

# Maundy Thursday Worship

## April 2, 2026 – 7:00 pm



### St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Lakewood, Colorado

The word *Maundy* derives from the Latin word *mandatum* which means "commandment." On Thursday of Holy Week, before our Savior was betrayed and led away to be falsely accused and finally crucified, He spoke many words of instruction for the benefit of His disciples. He told them: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another"* (John 13:33-34). He also instituted the Lord's Supper, solemnly commanding: *"This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me"* – to which the apostle Paul would later add these meaningful words: *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes"* (1 Corinthians 11:26). So on this night we gather for this special meal in keeping with Jesus' instructions with hearts eager to receive His blessings.



Pre-Service Prayer – O God, who does not take pleasure in the death of the sinner, but that he turn from his evil way and live, I come to You although I have sinned and deserve only Your wrath. But I flee to Your mercy in Christ Jesus, my Lord, who gave His body and His blood for my redemption. Lord, grant that I may always believe this and never waver. Grant that in such faith I may worthily approach Your altar to receive the very body and true blood which Your Son has given for my salvation, that I may duly praise, laud, and honor Your love and mercy all the days of my life. Hear me for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Redeemer and Savior. Amen.

## Opening Hymn

*Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared* – LSB 622 (1-5)

### Trinitarian Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C:   
A - - - men.

### Call to Worship

P: Oh, come, let us worship and bow down:

**C: Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, our Redeemer, our Comforter.**

P: The kings of the earth set themselves:

**C: And the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed.**

P: He was led as a lamb to the slaughter:

**C: And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.**

P: Surely He has borne our griefs:

**C: And carried our sorrows.**

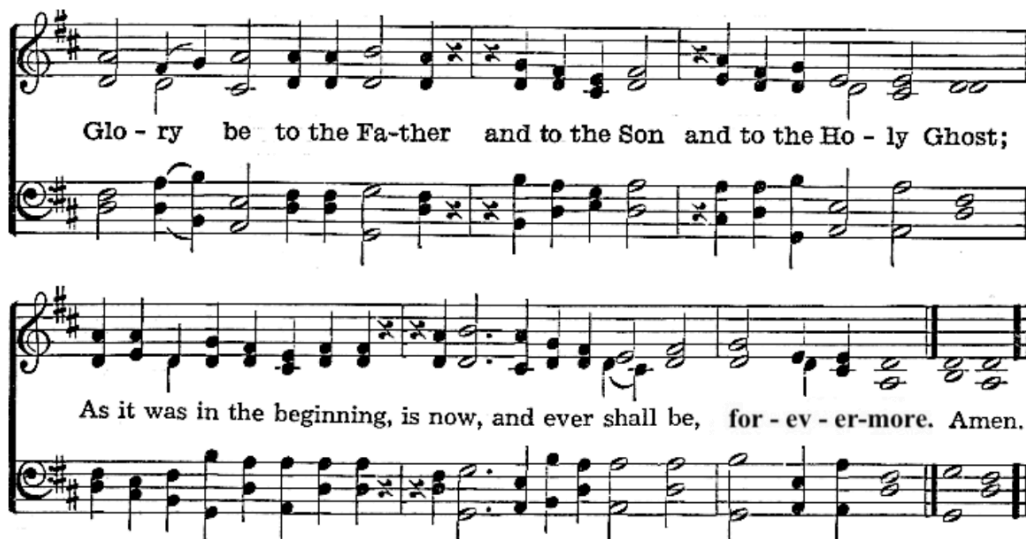
P: He was wounded for our transgressions:

**C: He was bruised for our iniquities.**

P: All we like sheep have gone astray:

**C: And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**

### Glory Be to the Father (*Gloria Patri*)



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, for - ev - er - more. Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord Jesus, You have left to us in this blessed Sacrament a memorial of Your Passion. Grant, we beseech You, that we may so use this Sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us: You, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: Amen. (*spoken*)

## Scripture Readings

John 13:31-35 – So, when he (Judas) had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, “Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-30 – For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

## Hymn

*Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared* – LSB 622 (6-8)

## Sermon

Matthew 26:26-28

### *The Purpose & Meaning of the Sacrament of Holy Communion*

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

## Maundy Thursday Offering

### **The Exhortation – Confession of Sins – Words of Absolution**

P: Dear friends in Christ, it is your desire to receive the Sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the assurance of the forgiveness of your sins, the strengthening of your faith in Him as your Savior, and the grace to serve Him with a God-pleasing life. In order that these blessings may be yours, it is necessary that you bear in mind the Word of God recorded by St. John in his First Epistle: “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

I ask you therefore before God who searches the heart: Do you confess the sins which you have committed in desire, thought, word, and deed? Do you heartily repent of them, believe in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and sincerely intend, with the help of God the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life? Then answer: “Yes.”

As God has given to you the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and as you have called me to administer the same, even so, in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## The Words of Institution

### The Peace of the Lord (*Pax Domini*)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: **And with you also. Amen.**

### The Agnus Dei (melody: "O Dearest Jesus")

Jesus, the Lamb of God, have mercy on us!

Jesus, who bore our sins, have mercy on us!

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, have mercy!

Grant us Your peace, Lord!

### Distribution of the Sacrament

### The Nunc Dimittis (melody: "Our God, Our Help")

Lord, let Your servant go in peace,

Your Word has been fulfilled:

My eyes have seen the Light increase

Which for the world You willed,

For Israel's light, the promised One,

Now shines for all to see,

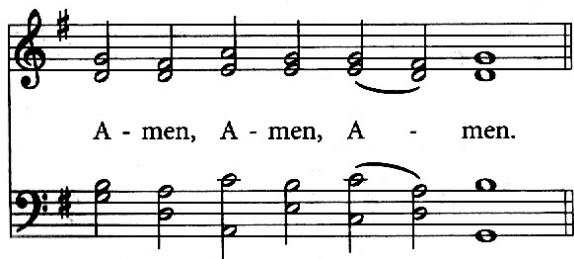
To God, the Father, Spirit, Son,

Be praise eternally! Amen.

### Benediction

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C:



A - men, A - men, A - men.

### Closing Hymn

*O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee – LSB 632*

## **Christian Questions for Those About to Receive the Lord's Supper**

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner? *Yes, I believe that I am a sinner.*
2. How do you know this? *From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.*
3. Are you sorry for your sins? *Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.*
4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins? *I deserve His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.*
5. Do you hope to be saved? *Yes, that is my hope.*
6. In whom, then, do you trust? *I trust in my dear Lord Jesus Christ.*
7. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him? *He kept the Ten Commandments for me. Then He died and shed His blood for me on the cross to make atonement for my sins.*
8. How do you know this? *I know this from the holy Gospel and from the words of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*
9. What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion? *It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ together with the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.*
10. Do you believe that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament? *Yes, I believe it.*
11. What moves you to believe this? *I am moved to believe this by the words of Christ, "Take and eat. This is My body . . . Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood."*
12. What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking? *That is shown us by these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.*

### **Prayer For Our Communicants**

Lord Jesus, who calls to You all who labor and are heavy laden, to refresh them and to give rest to their souls, we pray: let these guests experience Your love at the heavenly feast which You have prepared for Your children on earth. Keep them from impenitence and unbelief, so that no one may partake of this holy Sacrament to his spiritual harm. Take off from them the spotted garment of the flesh and of their own righteousness and adorn them with the garment of righteousness which You purchased with Your blood. Strengthen their faith, increase their love and hope, and after this life grant them a place at Your heavenly table, where they shall eat of the eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forevermore. Hear us for Your own sake. Amen.