

Maundy Thursday

Lamb of God



April 2, 2026 | 4:15 • 7:00 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE AND THE TRIDUUM

Tonight's service is the first service of what is known as The Triduum - Latin for "Three Days." Worship during The Triduum is viewed as one service, so Maundy Thursday worship begins with an organ prelude, the ringing of the bells, and an Invocation, but there is no Benediction. Good Friday has no prelude, Invocation or Benediction and ends in darkness. The Easter Sunrise service continues by beginning in silence and darkness with no bells and invocation.

PRELUDE

"Just as I Am"

arr. Vandall

INVOCATION

OPENING SENTENCES

I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy. (*Psalm 43:4*)

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. (*Psalm 124:8*)

OPENING HYMN "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" LSB 435, vv. 1, 3-4

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

Text: Public domain

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

Let it be done for you as you believe.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE "Christ, the Life of All the Living" LW 94, v. 1

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Your suff'rings, death, and merit Life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, Dearest Jesus, unto You.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your Passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3-11

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words." Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:11-22

When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM (7:00)

"Lord, Is It I"

Joseph M. Martin

Please stand as you are able.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-sixth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY**“Not All the Blood of Beasts”****LSB 431**

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

Text: Public domain

SERMON**“Total Obedience”****Pastor Snow**

Please stand as you are able.

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs:

For our observance of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, that we may more fully appreciate the great sacrifice of love on our behalf. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who are in need - the lonely, the ill, the troubled, that they may know the love of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all those who will commune at the altar today, especially those who will receive the Lord's Supper for the first time, that God would bring all to repentance and faith that they may receive this gift for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is indeed good and right to give praise to You, holy Lord, heavenly Father. You sent Your only Son, Jesus to hang on a cross to give salvation to all mankind. Through Your holy supper, You offer to us life and salvation through Your Son's very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Therefore with all the angels and the multitude of saints in heaven, we join that everlasting chorus praising You and saying:

SANCTUS**“Holy, Holy, Holy”****LSB 208**

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgement. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

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, 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."

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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Please be seated.

RITE OF FIRST COMMUNION

Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism we were born again as God's children and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup," and "as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Those taking First Communion, please stand.

Pastor: As candidates you are about to be admitted to the Lord's Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

First Communicants: Yes, with the help of God.

Congregation, please stand as you are able.

Parents and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ?

We will, with the help of God.

In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you all to answer along with these young people these questions concerning the Lord's Supper. Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that you are a sinner?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

Yes, I believe.

I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

C 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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood. This we eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold to a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the pastor or an elder. For further readings in Scripture, we suggest Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

- Communicants will receive elements in a continuous fashion.
- If you would like the pastor to bring communion to you, please inform an usher anytime during the service.
- Children of all ages may join their parents and receive a special blessing.
- For those who desire it, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center ring of the tray of individual cups.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN

“Eat this Bread”

LSB 638

Congregation sings the refrain. Soloist will sing all verses.

Refrain

The image shows the musical score for the hymn "Eat this Bread". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system of music has the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev-er be hun - gry." The second system of music has the lyrics: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

*This is His body given for you;
This is His blood that was shed for you. **Refrain***

*As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
You show His death until He comes again. **Refrain***

*Eat His flesh and drink His blood,
And Christ will raise you up on the Last Day. **Refrain***

*Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. **Refrain***

*If we believe and eat this bread,
We will have eternal life. **Refrain***

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HYMN**“Lamb of God”****LSB 550**

Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

Refrain

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. **Refrain**

I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. **Refrain**

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HYMN “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620, vv. 1-4

Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”

Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav’nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

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Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 211, v. 1



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, in this wonderful Sacrament You have left us a memorial of Your suffering and death. May this Sacrament so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption You have brought; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN**“Go to Dark Gethsemane”****LSB 436, vv. 1-3**

Go to dark Gethsemane,
 All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
 Your Redeemer’s conflict see,
 Watch with Him one bitter hour;
 Turn not from His griefs away;
 Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;
 There, adoring at His feet,
 Mark that miracle of time,
 God’s own sacrifice complete.
 “It is finished!” hear Him cry;
 Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Follow to the judgment hall,
 View the Lord of life arraigned;
 Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
 Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
 Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss;
 Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Text: Public domain

CANDLES EXTINGUISHED (4:15)

After the acolyte extinguishes the candles, the 4:15 service ends here without Benediction and the congregation leaves in silence and darkness, continuing tomorrow with the Good Friday services.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR (7:00)**Psalm 22**

The Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday. On this night, as the darkness rises up against Christ, the church is emptied of its beauty and darkened to symbolize the abuse our Lord endured in His betrayal, suffering and death. The congregation goes quietly into the night, to return on Good Friday to witness the Lord's death.

- From Proclaim, “Maundy Thursday”

Depart in silence.

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THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH ST. JOHN'S TODAY!
If this is your first time at St. John's, we invite you to fill out a CONNECTCard located at the Welcome Desk or by using the QR code. We look forward to CONNECT-ing with you.



WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Pastor Snow

Liturgist: Pastor Barry

Pianist: Kristin Johnson

Prelude: 4:15 Aliyah Messer

Soloists: 4:15 Dr. Katie Rolf/7:00 Julie Bruce

Choir: 7:00 Messengers of Praise, directed by Dr. Katie Rolf

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Acolytes: 4:15 Patrick Oliver/7:00 Ridge Edwards

Communion Assistants: 4:15 Jim Hofer, Chris Mundahl, Pete Stephan

7:00 Jon DeBoer, Josh Peterson, Randy Sefkar

Elder: 4:15 Pete Siedelman/7:00 Ben Wiegert

Usher Team: 4:15 Ted Beise, Craig Pauling/7:00 Mark Young

Welcome Team: 4:15 Gayle Degler/7:00 Jennifer Johnson

Tech Crew: 4:15 Buesgens Family/7:00 Hunter Krueger

HOLY WEEK *at*
ST. JOHN'S

Watch services live at stjohnschaska.org

GOOD FRIDAY | April 3

10:00 AM - Passion Readings and Hymns

7:00 PM - Tenebrae Service of Darkness

EASTER SUNDAY | April 5

7:00 AM - Sunrise Service

8:30 & 10:00 AM - Easter Celebration

St. John's
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