



**LORD of LOVE**  
*Lutheran Church*

## **Maundy Thursday**



**Welcome!** We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as “a joyful dialogue with God.” God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this “joyful dialogue” today!

**Restrooms** – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

**Parent’s Room** – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However, there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

**Assistance Getting Around** – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

**Offering Message** – The offerings gathered this morning supports the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give but certainly may if you wish.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or other congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

**Explanation of the theme of the day:** We need to be washed clean in the blood of Jesus. Our own need can distract and overwhelm us with the details of our sin and our guilt. Blood always gets our attention, but it can make us feel queasy and uneasy. Jesus wants to lift our eyes above all that to his marvelous promise of forgiveness. Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. The Lord’s Supper gives us a glimpse of the heavenly feast where we will eat of the eternal manna and drink from the river of God’s delights forever.

# Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2, 2026

OPENING HYMN (CWS 717)

When You Woke that Thursday Morning

(Sung to the tune of CW 108: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary)

When you woke that Thursday morning, Savior, Teacher, faithful Friend,  
Thoughts of self and safety scorning, knowing how the day would end;  
Lamb of God, foretold for ages, now at last the hour had come  
When but One could pay sin's wages: you assumed their dreadful sum.

Never so alone and lonely, longing with tormented heart  
To be with your dear ones only for a quiet hour apart;  
Sinless Lamb and fallen creatures, one last paschal meal to eat,  
One last lesson as their teacher, washing your disciples' feet.

What was there that you could give them that would never be outspent,  
What great gift that would outlive them, what last will and testament?  
"Show me and the world you love me, know me as the Lamb of God;  
Do this in remembrance of me, eat this body, drink this blood."

One in faith, in love united, all one body, you the head,  
When we meet, by you invited, you are with us, as you said.  
One with you and one another in a unity sublime,  
See in us your sister, brother, one in ev'ry place and time.

One day all the Church will capture that bright vision glorious,  
And your saints will know the rapture that your heart desired for us,  
When the longed-for peace and union of the greatest and the least  
Meet in joyous, blest communion in your never-ending feast.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1991 Concordia Publishing House.  
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*REMAIN SEATED*

## INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

M: In the Lenten season we hear again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We also hear our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil – all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. We should not doubt this absolution, but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

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.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in the new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Therefore, let us confess our sins to God and ask for His forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father,**

**I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.**

**In what I have done and left undone,**

**I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.**

**I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.**

**For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

**I am truly sorry for my sins.**

**I repent of them.**

**I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

*Silence for meditation*

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C: Cleanse me from my sins.**

**Release me from my guilt.**

**Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent His Son to die for all. For His sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to His marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son **✠** and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **EXHORTATION**

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

**M and C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# THE WORD OF GOD FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

## FIRST LESSON

Exodus 24:1-11

*Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, along with Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship me from a distance. <sup>2</sup> Only Moses is allowed to come near the LORD, but the others are not to come near, and the people are not to go up with him.”*

*<sup>3</sup> Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.” <sup>4</sup> Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.*

*He got up early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He set up twelve memorial stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>5</sup> He sent young Israelite men, who offered whole burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings of cattle to the LORD. <sup>6</sup> Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and he splashed half of the blood on the altar. <sup>7</sup> He took the Book of the Covenant and read it out loud to the people and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do. We will obey.”*

*<sup>8</sup> Moses took the blood and splashed it on the people. He said, “Look, here is the blood of the covenant, which the LORD made with you by means of all these words.”*

*<sup>9</sup> Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. <sup>10</sup> They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet they saw what looked like a pavement of sapphire as clear as the sky. <sup>11</sup> The LORD did not lay his hand on the dignitaries of the people of Israel. They gazed at God, and they ate and drank.*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

Awake, Alone in Gethsemane

## SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

*23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. <sup>27</sup> Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. <sup>28</sup> Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.*

## HYMN (CW 136)

## 'Twas on the Dark, that Doleful Night



1 'Twas on that dark, that dole - ful night  
 2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan,  
 3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin;  
 4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end,  
 5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate;



When pow'rs of earth and hell a - rose  
 He took the bread and the blessed and broke,  
 Re - ceive and eat the liv - ing food,"  
 In mem - 'ry of your dy - ing friend;  
 We show your death; we sing your name



A - gainst the Son, our God's de - light,  
 What love through all his ac - tions ran!  
 Then took the cup and blessed the wine:  
 Meet at my ta - ble and re - cord  
 Till you re - turn and we shall eat



And friends be - trayed him to his foes,  
 What won - drous words of grace he spoke!  
 "'Tis the new cov - 'nant in my blood."  
 The love of your de - part - ed Lord."  
 The mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

*Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.*

*<sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. <sup>4</sup> He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

*<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup> "Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!"*

*<sup>10</sup> Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you." <sup>11</sup> Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."*

*<sup>12</sup> After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. <sup>14</sup> Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you.*

**Wash Me, Savior, or I Die!**

## **GATHERING OF THANK OFFERING**

*While the offering is being gathered,  
please sign and pass the Friendship Register.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**M:** Lord God, heavenly Father, author of the everlasting covenant and giver of the cup of salvation,

**C: We gather in your courts to offer you our sacrifice of thanksgiving.**

**M:** For fulfilling your promise to establish a new covenant through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,

**C: We give you humble and hearty thanks.**

**M:** As our Lord Jesus Christ gave thanks to you when he broke the bread, as he gave thanks to you when he took the cup,

**C: We also give you thanks.**

**M:** Precious Savior, both Priest and offering, awe and wonder fill our hearts as we partake of your body, broken for us, and your blood, shed for us.

