



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 2026

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Guest information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

WELCOME

*PRAYER

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.

*GATHERING HYMN *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us* (ELW 358)



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.

REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

Most merciful God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

We confess to you and to one another,

and before the whole company of heaven,

that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

that we have sinned by our fault,

by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault,

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 have sought worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you.

We have desired self-reliance instead of hungering for your word.

We have failed to recognize your coming reign and hindered the work of the Spirit.

We have drawn from the well of self-serving ambition and disdained the living water

Christ offers.

We have disregarded voices from the margin and distrusted signs of your healing and

hope in the world.

We have dwelt in tombs of self-pity and discontent and disregarded Christ's call to life.

Have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Amen.

God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace we have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

May almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Those who wish may come forward for individual absolution and anointing during the hymn.

HYMN *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.

The minister addresses each in turn.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

Receive this oil as a sign of your forgiveness and healing. **Amen.**

***GOSPEL: John 13:1b-17, 31b-35**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION

***COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY**

Having been freed and forgiven in Christ, we are free to serve, free to love, free to do the hard work of ministry, loving one another as Christ has first loved us. I ask you:

Will you endeavor in all things to conduct yourselves as is fitting for a servant of Jesus Christ?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you be faithful, understanding, and loving as you humbly accompany and serve the people among whom you live and work?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Will you support your siblings in Christ in your mutual call to learn, grow and serve in Christ?

I will, and I ask God to help and guide me.

God has called us to varied tasks in the world and in the church. May God grant you joy and spirit of bold trust, that your work may stir you to a life of fruitful service through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-13

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

**²for 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?**

**¹³I 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.**

**¹⁵Precious 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.**

**¹⁷I 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,**

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

*GOSPEL: Matthew 26:20-29

When it was evening, [Jesus] took his place with the twelve disciples, ²¹ and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

*SHARING THE PEACE

Jesus broke bread with his disciples, offering an invitation to relationship, reconciliation and redemption. As we approach the table to be nourished by the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we receive the peace of God which surpasses all human understanding. May you know this peace now and always.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Reconciled in Christ, let us share a word of peace with one another.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

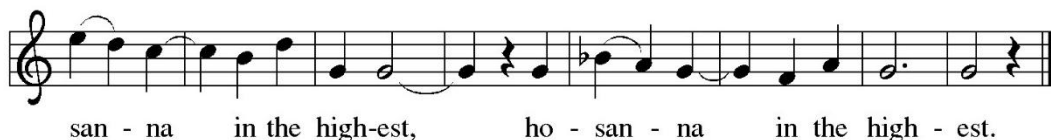
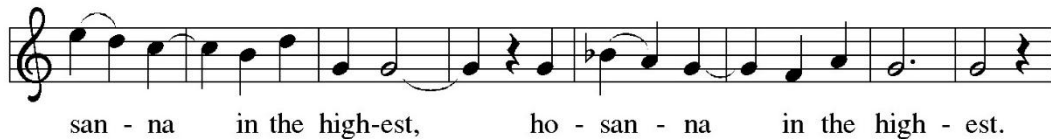
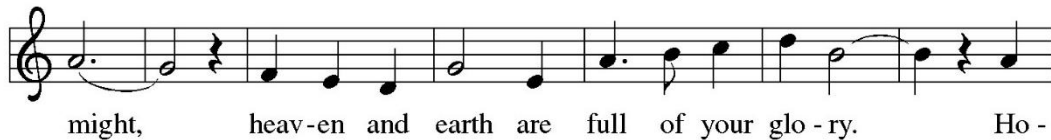
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up.

Even as your Son gathered with his friends for one more meal,
as he prepared to give the full measure of his devotion and love to this broken world,
just before his own friend betrayed him,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to ask and pray:

**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**

Come and taste the truth of God's love.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* (ELW 612)

Refrain

Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
 give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

***PRAYER**

Let us pray, on this night when Jesus gave us the mandate to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds. *A brief silence.*

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. We have heard you say, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me." **Lord, help us to take up our cross and follow you.**

Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer Geneva, Cherry, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, and all on our prayer list. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Even as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, even as he commissioned them to love one another as he first loved them, even as he celebrated and ate with them, Jesus knew he would be betrayed. He knew that the cross was before him. As we prepare for the continuation of our worship tomorrow, we strip our worship space. As we remove items from this space, as we see the emptiness that remains, we remember the humiliation and sufferings of Christ.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Items are removed from the worship space while Psalm 22 is recited.

Once all items have been removed, worshippers are invited to return to their seats for reflection.

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer; by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

⁵They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

⁶But as for me, I am a worm and not human, scorned by all and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips; they shake their heads.

⁸“Trust in the Lord; let the Lord deliver; let God rescue him if God so delights in him.”

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,

and kept me safe on my mother’s breast. ¹⁰I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is no one to help.

¹²Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

¹³They open wide their jaws at me, like a slashing and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;

my heart within my breast is melting wax.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of death.

¹⁶Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;

they pierce my hands and my feet. ¹⁷I can count all my bones while they stare at me and gloat.

¹⁸They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O Lord, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.

²⁰Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

²¹Save me from the lion’s mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.

²²I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.

²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither is the Lord’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

³¹They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, “The Lord has acted!”

All depart in silence; the service continues on Good Friday.

Notes for the day's texts:

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.

Today's Music

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us. Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936, Music: Norman Cocker, 1889–1953. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Oxford University Press (New York).

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love. Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt., Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Healer of Our Every Ill. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

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We continue our worship with the services of Holy Week:

Good Friday: April 3rd

Family Cross Walk, 3:00pm

Tenebrae Service, 7:00pm

Easter Vigil: April 4th

Service of Storytelling and Communion, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday: April 5th

Sunrise Service in the Park, 6:30 am

Festal Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 am