



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday – April 17, 2025

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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.*

*Those who would like to participate in feet or hand washing are invited to the front of the sanctuary during the gathering hymn or at the conclusion of the service.*

## 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

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 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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus 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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After 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?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little 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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By 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**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

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.

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

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

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

**<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?**

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

**<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.**

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

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

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

**<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,**

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

**\*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.**

## \*GOSPEL: Luke 22:12-21

When the hour came, [Jesus] took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "I have eagerly 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> Then he took a cup, and after giving 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> Then 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." <sup>20</sup> And 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. <sup>21</sup> But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.

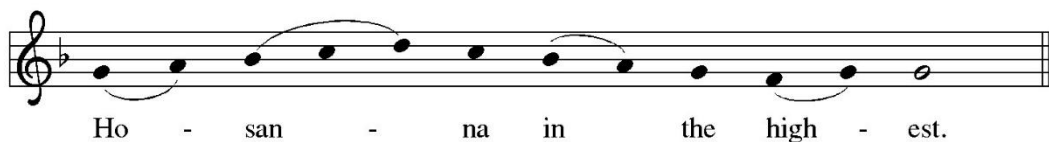
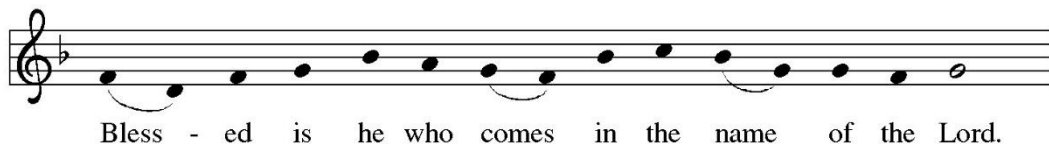
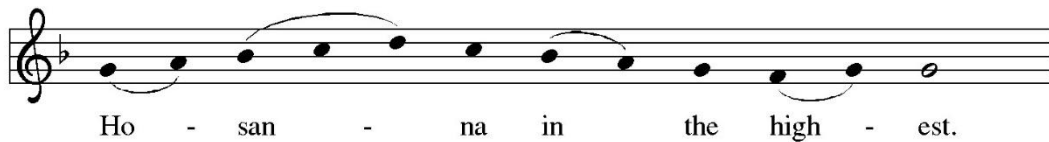
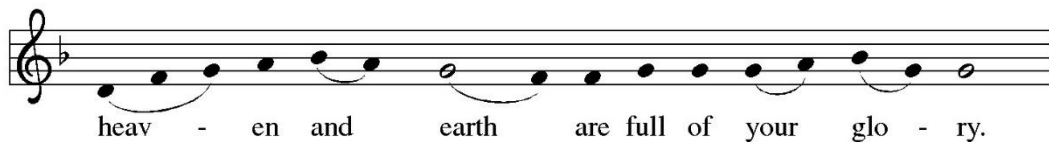
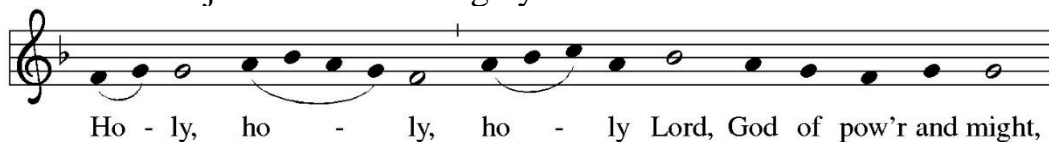
## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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. A - men.

## 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, Jesus, 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.**

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

*A brief silence.*

Heal the wounds of your church, O God. As we remember your commandment to love one another, guide us toward reconciliation within the body of Christ. Bless all who gather around the world and in this community for these holy three days, God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew the life of your creation. Protect fragile habitats from destruction. Encourage all who strive to build more sustainable systems for life and thriving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace and justice among your people. Where there is oppression or fear, bring liberation and hope. Instill wisdom and humility in local and national leaders, and guide them to serve their communities in the way of Jesus. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Console all who suffer. We pray especially for all who are lonely and yearning for community. Assure them of your loving presence. Come alongside all who cry out to you in any need Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, and those we name in our hearts. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In the bread and cup we share, you show us the way of love poured out for the whole world. Nourish all who hunger in body or in spirit, that they experience the life abundant that flows from you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the saints who rest in you. We give thanks for all our beloved dead. Confident of your steadfast love, we commend them to your eternal care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**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

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>Our ancestors put their trust in you, they trusted, and you rescued them.

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

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,

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

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

<sup>12</sup>Many young bulls encircle me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

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

<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; my heart within my breast is melting wax.

<sup>15</sup>My 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.

<sup>16</sup>Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;

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

<sup>18</sup>They divide my garments among them; for my clothing, they cast lots.

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

<sup>20</sup>Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.

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

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

<sup>23</sup>You 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.

<sup>24</sup>For 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.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

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

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

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

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, 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.

<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the Lord,

whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

<sup>31</sup>They 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 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Kids Cross Walk, 3:00-5:00 pm*

*Stations of the Cross Tableaux, 5:30-6:15 pm*

*Seven Last Words Tenebrae Service, 7:00-7:45 pm*

#### **Easter Vigil: April 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Service of Storytelling and Communion, 7:00 pm*

#### **Easter Sunday: April 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Sunrise Service in the Park, 6:30 am*

*Festal Worship with Holy Communion, 9:00 am*