



APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-9098 | apostles-elca.org | facebook.com/ApostlesELCA



MAUNDY THURSDAY

The service of Christ: footwashing and meal (Matthew 26:14–27:66)

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through
Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



RECONCILING *in* CHRIST



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at j80j84@msn.com (preferred) or pastor.apostles@gmail.com. Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

NAME TAGS

Please wear your nametag! Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

GATHERING

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.

PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones.***

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

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.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection

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 strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #358

“Great God, Your Love Has Called Us”



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con-fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

APOSTOLIC 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

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

FIRST READING

EXODUS 12:1-4[5-10]11-14

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."

Response after the First Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

I will lift the cup of sal - va - tion and
call on the name of the LORD.
I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
² **for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**
- ¹² How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?
¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD. R**
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.
¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**
- ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,
¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. R**

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.

²³ 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, ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

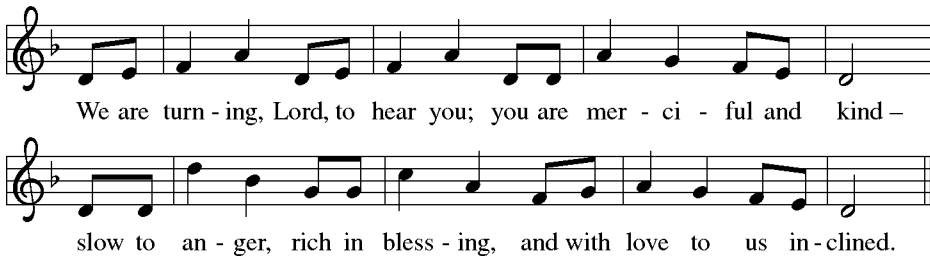
Response after the Second Lesson

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

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 other.

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. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. 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, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

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

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

JANET GOMEZ

Silence is kept after the reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #708

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you.***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Sit

OFFERING

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Touch That Soothes and Heals"

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

✚ Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions

✚ From your mobile phone, text the word **GIVE** to **844-215-5453**

Please rise in body or in spirit

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface.

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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 - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Sit

COMMUNION

All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.

You will be invited to come forward to receive the elements. After receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Let Pastor Jay know if you need gluten free wafers.

If you do not wish to take communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Holy Communion are the gifts of God for the people of God.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.

PSALM 22

¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?

Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;
by night, but I | find no rest.**

³Yet you are the | Holy One,
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.

⁴**Our ancestors put their | trust in you,
they trusted, and you | rescued them. R**

⁵They cried out to you and | were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.

⁶**But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,
scorned by all and despised | by the people.**

⁷All who see me laugh | me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.

⁸**“Trust in the Lord; let the | Lord deliver;
let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him.” R**

⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,
and kept me safe on my | mother’s breast.

¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my | mother’s womb.**

¹¹Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,
and there is no | one to help.

¹²**Many young bulls en- | circle me;
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me. R**

¹³They open wide their | jaws at me,
like a slashing and | roaring lion.

¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.**

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the | dust of death.

¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;
they pierce my hands | and my feet. R**

¹⁷I can count | all my bones
while they stare at | me and gloat.

¹⁸**They divide my gar- | ments among them;
for my clothing, | they cast lots.**

¹⁹But you, O Lord, be not | far away;
O my help, hasten | to my aid.

²⁰**Deliver me | from the sword,
my life from the power | of the dog.**

²¹Save me from the | lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.

²²**I will declare your name | to my people;
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you. R**

²³You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the Lord, all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴**For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the
Lord's face hid- | den from them;
but when they cry out, | the Lord hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord;
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs | to the Lord,
who rules o- | ver the nations. R**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall | serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,
saying to them, "The | Lord has acted!" **R**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The congregation leaves in silence.

WE RETURN FRIDAY IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE CRUCIFIXION

Our worship continues tomorrow with our Good Friday service at 7:00 PM.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Serving Today

Officiating Minister	Pastor Jay Serafin
Preacher	Janet Gomez
Accompanist	Janet Gomez
Acolyte	Chase Ambrose
Altar Care	Janet Gomez
Choir Director	Sue Turner
Communion Bread	Janet Gomez
Greeter/Usher	Heinz Albert
Lay Assisting Minister	Tonia Fallin
Lector	Daniel Gomez
Technology	Chris Hawkins
Tellers	Barbara Runk/Tonia Fallin

REFLECTION FOR TODAY: MAUNDY THURSDAY

Many Christian theologians have taught that the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ must be held together to be adequately understood. Thus it was that since at least the fourth century, the Christianized Passover festival that English speakers call Easter took three days, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the first eucharist of Easter. The framers of the three-year lectionary judged that, with the church of the future resembling that of the fourth more than that of the nineteenth, a full restoration of the classic Three Days was appropriate. The liturgy of the Three Days begins on Maundy Thursday with an act of confession and absolution that concludes the season of Lent and prepares everyone for the baptismal renewals of Easter. Many churches are reviving the practice of the footwashing, reiterating Jesus' sign of communal love. *Mandatum*, the "command" to love, is the source of the term *Maundy*. The eucharist recalls Jesus' last meal with his disciples before his death. The lectionary's readings include both Paul's directions for the church's keeping of this meal and John's sign-and-discourse about the meaning of the meal. The service concludes with a stripping of the worship space of all adornment in preparation for Good Friday.



THE REMAINDER OF HOLY WEEK AT APOSTLES

APRIL 3, 2026 – APRIL 5, 2026

FRIDAY	7:00 PM	Good Friday Evening Worship Service
SATURDAY	12:00 PM Noon 6:30 PM	Holy Saturday Service Young and Sober
SUNDAY	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	Easter Worship Service Easter Brunch