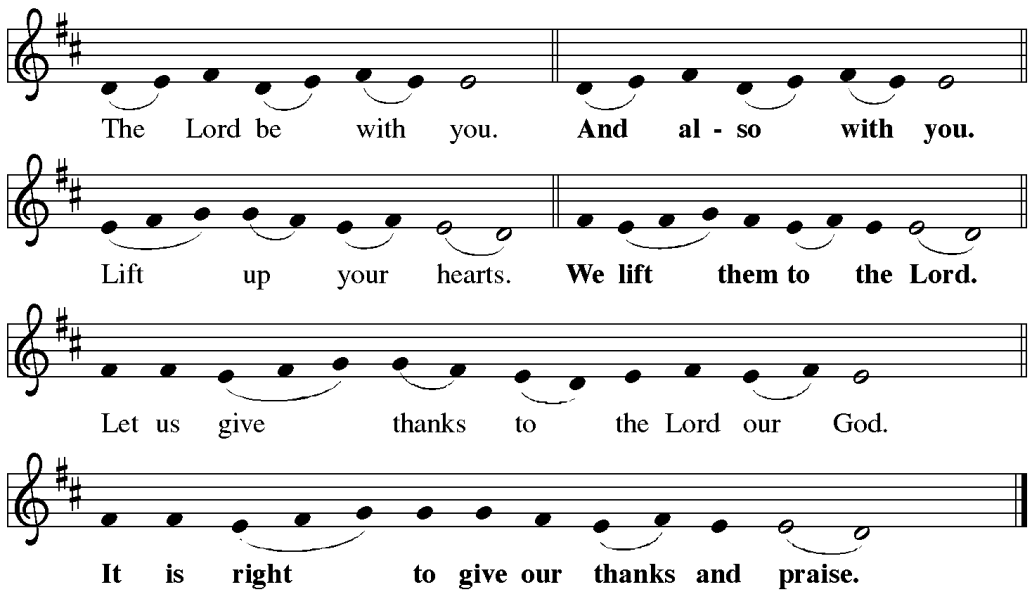
L Let us pray. *[pause]*
 Merciful God,
 accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
 You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
 when we will hunger and thirst no more.
 Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
 that goodness and mercy may follow us
 and bless the world you love.
 In the name of Jesus,

A Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

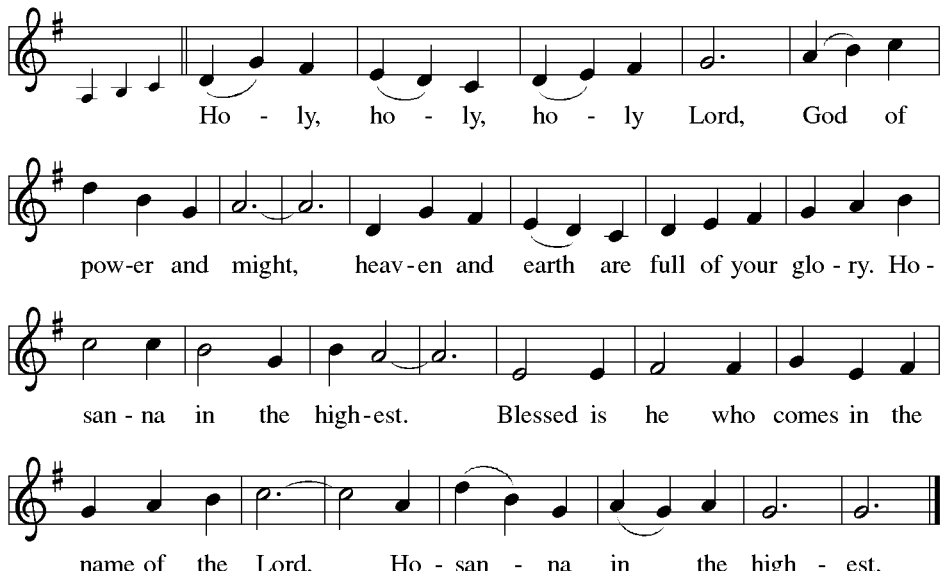
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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,
uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P As the shadows lengthen,
we bless you, sheltering God.

