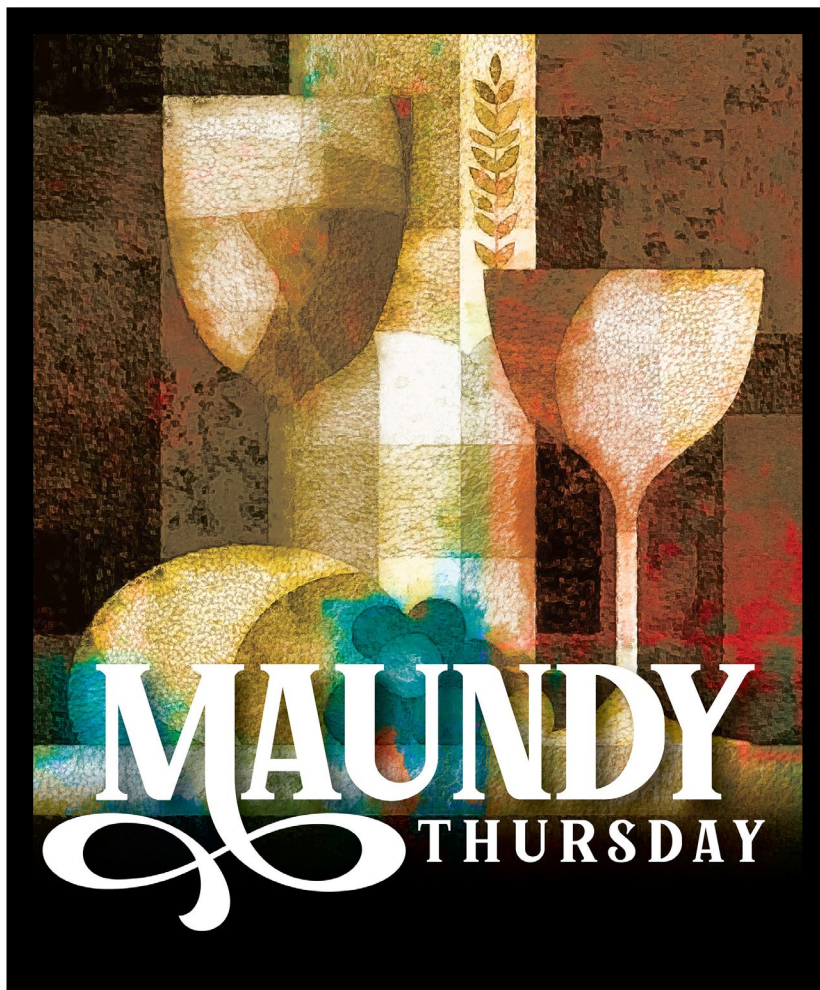


***St. John Lutheran Church & School
Berlin, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod***



***Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026***

**Serving Us Today:
Pastor Rob Schrader
Organist: Nancy Wallner
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Large Print Bulletin

As We Gather

When Christians gather as the church, it is for what we normally call a "service." In daily life a "service" is, of course, a person or group who provides something of value to others; for instance, a food service, a cleaning service, or a place for "servicing" your car. But when we gather as church for a service, who is doing the serving and who is being served? After all, with our eyes we only see one another singing and praying, making the sign of the cross, standing, sitting, kneeling, baptizing with water, and communing with bread and wine. It is easy for some to get the impression that this activity we call "worship" is a gathering where we are doing something for God. What is really going on of most importance is God's doing, God's serving us through the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This divine service was most dramatically shown in this night on which our Lord Jesus serves and feeds us.

Tonight, our mighty Lord, who has proved His power over demons, sickness, and even death, takes the humbler part. His loving service is shown, first, by taking the role of a servant washing His disciples' feet. His greatest and chief service, however, He announced as He took charge of the ancient Passover meal, changing it from a mere memorial of what God has done in the Old Testament exodus of the past to its fulfillment in what He was about to accomplish in His innocent, bitter suffering and death on a cross. From now on, the fulfillment of the annual Passover feast is to be celebrated "often" as the chief means by which God literally connects us with our Lord's crucified body and His precious blood that take away the sin of the world "as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup" (LSB, p. 162).

