

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 † 7:00 PM



This evening our Lenten observance ends, 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're called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we're transformed by the mercy we've received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days...

*Congregational responses are in **boldfaced italics**.*

GATHERING

GATHERING HYMN: “Great God, Your Love...”

ELW 344

See the following page for the words and music.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION, AND FORGIVENESS:

Blest are You, O Lord our God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit;

You forgive us our sins; Your mercy endures forever!

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of Your people,
turning us from our sin to live for You alone.

Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may attend to Your Word,
confess our sins, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Your Son,
Christ Jesus our Lord and our Redeemer.

Amen.

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we've heard our Lord's call
to struggle against all that keeps us from loving God and each other.

We were called to this struggle in our Baptism; and within the community of the Church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving us the peace of reconciliation. So let's confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter these great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another: 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.*

Listen to the Good News, my friends:

God, who's rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By God's grace, you've been saved; and in the name of † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

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

Amen. Thanks be to God!

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

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.

Then let's pray: Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal Your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet, He showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us



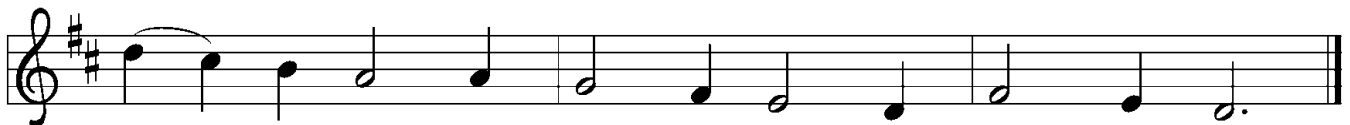
1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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After this hymn, return to page 1 for the beginning of our Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness:

WORD AND PRAYER

FIRST LESSON:

Exodus 12.1-4, 11-14

NLT



While the Israelites were still in the land of Egypt, the LORD gave the following instructions to Moses and Aaron: ²“From now on, this month will be the first month of the year for you. ³Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month, each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household. ⁴If a family is too small to eat a whole animal, let them share with another family in the neighborhood. Divide the animal according to the size of each family and how much they can eat... ¹¹These are your instructions for eating this meal: Be fully dressed, wear your sandals, and carry your walking stick in your hand. Eat the meal with urgency, for this is the LORD’s Passover. ¹²On that night I’ll pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I’ll execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for *I’m* the LORD! ¹³But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you’re staying. When I see the blood, I’ll pass over you. This plague of death won’t touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD. This is a law for all time.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

NLT

St Paul writes: I pass on to you what I received from the Lord Himself: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread ²⁴and gave thanks to God for it. Then He broke it in pieces and said, “This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵In the same way, He took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and His people— an agreement confirmed with My blood. Do this in remembrance of Me as often as you drink it.” ²⁶For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you’re announcing the Lord’s death until He comes again.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

“Stay Here” [Sung 3x]

WOV 665

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

It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He'd always loved those in the world who were His own, and He loved them to the very end...

Jesus and His disciples were at supper. The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, the thought of betraying Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given Him complete power; He knew that He had come from God and was going to God. So He rose from the table, took off His outer garment, and tied a towel around His waist. Then He poured some water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel around His waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Are You going to wash my feet, Lord?"

Jesus answered him, "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but you will understand later."

Peter declared, "Never at any time will You wash my feet!"

"But if I don't wash your feet," Jesus answered, "you'll no longer be My disciple."

Simon Peter answered, "Lord, don't wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!"

Jesus said, "Those who've taken a bath are completely clean and don't have to wash themselves, except for their feet. All of you are clean— all except one. (Jesus already knew who was going to betray Him; that's why He said, "All of you, except one, are clean.")

After Jesus had washed their feet, He put his outer garment back on and returned to His place at the table. "Do you understand what I've just done to you?" He asked. "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and it's right that you do so, because that's what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I've set an example for you, so that you'll do just what I've done for you. I'm telling you the truth: no slaves are greater than their master, and no messengers are greater than the one who sent them. Now that you know this truth, how happy you'll be if you put it into practice!

"Now the Son of Man's glory is revealed; now God's glory is revealed through Him. And if God's glory is revealed through Him, then God will reveal the glory of the Son of Man in Himself, and He'll do so at once. My children, I *won't* be with you very much longer. You'll look for Me; but I tell you now what I told the Jewish authorities, 'You can't go where I'm going.' And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I've loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you're My disciples."