We glorify you for the endless, starlit sky,
deep with the mystery of your creative labor
through all time and space.

We praise you for the fertile earth
and for the life its darkness holds and births:
plants of every variety,
animals curled in sleep,
humankind you shaped by your own hand.
Stay with us, for it is evening.

A **Stay with us, for it is evening.**

Through the night you led your people into freedom.
At day's end you rained down manna in the wilderness.
At sundown your Son brought healing to people in need.
In the midday night when Jesus died on the cross, life came forth for all.
Stay with us, for it is evening.

A **Stay with us, for it is evening.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Like a mother hen, hold us close through the coming night.
Watch with those who labor, accompany those who long for peaceful sleep, welcome those whose waking will be only in you.
Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.

A Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Holy Spirit, make here the body of Christ:
in the breaking of the bread, in justice for our broken world, in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.

A Come, Holy Spirit.

To you, O God, painter of both night and day, guiding star and healing sun, breath of peace and wind of change, be all glory, all honor, all praise this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever.

A Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

A Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Invitation

P Come to the table of new life.

Receive the risen Lord.

A  We come to be filled with your new life. Alleluia.

The Assembly is seated.

The image shows a musical score for the Communion Song 'Lamb of God'. It consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: '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, grant us peace.'

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, grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Those who wish, please come forward as the ushers direct, to assemble around the rail to receive communion. Those who are able may kneel. You will receive the bread from the Pastor and wine or grape juice from the Assisting Minister. The glasses will be pre-poured, with the grape juice in the inner circle and wine in the outer circle. Each person will take their own glass from the tray. Empty glasses will be collected by the Acolyte. This will be a continuous communion.

P This is the body of Christ, given for you.

All communing remotely or with individual packets may partake of the bread.

P This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All communing remotely or with individual packets may drink of their cup.

When you receive the elements, you may respond by saying, "Amen."

Communion HymnAt The Lamb's High Feast" (SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT) **ELW 362**

1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
 2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
 3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
 4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
 sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
 an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
 vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
 through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

Blessing after Communion

P May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

A Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L Let us pray... Holy One,
 through this meal you have made your home among us
 and are making all things new.
 Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
 to love our enemies,
 and to bring your healing to the nations.
 In the name of Jesus.

A Amen.

Sending: *God blesses us, and sends us in mission to the world ...*

Blessing

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✝ bless you now and forever.

A Amen.

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
 4 All praise to God the Fa - ther, all praise to Christ the Son,

the pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.
 all praise to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One!

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - t'ning to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things, seen and un - seen, their notes of glad - ness blend;
 Let all the ran - somed num - ber fall down be - fore the throne,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own “All hail!” and hear - ing, may raise the glad re - frain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end!
 and hon - or, pow'r, and glo - ry as - cribe to God a - lone!

Dismissal

L Alleluia! Christ is risen.

A Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

L Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

A Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

“Christ is Erstanden BWV 625”

By J.S. Bach

*Please stay for a time of feasting in the Fellowship Hall as we break the Lenten fast!
And please come back tomorrow morning at 10:30 AM for our Festival Eucharist with
special music! For children, there's an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am!*

Welcome!

Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and marital status, every ability and challenge.

We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

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Today's Commemoration

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589

Saturday, April 4, 2026

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Immanuel's Staff and Leadership

The Rev. Mark Sloss	Pastor
Kit McCarthy.....	Congregation President
Michael Kloster	Congregation Vice President
Jim Miller	Congregation Secretary
Susan Ross.....	Congregation Treasurer
Greg Hummel, Jerry Larson, Laura McDaniel, Jared Peck, Terri Simchak.....	Congregation Council Members
Laurie Stivers	Financial Secretary
James Morehead	Music Director
Greg Hummel	Organist Emeritus
Laurie Stivers	Organist
Jane Kaihatsu	Parish Administrator

**Immanuel Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Metropolitan Chicago Synod.
We've been worshipping God and serving the Evanston community since 1888!**