



March 28, 2024
7:00 p.m.

“Living God’s Love”

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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St. Matthew invites you to join us in celebration of Holy Communion!

The Lord's table is open to all who believe and are baptized.

Please join us as we receive the means of grace, where Jesus promises to meet us in the bread and the wine.

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Please take a moment to sign the pew book.

"Pages" are in the front of the hymnal.

"Hymns" are located toward the back of the hymnal.

*Please stand as you are able.

Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the Three Days - the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. The Three Days begin with one liturgy extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil.

*The Maundy Thursday liturgy focuses on three significant actions. First, the confession of sins and announcement of forgiveness brings to a conclusion the Lenten discipline of repentance that began on Ash Wednesday. Second, the church obeys Jesus' command (in Latin, *mandatum*, from which this day receives its name) to follow his example and wash each other's feet. Third, we celebrate our meal of deliverance, taking our place at the supper Jesus shared with his disciples on this night.*

GATHERING

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

P: 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.

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

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.

WORD

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my
bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had
given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in
remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord

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*Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to
depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in
the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart
of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus,
knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had
come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer

robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steve Mahaffey

Hymn

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Hymn 708

***Prayers of Intercession**

D: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: You make a new covenant with your people. Gather your church around word and table in love and promise as these three holy days enfold us. Open us to behold the mystery of our salvation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: You give us our daily bread, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. Bless those who labor and tend to their crops and those who prepare our meals. Strengthen us to advocate for food justice and a fair distribution of resources. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: You, our Savior and Teacher, stoop down to us in servant love. Inspire national and local leaders with a renewed sense of public service. Increase in them a humility to serve with equity and fairness. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: You incline your ear to us in every need. Befriend all who are lonely. Comfort those who grieve. Soothe any who are anxious. Console all who are distressed. Graciously tend to the hurts of your children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit especially the Family of Linda, Karen, Ken, Karen, June, Steve, Tom, Adam and Family, Elizabeth, Clarence, Jerry, Todd, Logan, Sandi, and those we now name aloud or hold tenderly in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: You inspire your people to praise in word, song, and art. We give thanks for artists whose gifts enrich the church's worship. Kindle in us appreciation for all who beautify our worship space throughout the changing seasons. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: Precious in your sight is the death of your faithful ones. We remember and give thanks for the those who have died. With them, we trust your promise to love your own until the end. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

D: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

Hymn 565

*Offering Prayer

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

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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.

***Proper Preface**

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

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Eucharistic Prayer

***Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

***Lamb of God**

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Communion Hymns

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is
Now We Join in Celebration*

Hymn 502
Hymn 462

***Prayer after Communion**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping of the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldier's hands. During the stripping of the altar, Psalm 22 is sung. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the altar and chancel furnishings are removed, preparing the worship space for Good Friday. Through this stark ritual we recall that Jesus was abandoned by his followers, stripped of his dignity, and left to face the cross alone. We depart in silence, prepared to return on Good Friday.

WELCOME TO ST. MATTHEW

Greetings to our guests. We pray that you experience God's presence and grace this evening. We hope to see you again!

Good Friday Worship - A traditional Tenebrae Service will be held at 7 p.m.

Easter - We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at 8:30 and 11 a.m. at St. Matthew with Communion at each service. The Luther League (our high school youth) will be hosting the Easter Breakfast, 8:00-8:30 & 9:45-10:45 a.m. There will be no Sunday School.

Worship Servants

Reader: Helen Graf

Ushers: Alan & Delores Ivan

Communion

Servers: Delores Ivan & Jennifer Knaggs

Sound: Joe Obermeier

Video: Bobby Forsythe

Chanting of Psalm 22: Jennifer Knaggs &
Pastor Steve

Altar Guild members stripping the chancel tonight

Sandy Andrews

Peg Huber

Becky Malloy

Nancy McNeal

Kelly Obermeier

Julie Shrader

Nancy Weygandt

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Staff

The Rev. Steven Mahaffey

Deacon Lindsay Stertzbach

Cindy Piovarchy

Deb Musil

Joyce Davis

Brenda Disbrow

Nancy McNeal

Rachel Knaggs

Kaitlyn Taraschke

Pastor

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Organist

Office Administrator

Maintenance Supervisor

Parish Nurse

Luther Choir Director

Kids of the Kingdom Director

Nursery Attendant



Hearing Loop
System available.