

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

250 W. Decatur St.

Decatur, Illinois

(217) 423-7783

www.felcdecatur.org

We have a livestream option on our website!

<https://felcdecatur.org/live>



MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm

HOLY COMMUNION

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come Experience God's Unlimited Grace, in a Most Welcoming Place

WELCOME

*GATHERING SONG

"Come to the Table"

ELW #481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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GREETING AND INVITATION

P: Dear Friends in Christ,
peace be with you on this holy night.

P: Why do we gather? What is this night?
It is a night of *love* —
for on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment:
to love each other as he loved them.

A: It is a night of *communion* —
for on this night Jesus gave not only a commandment,
but also a sign: bread and wine broken and poured,
to remember him.

P: It is a night of loving *service* —
for on this night Jesus gave us not only a commandment,

not only a sign,
but also an example: on his knees with basin and towel,
washing feet.

A: It is also a night of *betrayal* —
for on this night a man Jesus loved
sold him for money,
and brought soldiers to seize and bind him
as he prayed.

P: This night is joyous, fierce, tender, terrible.
We begin in light, with memories and stories, friends and feasting.
We end in shadows, with a queasy fright.
We begin as the friends of Jesus did long ago: together, as one.
We end as they did: scattered in the dark.
We begin as they did: singing of love and deliverance.
We end as they did: without a single sound.

P & A: Friends, be at peace on this holy night.
Enter it with open hearts.
Now let us pray.

PRAYER

P: God of deliverance and love,
look with pleasure on your people who gather here.

**C: Send your Spirit to embrace us,
so that with hearts for a time made free of care,
we may receive in abundance the blessings of this night.
With Jesus we pray that whatever may come in life or in death,
your will, not ours, may be done.
Glory to you, yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Exodus 12:14-17; 24-27a
Remembering God's deliverance: Observing the feast of Passover.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

¹⁵Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the first day you shall remove leaven from your houses, for whoever eats leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day shall be cut off from Israel.

¹⁶On the first day you shall hold a solemn assembly, and on the seventh day a solemn assembly; no work shall be done on those days; only what everyone must eat, that alone may be prepared by you.

¹⁷You shall observe the festival of unleavened bread, for on this very day I brought your companies out of the land of Egypt: you shall observe this day throughout your generations as a perpetual ordinance.

²⁴You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children.

²⁵When you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this observance.

²⁶And when your children ask you, 'What do you mean by this observance?'

²⁷you shall say, 'It is the passover sacrifice to the LORD, for he passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt, when he struck down the Egyptians but spared our houses.'" And the people bowed down and worshiped.

(silence)

RESPONSE

P: *Let us pray.*

Holy Deliverer, Breaker of Chains,
long ago you acted with power to save your people,
enslaved in the land of Egypt,
and in every generation
the people of your heart remember.
At table they tell the story and they sing your praise.
On this holy night, with Jesus, our brother,
we too remember: We tell the old, old story
and we praise your faithful love.

**C: As we eat the food and drink of liberation,
free us forever from the violence
that is our way of life,
and set us on a pilgrimage of peace.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE EPISTLES I Corinthians 11: 23-26

What we have heard, we hand on to you: When they were eating, he took bread...

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

A READING FOM THE HOLY GOSPEL John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

The mark of the new community is love and service.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, 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....

³¹Now 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.'
(silence)



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



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Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
 Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
 In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
 Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



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Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt.
 Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.
 Text sts. 1–3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER

P: Gracious God, on this holy night,
 impress upon our hearts the example of Jesus,
 whose love embraced all people
 and whose service extended even to the washing of feet.

C: May we know him from this day forward
 not only in the broken bread and brimming cup,
 but also in the bent knee, in the water poured,
 in the touch of selfless hands —
 in service given and received,
 and shared with all the world.
 In remembrance of him we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

P: Jesus said: If anyone has something against you,
before you come to the table with gifts, make peace.
Then bring your gifts, then bring your lives.
Dear friends, let us make peace in our hearts.
Then, let us lay down the burdens
that keep us from loving each other and our God.
(silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Beloved, by the mercy of God
we have put down our burdens
at the feet of the one who in suffering love
laid down his life for us.
Rejoice and be glad:
Pardon, healing and peace are ours
through Jesus Christ, good brother and friend.