**C: We praise you, bless you, and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**M:** In our poverty of righteousness, we have nothing to offer. Without your tremendous sacrifice, we would still be in our sins,

**C: But through your sacrament of the New Testament, we are assured that our iniquities are forgiven and our sins are no longer remembered.**

**M:** O Holy Spirit, dwell within us as we remember our Lord's death in this sacrament. Enter our hearts to strengthen our faith and fill us with gratitude for your great mercy.

**C: Help us live our lives as sacrifices of thanksgiving to him who first loved us. Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**M:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** **It is good and right so to do.**

**M:** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

## **LAMB OF GOD**

**M:** O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us, and grant us your peace.

**C: Amen. (spoken)**

*BE SEATED*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*In accordance with the Scriptural practice of closed Communion, we invite to the Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood the communicant members of this congregation. We invite also the communicant members of our sister congregations in our fellowship (the WELS and the ELS) who have made their intention known to our pastor. We ask other guests in attendance to refrain from taking the Sacrament with us today, and we invite you to speak with our pastor about how you may join our fellowship and commune with us in the future.*



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -  
 2 He blot - ted out with his own blood The judg - ment  
 3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a  
 4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this  
 5 A pre - cious food is this in - deed— It nev - er



brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort  
 that a - gainst us stood; He full a - tone - ment  
 sol - emn guar - an - tee; In this his ho - ly  
 sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,  
 fails us in our need— A heav'n - ly man - na



in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.  
 for us made, And all our debt he ful - ly paid.  
 sup - per here We taste his love, so sweet, so near.  
 as he said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.  
 for our soul Un - til we safe - ly reach our goal.

6 Oh, blest is each believing guest  
 Who in this promise finds his rest,  
 For Jesus will in love abide  
 With those who do in him confide.

8 They who his Word do not believe  
 This food unworthily receive,  
 Salvation here will never find—  
 May we this warning keep in mind!

7 The guest that comes with true intent  
 To turn to God and to repent,  
 To live for Christ, to die to sin,  
 Will thus a holy life begin.

9 Help us sincerely to believe  
 That we may worthily receive  
 Your supper and in you find rest.  
 Amen! They who believe are blest.

Text: Haquin Spiegel, 1645–1714, abr.; tr. Olof Olsson, 1841–1900, alt.

Tune: GOTTLÖB, ES GEHT NUNMEHR ZU ENDE (LM) Wagner, *Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien*, 1742, alt.

## THANKSGIVING

STAND



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**M:** O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen. (spoken)**

*Following the distribution prayer, the service continues  
with the Stripping of the Altar.*

## THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*The stripping of the altar symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples and prepares the sanctuary for the austerity of Good Friday. During the Stripping of the Altar, the congregation sings Lamb of God, Pure and Holy (CW 268). After the stripping of the altar, there is the reading of Psalm 88 – a psalm of Jesus' abandonment.*

Stanzas 1, 2, 3

Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross did  
suf - fer, Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly,  
Your - self to scorn did of - fer. All sins you car - ried  
for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:  
1 Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus!  
2 Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus!  
3 Your peace be with us, O Je - sus!

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first three staves contain the main text, and the fourth staff contains the closing phrase. The fifth staff contains three alternative verses for the final line.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. composite.

Tune: O LAMM GOTTES, UNSCHULDIG (77 77 778) Nikolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546.

## PSALM 88

<sup>1</sup> *LORD, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you.*

<sup>2</sup> *May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.*

<sup>3</sup> *I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death.*

<sup>4</sup> *I am counted among those who go down to the pit;*

*I am like one without strength.*

<sup>5</sup> *I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.*

<sup>6</sup> *You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.*

<sup>7</sup> *Your wrath lies heavily on me;*

*you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.*

<sup>8</sup> *You have taken from me my closest friends*

*and have made me repulsive to them.*

*I am confined and cannot escape;*

<sup>9</sup> *my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, LORD, every day;*

*I spread out my hands to you.*

<sup>10</sup> *Do you show your wonders to the dead?*

*Do their spirits rise up and praise you?*

<sup>11</sup> *Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction?*

<sup>12</sup> *Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,*

*or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?*

<sup>13</sup> *But I cry to you for help, LORD;*

*in the morning my prayer comes before you.*

<sup>14</sup> *Why, LORD, do you reject me and hide your face from me?*

<sup>15</sup> *From my youth I have suffered and been close to death;*

*I have borne your terrors and am in despair.*

<sup>16</sup> *Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me.*

<sup>17</sup> *All day long they surround me like a flood;*

*they have completely engulfed me.*

<sup>18</sup> *You have taken from me friend and neighbor—*

*darkness is my closest friend.*

No benediction is spoken to end the service.

The minister exits the chancel.

Each worshipper may remain for prayer and meditation  
before dispersing quietly.



## Personal Prayers for Worship

### **Before Communion:**

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

### **After Communion:**

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

**Gluten Free communion wafers:** Gluten free communion wafers are available during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you would prefer this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar.

## **Maundy Thursday Worship**

Serving us tonight:

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Choir Director: Elaine Wilson
- Councilman/Elder: Mike Wilson
- Ushers: Volunteers
- Altar Guild: Sue Jenswold
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson

*Please join us after the service this evening to fill Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt*

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## **Holy Week Worship Schedule**

### **Good Friday – April 3**

1:00 pm

6:30 pm

### **Easter Sunday – April 5**

8:00 am

10:30 am

(Easter Breakfast served between services at 9:15 am)



**LORD of LOVE**  
*Lutheran Church*

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Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - ***Christ's Love, Our Calling.***

**“I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’”**

**Psalm 122:1**



*This evening's service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament.  
Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.*