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

WASHING OF FEET:

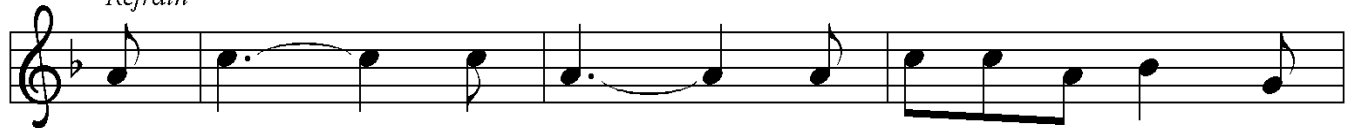
Pr. Dave will be washing the feet of several members of our congregation in living proclamation of Jesus' call to loving service of our brothers and sisters.

While the rite is proceeding, you're invited to meditate upon its meaning as we sing together the following hymn[s]:


"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.

“Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”

LBW 122



1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and
 2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ
 3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what



ha - loes mer - cy's deeds; it sheds a ben - e -
 knelt and washed the feet of his dis - ci - ples,
 Christ in love so true has free - ly done for



dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
 he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
 one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, c. 1902, alt.

THE PRAYERS:

Let's pray for new life in the Church, new hope for the world,
and God's redeeming love for all who are in need:

God of love, You've given us a new commandment to love one another as Christ Jesus has first loved us. Now unite Your people here and throughout the world in a commitment to humble service. Make us Your faithful disciples; speak words of truth and grace through us; encourage us in self-giving acts of kindness; and set us free to love one another as You've loved us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Tend to flocks, fields, and vineyards. Bring favorable weather for crops to grow. Guide the hands of those who cultivate, farm, and garden. Let the earth flourish so that all may eat and be satisfied. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Grant Your wisdom to the leaders of the nations, that righteousness and freedom may prevail wherever violence, terror, oppression, and hatred rage. Let the power of Christ's peace triumph

in every land, that those who've been bent low under the yoke of death may rise to newness of life and joy. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Give ear to all who call upon You for any need of body or spirit, especially those we remember before You now... Provide for those who don't have enough to eat, those who are unemployed or underemployed, and those who rely on the generosity of others. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Heal whatever divisions exist between members of this assembly. Extend the hospitality of this table beyond these walls, that Your love and welcome be made known to all. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Glorify Your servants who walked by faith in this life and who now feast with You. Inspire us by the sacrifice of those who were imprisoned, persecuted, or martyred for their faith. Merciful God, *receive our prayer.*

Hear us in all our prayers, merciful God, in the Name of the One who endured the cross, forgives us our sins, and feeds us at His table, Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

MEAL

OFFERTORY HYMN: "As the Grains of Wheat"

WOV 705



Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
 2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
 all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Refrain

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord!

Let's give thanks to the Lord our God.

It's right to give our thanks and praise!

We give You thanks, heavenly Father, through Christ Jesus Your dear Son,
 whom You sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us Your holy will.
 Through Him You created all things, and in Him You take delight.

He's Your living Word, inseparable from You, and yet sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
He there took on our nature and our lot, and was shown forth as Your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary.
Pouring out His life for us in self-giving love, He fulfilled all Your will and won for You a holy people;
He stretched out His hands in suffering love even unto death on the cross,
that He might free from death's chains those who trust You.

Before He was handed over to the death He freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish His covenant,
and to show forth His resurrection,
our Lord Jesus took bread, 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."

And so remembering His life lived for others, His death and resurrection for our salvation,
we lift this bread and cup before You, giving You thanks
that You've made us worthy to stand before You and to serve You as Your priestly people.
Send Your Spirit upon these gifts of Your Church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with Your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify You through Your Son Jesus Christ,
through whom we always rejoice to pray:

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.***

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Now we share God's consecrated gifts among God's consecrated people, knowing that our living Lord Jesus is fully present with us in His Supper, giving Himself to us in bread and wine and forgiving love. Today, we'll share the Lord's Supper by receiving the body and blood of Christ by "tables" and the cup by intinction: When the usher bids you, come forward via the left side aisle, take a glass already filled with grape juice if necessary, and kneel or stand at the altar rail. Receive "the body of Christ, given for you" from the Pastor; receive "the blood of Christ, shed for you" from our communion assistant by dipping the wafer in the wine (or drink the grape juice you already have in hand). Pr Dave will dismiss each "table" with a blessing, at which point the next "table" will form. Once we've all communed, our service continues with thanksgiving...

