

**Welcome to Lord of Life  
Lutheran Church**

**April 2, 2026  
Maundy Thursday**



*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.*

## PRELUDE

### *Gathering*

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## FOOTWASHING

*As Jesus knelt to wash his disciples' feet, so we begin tonight with a gesture of love and humility. As you enter and settle in, you are invited—if you feel led—to come forward for foot washing. You may also choose to remain seated, holding this time in prayer and reflection. All are welcome, and all are honored in whatever way you participate.*

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. Please extend a greeting to those around you.

*Please greet the people seated near to you.*

On this night we will hear our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

Tonight, we gather at a table not shaped for efficiency or power, but shaped for memory and beauty. It reminds us of what is to come—victory through defeat, life through death. Like the cross that held our Savior, we gather around it in hope.

The chair at the head of the table remains empty—yet it is full of presence. It is Christ's place. He is the host of this meal. The one who takes the towel, who breaks the bread, who loves us to the end. We

leave this seat open not because Jesus is absent, but because we believe he is present with us—still.

Hung above his chair is a crown—not of thorns, but of light. Because tonight, we see that Christ’s kingship isn’t about power, but presence. Not about control, but compassion. His glory is in loving us to the end. Even in the shadows of betrayal and death, his light shines.

At this table, we are not guests—we are Christ’s family. There is a seat for each of us, for everyone. We are here to remember his body and blood in the breaking of bread and wine poured out for us, and to carry his light into the world.

Come. The table is set. Love is waiting.

***GATHERING HYMN As We Gather at Your Table ELW 522***

- 1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.
  
- 2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

### ***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS***

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 at baptism.

Within the community of the church, 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.

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. 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. Amen.**

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. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthens you through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

*The minister moves to the head of the cross.*

According to the command of Christ, we have the power to forgive sins.

*“[Jesus] breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them..." - John 20:22-23*

Be reconciled to one another taking turns forgiving each other of your sins.

*The Minister will lay hands on to those sitting at the head of the table and forgive them of their sins using the following words:*

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

**Amen.**

*Each person will then turn to the person next to them and forgive them of their sins. If you do not wish to be touched, cross your arms in front of your chest and receive forgiveness through word and spirit.*

**HYMN**

***Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive***

***ELW 605***

***1 "Forgive our sins as we forgive,"  
you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.***

- 2 How can your pardon reach and bless  
the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let  
old bitterness depart?*
- 3 In blazing light your cross reveals  
the truth we dimly knew:  
how trifling others' debts to us;  
how great our debt to you!*
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease;  
then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.*

## ***GREETING***

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

**And also with you.**

## ***PRAYER OF THE DAY***

Let us pray. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## ***Word***

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### ***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.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

<sup>2</sup>**for the Lord has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the good things God has done for me?

<sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all God's people.

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

<sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## **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.*

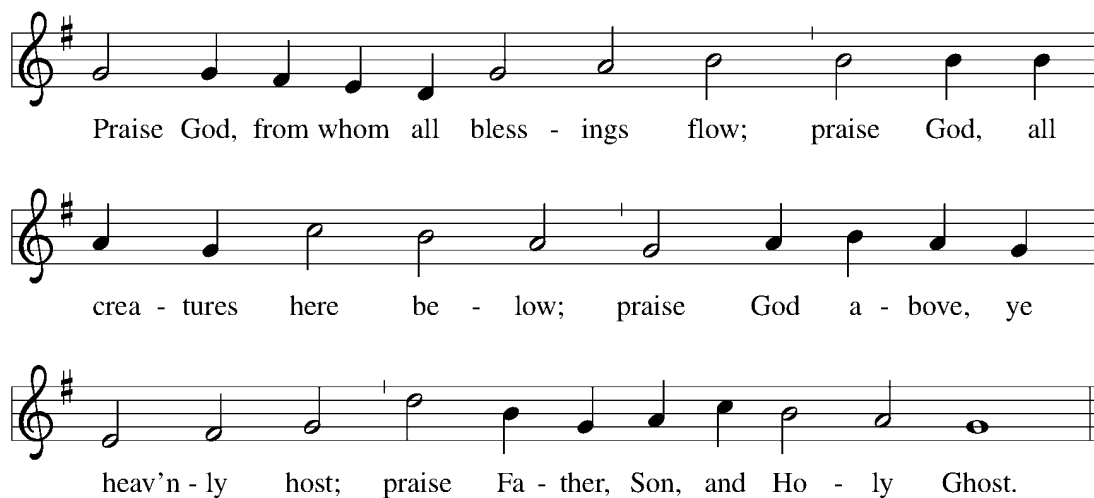
<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Please remain seated.*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another **just as I have loved you.** (John 13:34)

***THE GOSPEL READING: John 13:1-17, 31b-35***

The holy gospel according to John, the thirteenth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now 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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are

messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

<sup>31b</sup>“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All are seated.*

## ***SERMON***

***HYMN OF THE DAY***      ***Build a Longer Table***      ***ACS 1062***

- 1     Build a longer table, not a higher wall,  
      feeding those who hunger, making room for all.  
      Feasting together, stranger turns to friend,  
      Christ breaks walls to pieces; false divisions end.
  
- 2     Build a safer refuge, not a larger jail;  
      where the weak find shelter, mercy will not fail.  
      For any place where justice is denied,  
      Christ will breach the jail wall, freeing all inside.
  
- 3     Build a broader doorway, not a longer fence.  
      Love protects all people, sparing no expense.

When we embrace compassion more than fear,  
Christ tears down our fences: all are welcome here.

- 4 When we lived as exiles, refugees abroad,  
Christ became our doorway to the reign of God.  
So must our tables welcome those who roam.  
None can be excluded; all must find a home.

### ***THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH***

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.*

Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. God of grace,  
**receive our prayers.**

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. God of grace,  
**receive our prayers.**

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. God of grace,  
**receive our prayers.**

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer, especially Leeann, Nancy, Jenna, Art, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. God of grace, **receive our prayers.**

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. God of grace, **receive our prayers.**

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. God of grace, **receive our prayers.**

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.  
**Amen.**

### ***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE***

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### ***OFFERING AND PRAYER***

*The offering plates will be passed forward starting at the foot of the cross.*

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.**

## *Meal*

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*Please remain seated.*

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 our thanks and Praise.**

## ***PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER***

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.  
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,  
transforming death into life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy are you,  
God of power and might;**

**heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy,

and great is the majesty of your glory.

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.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,

his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

### ***LORD'S PRAYER***

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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***

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### ***COMMUNION***

*Communion will be done by table. Take turns serving one another. As you give bread say, "This is the body of Christ, broken for you." As you give wine or juice say, "The blood Christ, shed for you."*

### ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

Lord Jesus, 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.**

### ***Sending***

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### ***BLESSING***

O God of love,  
as your Son washed the feet of his disciples,  
He revealed his undying love that would lead him to the cross.  
May this simple act be a sign of our love for one another,  
and our call to serve our neighbors and all those in need,  
through Christ our Lord.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**Amen**

After all these things took place in the upper room, Jesus went with disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

Let us take our candles and go with Jesus. May they light our way. Grant us Lord the strength to keep watch with Jesus.

*We will sing the following song as we depart.*

***SENDING HYMN***

***Wait for the Lord***

***ELW 262***



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Adam Dowd

**Assisting Minister**

Raymond Silhan III

Lector

Judy Padera

Pianist

Pastor Joyce Gulliford

Guitarist

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Greeters

Marlene Carlson

Ushers

Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols

Acolyte

Arlene Danielson

Video

Sherry Sejnost