

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As We Gather

Betrayed by Judas, one of His twelve disciples. Betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Betrayed by Judas with a kiss—imagine that, a kiss! Betrayed by Judas in a garden east of Jerusalem called Gethsemane. Betrayed! Jesus was betrayed for us. After betraying Jesus, Judas plunges into the depths of despair. He does not return to Jesus to seek forgiveness. But this Thursday, the night Jesus is betrayed, reminds us of the forgiveness, life, and salvation that Jesus provides for us in the Lord's Supper. May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we journey ever closer to the cross.

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Call to Worship

John 13, 1 Corinthians 11, Exodus 12

- P This is a night to remember.
C **We remember the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples.**
P We remember His new covenant of broken bread and cup, His very body and His true blood.
C **We remember His night alone in the garden in prayer.**
P We remember His arrest and trial.
C **We remember His suffering and the denial of His friend.**
P We remember His sinless hands which were spread wide in blessing, then nailed high on a cross to cancel our sins.
C **We remember this night and thank God for Jesus' presence with us.**

Opening Hymn LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

sts. 1–3, 5

- 1 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.

- 2 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 creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples' feet.
- 3 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."
- 5 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

Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003958

Opening Sentences

Psalm 115:18, Psalm 116:1,12-13

P Praise the Lord.

C **We love you, Lord, for you hear our voices; you hear our cry for mercy.**

P How can we repay the Lord for all his goodness to us?

C **We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. We will fulfill our vows to the Lord, in the presence of all his people.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You endured betrayal and abandonment on the road to the cross. Strengthen us, through Your Word and Sacraments, to be faithful witnesses of Your resurrection to the world;
- C **Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood so the fruits of Your redemption may shine forth in our lives;**
- P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3–11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 9:11–22

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal

redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music (see insert)

"Into the Garden" choir anthem

Holy Gospel

John 13:21–30

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²¹After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some

thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn LSB 543 What Wondrous Love Is This

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God’s righteous frown,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.
- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
While millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.
And when from death I’m free,
I’ll sing His love for me,
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

- P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, You are our Lord and we have become Your disciples in Baptism, Your brothers and sisters, Your Body and individually members of it. As on that holy night when You entered into the final days of Your Passion, You suffered betrayal at the hand of one of Your own chosen disciples, so do we number ourselves still struggling with sin and the temptation of going our own way. As You restored Your servant Simon Peter, You have spoken Your sustaining Word of forgiveness to us this night. Make us faithful to Your calling that we may continually worship You in spirit and in truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P On this night You took bread and wine, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it now to be Your body and blood given for us and our salvation. Continue to give us this sacred bread that You may live in us as we live in You. Make us drink deeply of Your great love that we may love You in return and serve as ambassadors of Your love for all. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P When You commanded Your disciples, saying, “Do this in remembrance of Me,” You were promising not just good memories of the past but Your very presence with every believer, giving every good and perfect gift of mercy and grace through Your eternal Word and Spirit.
- C **hear our prayer.**
- P Lead us in the footsteps of Jesus that we may ponder Your love as we behold His cross and rejoice in what His suffering has accomplished. Bring us at last with those who have gone before us, that when Christ comes again, we who have received the foretaste of the feast would enjoy its fullness forevermore; with Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Hebrews 9:11–12

- P Even as Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness, life, and salvation of His disciples, they all still fail Him. Even though we receive the Lord's Supper regularly for our forgiveness, life, and salvation, we still fail Jesus as well. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him with repentant hearts, seeking forgiveness.
- C **Heavenly Father, we have betrayed You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have pursued other things as being more important than You. Forgive us, Lord, on account of Jesus.**

Time of Silence for Personal Confession and Reflection

- P Though we abandon and betray our Lord, He never abandons or betrays us. Jesus Christ has taken away your sins and failures by His death and resurrection. Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen. We are welcomed and forgiven because of Jesus.**
- P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in T peace.
- C **Amen.**

Introduction of the Lord's Supper...

- P As the Lord Jesus had His disciples make preparations for the annual Passover meal, little did they know that this would be the very last official observance of the commanded remembrance of the exodus deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. For in the next three days (the Triduum), the fulfillment of that prophetic event would culminate in the deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin and death by means of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and deliverer. Jesus is the new and greater Passover Lamb. Tonight the “cup of blessing” (1 Corinthians 10:16) of the Passover meal is made to be the means of our participation in the very atoning blood shed on the cross of Good Friday.

Tonight this cup is the Sacrament of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to each individual believer from now on until the Lord returns on the Last Day. This celebration is of utmost importance, for the Lord Himself invites us to take and eat His body and to take and drink His blood, shed for us.

- C **Thank you Jesus for this meal, for Your love and Your pardon. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns

Distribution Hymn LSB 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,

- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand,
Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now
At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be;
Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.

- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessèd comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

Text: Samuel Kinner, 1603–68; tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.
Text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn LSB 544 O Love, How Deep

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.
- 3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.

- 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent His Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- D 7 All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt.
Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Prayer

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

P After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane; betrayal by Judas; arrest, mock trial, painful beating; the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

The altar is a symbol of our Lord, vested in fine linens, holding the vessels for bread and wine and the stand for Readings from Scripture and for the liturgy, and having candles to proclaim Him as the light of the world. As those adornments are removed, symbolic of the abuse our Lord experienced today and tomorrow, we shall read Psalm 22, for the evangelists Matthew and Mark tell us that our Lord prayed, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me,” as He took our place on the cross.

- C My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of
My groaning?
O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
Yet You are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In You our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and You delivered them.
To You they cried and were rescued;
in You they trusted and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**
- P All who see Me mock Me;
they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;
“He trusts in the Lord; let Him deliver Him;
let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”
Yet You are He who took Me from the womb;
You made Me trust You at My mother’s breasts.
On You was I cast from My birth,
and from My mother’s womb You have been My God.
Be not far from Me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
Many bulls encompass Me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;
they open wide their mouths at Me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.**
- P I am poured out like water,
and all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
it is melted within My breast;
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and My tongue sticks to My jaws;
You lay Me in the dust of death.
For dogs encompass Me;
a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My hands and feet—
I can count all My bones—
they stare and gloat over Me;
they divide My garments among them,
and for My clothing they cast lots.**

- C But You, O Lord, do not be far off!**
O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
Deliver My soul from the sword,
My precious life from the power of the dog!
Save Me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!
I will tell of Your name to My brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:
You who fear the Lord, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!
- P For He has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and He has not hidden His face from Him,
but has heard, when He cried to Him.
From You comes My praise in the great congregation;
My vows I will perform before those who fear Him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek Him shall praise the Lord!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before You.
- P For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and He rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
Posterity shall serve Him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet
unborn,
that He has done it.

The congregation departs in silence.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.