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. Amen.

SENDING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER AND BLESSING:

Lord Jesus, in this 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

*While worship furnishings and altar cloths are removed in preparation for Good Friday,
Rich Baringer sings Psalm 22.*

My God, My God, why have You for-`saken me
and are so far from my cry, and from the words of `my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You `do not answer;
by night as well, but I `find no rest.

Yet You are the `Holy One,
enthroned upon the prais-`es of Israel.

Our ancestors put their `trust in You;
they trusted, and You de-`livered them.

They cried out to You and `were delivered;
they trusted in You and were not `put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm `and no man,
scorned by all and despised `by the people.

All who see me laugh `Me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag `their heads, saying,

“He trusted in the LORD; let Him de-`liver him;
let Him rescue him, if He de-`lights in him.”

Yet You are the One who took me out `of the womb,
and kept me safe upon my `mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to You ever since `I was born;
You were my God when I was still in my `mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trou-`ble is near,
and there is `none to help.

Many young `bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Ba-`shan surround me.

They open wide their `jaws at me,
like a ravening and a `roaring lion.

I am poured out like water; all my bones are `out of joint;
my heart within my breast is `melting wax.

My mouth is dried out `like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth,
and You have laid Me in the dust `of the grave.

Packs of dogs close Me in, and gangs of evildoers cir-`cle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet, I can count `all my bones.

They stare and gloat `over me;
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots `for my clothing.

Be not far a-`way, O LORD;
You are my strength; hast-`en to help me!

Save me `from the sword,
my life from the power `of the dog.

Save me from the `lion's mouth,
my wretched body from the horns `of wild bulls.

I will declare Your name `to my brethren;
in the midst of the congregation `I will praise You.

Praise the LORD, you `that fear Him;
stand in awe of Him, you offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's `line, give glory!

For He does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does He hide His `face from them;
but when they cry to `Him, He hears them.

My praise is of Him in the `great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who `worship Him.

The poor shall eat `and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise Him: "May Your heart `live forever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn `to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall `bow before Him.

For dominion belongs `to the LORD;
He rules o-`ver the nations.

To Him alone all who sleep in the earth bow `down in worship;
all who go down to the dust `fall before Him.

My soul shall live for Him; my descen-`dants shall serve Him;
they shall be known as the `LORD's forever.

They shall come and make known to a people `yet unborn
the saving deeds that `He has done.

DEPARTURE IN SILENCE



Love (III) **by George Herbert**

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back,
 Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
 From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
 If I lacked anything.

“A guest,” I answered, “worthy to be here”;
 Love said, “You shall be he!”
“I, the unkind, the ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
 I cannot look on Thee!”
Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
 “Who made the eyes but I?”

“Truth, Lord, but I have marred them; let my shame
 Go where it doth deserve.”
“And know you not,” says Love, “who bore the blame?”
 “My dear, then I will serve.”
“You must sit down,” says Love, “and taste My meat.”
 So I did sit and eat.

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Tonight's bulletins are sponsored by Debbie Constable.

In an upstairs room, a parable is just about to come alive,
And while they whisper about who's best, with a painful glance, He'll silently rise.
Their Savior Servant must show them how
Through the will of the water and the tenderness of the towel...

And the call is to community,
The impoverished power that sets the soul free,
In humility to take the vow
That day after day, we must take up the basin and the towel...

In any ordinary place, on any ordinary day,
The parable can live again when one will kneel and one will yield.
Our Savior Servant must show us how
Through the will of the water and the tenderness of the towel...

And the space between ourselves sometimes
Is more than the distance between the stars;
By the fragile bridge of the servant's bow,
We take up the basin and the towel...

And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free,
In humility to take the vow that day after day, we must take up the basin and the towel...



• *Michael Card*

Come join us as we continue our worship in these Great Three Days:

- **April 3** **12:00 PM** **Community Good Friday Service @** First UCC in Quakertown
- **April 3** **7:00 PM** **Good Friday Tenebrae @** Christ UCC, Trumbauersville
- **April 4** **7:00 PM** **Great Vigil of Easter @** St. Andrew's Lutheran, (South) Perkasio
- **April 5** **6:00 AM** **Easter Sunrise Eucharist @** Lake Nockamixon Marina
- **April 5** **9:00 AM** **Easter Day Festal Eucharist, followed by** Easter Breakfast
- **April 5** **11:00 AM** **Easter Day Holy Communion @** Christ UCC, Trumbauersville