

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 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 tonight, 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, Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning, stz. 1-3, 5

Opening Sentences

Salutation & Prayer of the Night

Old Testament & Epistle Readings

Choir Anthem, "Into the Garden"

Holy Gospel

Hymn of the Night

LSB 543 What Wondrous Love Is This, stz. 1-4

Sermon

Offering

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Confession and Absolution

Introduction of the Lord's Supper

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini, Agnus Dei

Distribution Hymns

LSB 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared, stz. 1-4

LSB 544 O Love, How Deep, stz. 1-7

Post-Communion Prayer

Stripping of the Altar, Psalm 22

When finished, we depart in silence.

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 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 tonight, 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, Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

LSB 445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning, stz. 1-3, 5

Opening Sentences

Salutation & Prayer of the Night

Old Testament & Epistle Readings

Choir Anthem, "Into the Garden"

Holy Gospel

Hymn of the Night

LSB 543 What Wondrous Love Is This, stz. 1-4

Sermon

Offering

Prayers & Lord's Prayer

Confession and Absolution

Introduction of the Lord's Supper

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini, Agnus Dei

Distribution Hymns

LSB 622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared, stz. 1-4

LSB 544 O Love, How Deep, stz. 1-7

Post-Communion Prayer

Stripping of the Altar, Psalm 22

When finished, we depart in silence.

Why Do We Strip the Altar? This (removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments) is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. Listen to and reflect on Psalm 22 as it is read during. We hear at the beginning of this psalm, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” and as the psalm continues, we feel a literal forsakenness as the altar and chancel become bare before our eyes. As the life of Jesus 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 silence at the end of the service is almost deafening.

After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four 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.

Jesus’ offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in the sacred mystery that is the Sacrament. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament. (*Communion vessels are removed.*)

The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed from the altar area. (*The crucifix is removed.*)

The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book. (*The missal stand and altar book are removed.*)

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). The events at Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the light of the world. As creation was dark while He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them. (*All candles are extinguished and removed.*)

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God’s greatest offering to the world and to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings. (*The offerings are removed.*)

The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and Meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King’s body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings. (*The altar cloths and paraments are removed.*)

Remaining Holy Week Worship

Good Friday Tenebrae, 6:00pm
Easter Sunday, 9:00am

Why Do We Strip the Altar? This (removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments) is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. Listen to and reflect on Psalm 22 as it is read during. We hear at the beginning of this psalm, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” and as the psalm continues, we feel a literal forsakenness as the altar and chancel become bare before our eyes. As the life of Jesus 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 silence at the end of the service is almost deafening.

After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four 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.

Jesus’ offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in the sacred mystery that is the Sacrament. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament. (*Communion vessels are removed.*)

The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed from the altar area. (*The crucifix is removed.*)

The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book. (*The missal stand and altar book are removed.*)

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). The events at Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the light of the world. As creation was dark while He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them. (*All candles are extinguished and removed.*)

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God’s greatest offering to the world and to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings. (*The offerings are removed.*)

The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and Meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King’s body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings. (*The altar cloths and paraments are removed.*)

Remaining Holy Week Worship

Good Friday Tenebrae, 6:00pm
Easter Sunday, 9:00am