Due to the solemn character of the day, preservice music and a hymn of invocation are omitted.

Preparation

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 43:4; 124:8

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C who made heaven and earth.

Confessional Address

Joel 2:13

P During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving one another.

By God's Word, during these forty days we have been reminded that the true repentance, faith, and love required of us is and can only be the product of God's own action on our behalf. In Jesus, we have seen God working to save us by serving us.

This night we gather at the Lord's invitation to complete our Lenten discipline by examining ourselves and receiving the Holy Communion. We are reminded that in this sacrament we are actual participants in the body and blood of Christ, the precious price of

our salvation. Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing the Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

P Reminded of our sinfulness and the grace of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C 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.

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

C Yes.

P 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.

C Amen.

Word

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 28:1–6, 15–19*

¹"And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ²And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God. ³Blessed shall you

be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. ⁴Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ⁵Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ⁶Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

¹⁵“But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. ¹⁷Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. ¹⁸Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. ¹⁹Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 116:12–19

P What shall I render to the LORD

C for all His benefits to me?

P I will lift up the cup of salvation

C and call on the name of the LORD,

P I will pay my vows to the LORD

C in the presence of all His people.

P Precious in the sight of the LORD

C is the death of His saints.

P O LORD, I am Your servant;

C I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

P I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

C and call on the name of the LORD.

P I will pay my vows to the LORD

C in the presence of all His people,

P in the courts of the house of the LORD,

C in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Epistle

Hebrews 9:15–28

¹⁵Therefore 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. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For 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, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹And

in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

²³Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:26–29

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶Now 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." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

**1 When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.**

**2 Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,**

**One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples' feet.**

**3 What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
"Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood."**

**4 One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev'ry place and time.**

**5 One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least**

**Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.**

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Sermon

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Nicene Creed

**C 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

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C 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.**

Offering

Sacrament

Preface

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

P "Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, let us now and evermore praise God's glorious name, singing:

Sanctus *LSB 161*

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei *LSB 163*

**C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

Distribution Hymns

451 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,

See Him dying on the tree!

'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;

Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!

'Tis the long-expected Prophet,

David's Son, yet David's Lord;

Proofs I see sufficient of it:

'Tis the true and faithful Word.

2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,

Was there ever grief like His?

Friends through fear His cause disowning,

Foes insulting His distress;

Many hands were raised to wound Him,

None would intervene to save;

But the deepest stroke that pierced Him

Was the stroke that justice gave.

3 Ye who think of sin but lightly

Nor suppose the evil great

Here may view its nature rightly,

Here its guilt may estimate.

**Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.**

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt. Text: Public domain

446 Jesus, Greatest at the Table

**1 Jesus, greatest at the table,
The almighty Son of Man,
Laid aside His outer clothing,
Poured some water in a pan;
As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,
He the servant's task began.**

**2 Marvel how their Lord and teacher
Gently taught them not to vie
As He humbly knelt before them,
Dusty feet to wash and dry,**

**By His tender touch expressing
True compassion from on high.**

**3 Jesus took the role of servant
When upon that gruesome span,
For all human sin He suffered
As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water
To fulfill the Father's plan.**

**4 Can we fathom such deep mercy?
Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal:
Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,
For the many dies the One.**

**5 Jesus gave to His disciples
A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another,
Do as I have done for you;**

**All the world will know you love Me
As you love each other too.”**

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Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

*Due to the unified character of the services of the Triduum, the
Benediction is omitted on this day.*

Stripping of the Altar

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.

**During the stripping, Pastor will read the words of Psalm 22
Words are on the screens if you wish to follow along**

***At the conclusion of the Stripping of the Altar,
all leave the church in silence.***

Acknowledgments

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Please join us tomorrow for Good Friday service.

1:00 pm Afternoon Service

6:30 pm Evening Service

And Sunday for our Easter service.

6:30 am Sunrise Service

9:00 pm Morning Service