



**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY**

Ascension Lutheran Church  
Thursday, April 2, 2026

## Maundy Thursday

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**For those wishing to commune at the Lord's Table with us today:** The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23-30). Thus, attendance at the Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians, (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine, (3) confess and repent of one's sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament, and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins.

### + PREPARATION +

#### “DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME”

**AS WE GATHER:** As the Lord Jesus had His disciples prepare for the annual Passover meal, they didn't know this would be the last official observance of the commanded remembrance of the Jewish exodus from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. For in the next three days (the Triduum), the fulfillment of that prophetic event would conclude in the deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin and death through the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and deliverer.

Tonight the “cup of blessing” (1 *Corinthians 10:16*) of the Passover meal is made to be the means of our participation in the actual blood of atonement shed on the cross of Good Friday. Tonight this cup becomes the Sacrament of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to each believer from now until the Lord returns on the Last Day. Tonight it is of crucial for all to hear and to believe in the real presence of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus not just “spiritually” but “in, with, and under” the bread and wine we share, for the Lord Himself invites us to take and eat His body, broken for us, and to take and drink His blood, shed for us.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

### “When You Woke That Thursday Morning”

LSB 445

- 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.

When You Woke That Thursday Morning, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008  
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## INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:4; 124:8

**P** I will go to the altar of God,

**C** to God my exceeding joy.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** May the Lord, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Lord, in this wonderful Sacrament You have given us a remembrance of Your suffering and death. Grant that as we receive Your body and blood, the saving work of Your redemption may be shown in our lives; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### + THE WORD +

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1-14 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup> “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup> Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup> And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup> Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup> and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. <sup>7</sup> “Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup> They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup> Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup> And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup> In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>12</sup> For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. <sup>14</sup> “This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that 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 also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant 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> Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:13b-20 (ESV)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>13b</sup> [The disciples] prepared the Passover. <sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, [Jesus] reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup> And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup> And He took 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." <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**“Jesus, Greatest at the Table”**

(tune: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

- 1 Jesus, greatest at the table,  
The almighty Son of Man,  
Laid aside His outer clothing,  
Poured some water in a pan;  
As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,  
He the servant’s task began.
  
- 2 Marvel how their Lord and teacher  
Gently taught them not to vie  
As He humbly knelt before them,  
Dusty feet to wash and dry,  
By His tender touch expressing  
True compassion from on high.
  
- 3 Jesus took the role of servant  
When upon that gruesome span,  
For all human sin He suffered  
As a vile and loathsome man;  
On the cross poured out like water  
To fulfill the Father’s plan.
  
- 5 Jesus gave to His disciples  
A commandment that was new:  
“Show My love to one another,  
Do as I have done for you;  
All the world will know you love Me  
As you love each other too.”

Jesus, Greatest at the Table, Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955, Text: © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin.  
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**SERMON**  
**“GOD IS PRESENT HERE”**

Pr. Jim Sprengle  
1 Corinthians 11:23–32

**NICENE CREED**  
**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made;**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*(Due to the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, an offering will not be taken during the worship service. Plates are available in the back of the church should you desire to place an offering.)*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, You are our Lord. In Baptism You have made us Your disciples, Your brothers and sisters, and members of Your Body. As You entered the days of Your Passion, You were betrayed by one of Your own disciples. We too still struggle with sin and the temptation to go our own way. But as You restored Simon Peter, You have spoken Your forgiving and strengthening Word to us this night. Make us faithful to Your call, that we may always worship You in spirit and in truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, You made covenants with Your people throughout the centuries. Yet, in these last days, You have made a new covenant with us through Your Son. Make this covenant known among us and all peoples of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

We believe in the real presence of the body  
and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.

Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

*(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)*

## PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PAX DOMINI

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

## DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*You may want to turn to the **Psalms** in the Pew Bible or in the front of your hymnal for meditation. You may also want to “pray” some of the Lenten hymns, which are found from #418 - #456 in your hymnals.*

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy upon us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

As Your people of old were commanded to keep the Passover as a feast to the Lord throughout their generations, as a statute forever, so has Christ become our Passover who endured the wrath and death of sin for us and the whole world by the sacrifice of His own body and blood on the cross of Calvary, opening the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

**C** Amen.

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's last hours of life 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 point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

**Flowers** are new life springing forth. In the passion and suffering of Christ, human life ebbs from Him. In recognition of this we remove these flowers from our altar.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our **candles** and remove them.

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

The stand on our altar holds the Bible, God's Word of truth and salvation. Jesus is truth and salvation. He was removed from us, but only for a very short time.

We remove this **Bible** that represents the Word made flesh. Yet we remember His word: "I am with you always even to the end of the earth."

Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove **the elements and vessels of this Sacrament**.

Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here 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 **cross** is the symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ and all that He is in our lives. As Jesus' life was removed from Him on the cross, so we remove that symbol from before us. But we note that the cross at our altar is an empty cross signifying that Jesus is no longer on the cross and no longer in the tomb. We will see Him again. May His peace be with us. Amen.

***(After the stripping of the altar has been completed, all may leave the church silently. Our Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 PM)***

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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# Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

## Our Mission Statement:

*~Go and Share Jesus Christ~*

## Our Vision Statement:

*“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”*

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

## STAFF

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