*PEACE

P: On this night Jesus gave us a charge:
Love one another as I have loved you.
Faithful to his commandment,
we forgive each other's faults, as we confess our own,
and we offer each other a sign of his peace.

GATHERING AT THE TABLE

A: Come now and take your places at this table,
citizens of the kingdom, heirs to the riches of God's love,
friends of Jesus, who is our peace.

INVITATION

P: Beloved, let us celebrate with Jesus at the table of peace.
C: For he loved his own, even to the end.

P: Let us eat the Feast with him.
C: For now nothing can separate us from his love.

P: And let us love one another well,
C: For he laid down his life for us all.

PREFACE

P: Praise to you, God of glory!
Your love created the universe and sustains it.

**C: You breathed life into our dust and placed us in paradise.
You found us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin.**

P: Your love shaped a people, and you are their God to this day,
in an alliance that lasts forever.

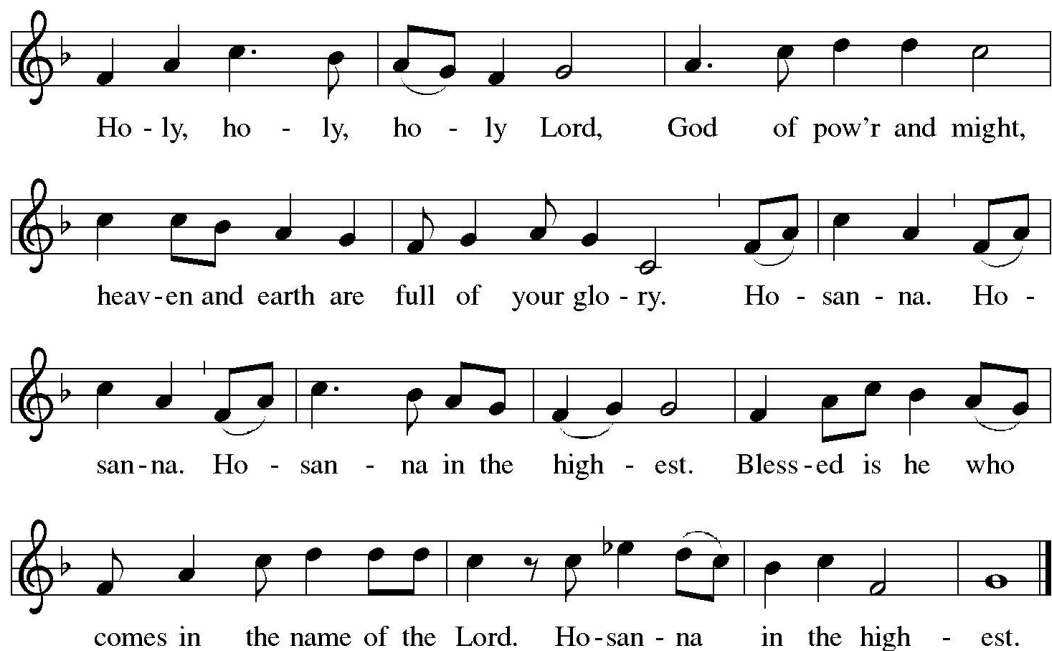
**C: In the fullness of time, you called us also to be your own,
through the tender ministry of Jesus.**

P: You spoke to us with his human voice
and healed us with his human hands.

**C: He gave us his life in bread and wine,
and suffered for his faithfulness on the cross of shame.
But you loved him faithfully, raising him from the dead.**

P: You sent his Spirit into our hearts
and adopted us, making us heirs of his glory;
forever we belong in your household of joy.

**C: Holy and wonderful God, all your creatures testify to your love.
With them, we too declare it:**



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.'

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

P: Now, O God, we remember Jesus.
(silence)

P: We remember that he longed to celebrate the Passover with his friends.

