



Maundy Thursday Ecumenical Service

***New Life Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church
April 17, 2025***

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world.

Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in bold print and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

Prelude

Welcome

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us
even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***Gathering Song:**“Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now”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:**

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

And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day:**

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.

Amen.

Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

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.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

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

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has¹ heard my voice,
and listened to my¹ supplication,
² **for the LORD has given¹ ear to me
whenev-¹ er I called.**
- ¹² How shall I re-¹ pay the LORD
for all the good things God has¹ done for me?
¹³ **I will lift the cup¹ of salvation
and call on the name¹ of the LORD.**
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows¹ to the LORD
in the presence of¹ all God's people.
¹⁵ **Precious in your¹ sight, O LORD,
is the death¹ of your servants.**
- ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me¹ from
my bonds.
- ¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice¹ of thanksgiving
and call upon the name¹ of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows¹ to the LORD
in the presence of¹ all God's people,
¹⁹ **in the courts of¹ the LORD's house,
in the midst of you,¹ O Jerusalem.**

Reading: 1Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

***Gospel: Luke 22:14-20**

The Holy gospel according to Luke, beginning with the twenty second chapter and the fourteenth verse.

Glory to you Lord.

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon:.....Pastor Ken DuVall

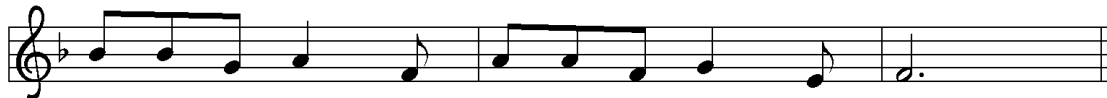
(Silence for reflection follows the sermon.)

***Hymn of the Day:..... “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”.....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.

***Prayers of Intercession:**

Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need.

***Prayer Response**

God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

*Response at the conclusion of the prayers of intercession: **Amen.***

Offering

Tonight our offering will be gathered at the back of the sanctuary for Helena Food Share and Friendship Center.



New Option for online giving.

Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving.
Questions on how this works? Please contact the church office

***The Great Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you.
And also 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.

***Words of Institution:**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

***Lords 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. 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.

***Invitation:**

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

(We celebrate this meal together at Christ's table, and all are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Ushers will invite you forward starting from the rear of the sanctuary. Wine is the darker liquid on the outer portion of the tray. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.)

Communion Hymn:“Let us Break Bread Together” ELW471



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Prayer After Communion:

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.

Amen.

Stripping of the Altar:Special Music..... Peter Landeen, Cello

(Please Exit in Silence)



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