

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>



*This is my body
that is
for you*

1 CORINTHIANS 11:24

April 2, 2026
at 7:00pm
Maundy Thursday

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

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called into at baptism.

God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

P: Let us pray.

C: We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. Sustain us with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

P: Let us renew our covenant we made with God in holy baptism: Do you intend to continue in the covenant made with God in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P: Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. *(pause)*

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. *(pause)*

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. *(pause)*

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

I invite you to come forward to the baptismal water to wash away the ashes of sin and be renewed in the promise of baptism and the salvation granted us through Christ life, death and resurrection.

Please come to the baptismal water as you feel so moved

Join in singing ACS 1012

To You All Hearts Are Open

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three lines of music. The first line begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "To you all hearts are o - pen, to". The second line continues with: "you all de - sires known. To you there are no". The third line starts with a triplet of eighth notes and ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, with the lyrics: "se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you." The word "Last time" is written above the final measure of the third line.

Text: John Tirro, b. 1966; based on an 11th cent. collect, tr. *Book of Common Prayer*

Music: ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, John Tirro

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In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

- 1 **What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

- 2 **When I was sinking down,
sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down
beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown
for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

- 3 **To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

- 4 **And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

¹ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ² “This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³ Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴ If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷ They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹² I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴ “This 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.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

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: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**C: I give you a new commandment,
That you love one another just as I have loved you.**

P: The holy gospel according to John the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

1: Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father.

2: Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

3: The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him.

4: And during supper, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table,

5: took off his outer robe,

6: and tied a towel around himself.

1: 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.

2: He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

3: Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

4: Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.”

5: Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”

6: Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”

1: 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.”

2: For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

3: 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?”

4: You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am.

5: So, if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

6: For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

1: Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.

2: If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

3: Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.

4: If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

5: 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.’

6: I give you a new commandment,

6, 1: that you love one another.

6, 1, 2: Just as I have loved you,

6, 1, 2, 3: you also should love one another.

6, 1, 2, 3, 4: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,

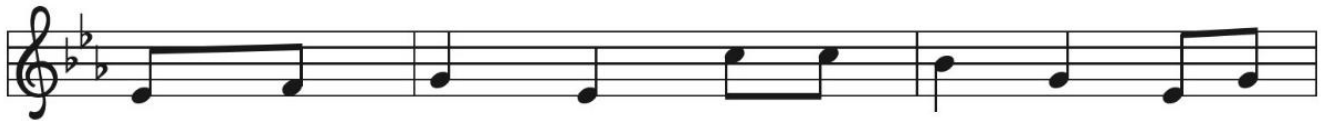
All: if you have love for one another.”

A brief pause.

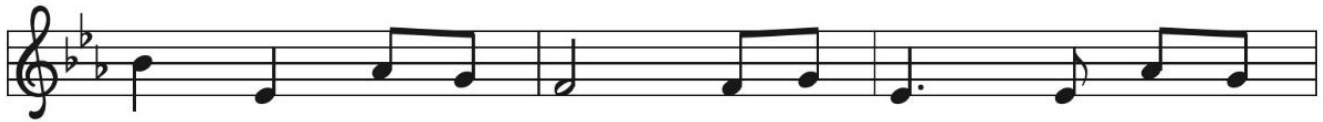
P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



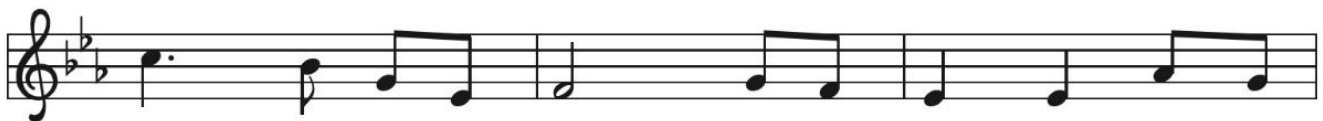
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain

By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: On this night when Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

A brief silence.

After each petition, the congregation responds:

A: Hear us, O God

C: **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

P: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

MEAL

OFFERING

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.

Chords: F, B^b, F, C, F, B^b/F, F, C, Dmi, C, F, B^b/F, F, C, F, B^b, Gmi⁷, C⁷_{sus}, C⁷, F

First 2 stanzas will be sung by choir member(s)

Congregation to sing 3rd stanza

(We thank you for your time, talent, and money toward ministry at FELC and beyond. Please place your money donation in the offering basket at the back of church, or on-line at <https://felcdecatur.org/give>, or by mail.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

**C: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord Jesus,

**C: in a wonderful sacrament
you strengthen us with the saving power
of your suffering, death, and resurrection.
May this sacrament of your body and blood
so work in us that the fruits of your redemption
will show forth in the way we live,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped of Eucharistic vessels, candles, linens, and paraments at the end of the Maundy Thursday service as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's humiliation by the soldiers. There is no benediction to postlude on Maundy Thursday because there is to be a continuation of services from Maundy Thursday through Easter Sunday. The church is left in silence, and the transition is made from tonight's Eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ stripped of His power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.

PSALM 88

Milt Scott

¹O Lord, my God, my Savior,
by day and night I cry to you.

²Let my prayer enter into your presence;
incline your ear to my lamentation.

³For I am full of trouble;
my life is at the brink of the grave.

⁴I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I have become like one who has no strength;

⁵ lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

⁶You have laid me in the depths of the pit,
in dark places, and in the abyss.

⁷Your anger weighs upon me heavily,
and all your great waves overwhelm me.

⁸You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be abhorred by them;
I am in prison and cannot get free.

⁹My sight has failed me because of trouble;
Lord, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my hands to you.

¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead?
Will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?

¹¹Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

¹²Will your wonders be known in the dark
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?

¹³But as for me, O Lord, I cry to you for help;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

¹⁴Lord, why have you rejected me?
Why have you hidden your face from me?

¹⁵Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death;
I have borne your terrors and am helpless.

¹⁶Your blazing anger has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me;

¹⁷they surround me all day long like a flood;
they encompass me on every side.

¹⁸My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me,
and darkness is my only companion.

All DEPART IN SILENCE