C: **He arranged for a meal, his last in this life.**

A: We remember that he gave them a new commandment:

C: **"Love one another as I have loved you."**

P: We remember that he gave them an example:

C: **He knelt before them and washed their feet.**

A: We remember that his betrayer was with him.

C: **Jesus loved and served him too.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: And we remember that on that night,

with danger and death in the air,

Jesus remembered with joy

the deliverance of his ancestors

from the oppression of Pharaoh.

He told the victory story,

ate bitter herbs, shared the unleavened loaf,

and drank the cup of blessing.

In love for us, he took the bread, gave thanks to you, and broke it.

220 REMEMBER NOW, MY CHILDREN

Matthew 26; J.Y.

trad. American tune

1. The night of his be- tray- al, our Lord took bread. He broke it as he
(And) then he took the chal- ice and raised it high. "My blood is giv- en
(We) share this food to- geth- er, re- mem- b'ring Christ; we share a com- mon

blest it, and then he said, "My bo- dy bro- ken for you is what this
for you, a full sup- ply... a cov- e- nant, a prom- ise, a cleans- ing
treas- ure and know the price; we share it with- out meas- ure, a gift of

means. Re- mem- ber now, my child- ren, what you have seen." 2. And
stream. Re- mem- ber now, my child- ren, what you have seen." 3. We
love; we share our life for- ev- er, with God a- bove.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

P: Holy Spirit, come make all things new.
Bless this bread and cup, and us who share them.
May they be for us life-giving food and drink.
Give us love for each other,
and make us your servants in the world
until your new age of justice comes,
and every creature beholds it.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
who welcomes us all and taught us to say:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Friends, if you are hungry for a taste of what is to come,
when all creatures great and small will feast together without fear in the household of God;
if you yearn to feast on a love without condition and without end;
if you are thirsting for forgiveness, given and received in humility and in joy,
then open your hearts to this meal, a sign of grace, a gift of peace,
the bread of life, the cup of joy:
The gifts of God for all God's people!

SHARING BREAD AND CUP (using individual chalices)

(One person from each table, please come up and receive the elements for your table.
Elements are shared at each table giving communion to the person next to you, using the
following words....)

_____ Body of Christ given for you and Blood of Christ shed for you.

(name)

***THANKSGIVING** (after all have received communion)

P: Let us rise and give thanks.

**C: Thank you Holy God,
for life in the Spirit of Jesus,
for gladness in this bread and cup,
for love that cannot die,
for peace the world cannot give,
for joy in the company of friends,
for the splendors of creation,
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.
Give us the fruits of this holy communion:
oneness of heart, love for neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies,
the will to serve you every day,
and life that never ends.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

A: “And after they had sung the hymn,
they went out to the Mount of Olives.”

HYMN

“Jesus, Remember Me”

ELW #616

**C: Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom**

(All depart in silence)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Good Friday Worship Service, 3/29, is at 6:00pm in the sanctuary.
Easter Sunday Worship Service, 3/31, is at 9:30am in the sanctuary.

Participants

Presiding and Preaching

Assisting Minister

Coordinator of Music and Technology/Organist/Handbells

Technical Director

Audio/Visual

Bell Ringer

Greeters

Check-In

Pastor Rita Augsburger

Molly Berry

Rick Strine

Jeremy Hahn

Audio/Visual Team

Mike Reynolds

Mike & Karen Reynolds

Bob & Judy Carney

Extending a special 'Thank you' to these folks for helping
to coordinate the Maundy Thursday worship service:

- Bob & Judy Carney for setting up communion
- Nancy Salefski, Milt & Carla Scott for coordinating the appetizers

Prayer Requests

Matt Andrews & family, Whitley Blankenship, Mary Ellen & Tom Burns,
Jan Lawson, Sandy Pawsey, Rick Strine, friends & family of Jim Summers,
Patty & Ken Tague, Marie Van Cura (Pr. Rita's niece)

*If you'd like to add someone to the Prayer Request list, please contact Kay at the office.
Prayer requests remain on the list for 3 weeks and can be extended longer at your request.*