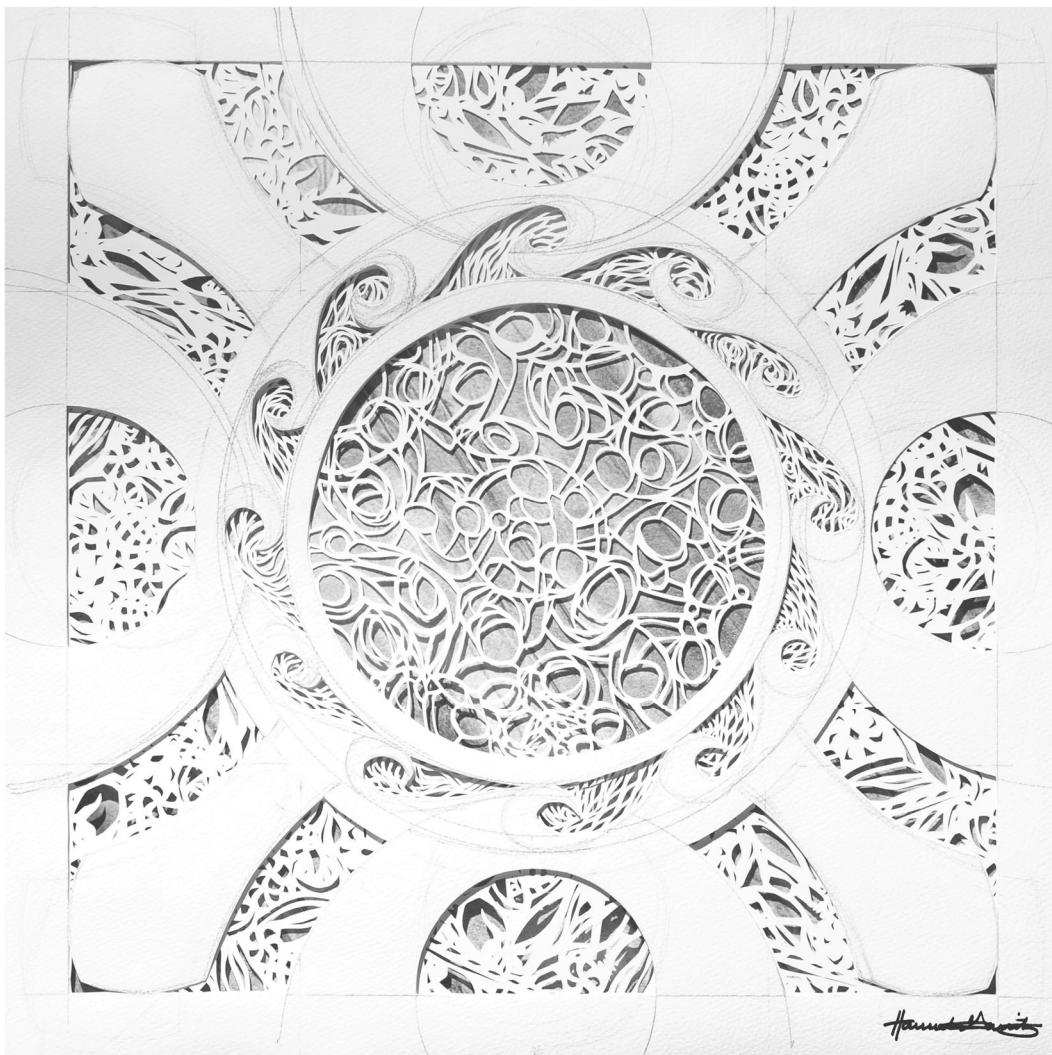


# MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026 6:30 pm

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**PRELUDE**

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**INVITATION TO MAUNDY THURSDAY**

We join a solemn journey of three days that has changed the world and our own lives. Followers of Jesus have been taking this journey since his first followers took it, long ago.

**This is the night of love.**

On this night Jesus took a towel and basin, and washed his disciples' feet. On this night he told them to do the same for others to show their love for him and for one another.

**This is the night of love.**

On this night, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with his followers for the last time, and invited them to remember him to encounter him anew, whenever they did the same.

**This is the night of love.**

On the night Jesus waited in the garden in fear and anguish. On this night he prayed to God to show him the way and to bear His cup and God gave him strength.

**This is the night of love.**

On this night, followers of Jesus have welcomed those who have returned to the way of Jesus after a time of wandering and a journey of returning.

**This is the night of love.**

And so, on this night, we welcome the penitent -- all here have wandered- -and invite all preparing -- all here are still learning -- to join us in hearing and obeying the commandment of our Master and to feast at his table, that we may love one another as he has loved us.

Come, ye sinners. Come, ye thirsty. Come, ye weary.

**Come to the night of love**

**PEACE**

**The peace of Christ be with you always.**

And also with you.

**ANTHEM**

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”  
*Combined Choir*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us make confession to God.

God of love, we come to you feeling a thousand feelings. There is too much going on, and we don't know how to handle it all. We don't even know how to put words to all that we are going through. **Hear our prayers.**

God of love, we also come to you feeling numb. **Hear our prayers.**

God of love, we come to you because you are the source of life. **Hear our prayers.**

Almighty God, Merciful Father,

**We are troubled and penitent sinners, we confess to you all our sins and iniquities with which we have offended you and for which we justly deserve your punishment.**

**But we are sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy.**

**Forgive us when we do not recognize when you are among us.**

**Forgive us when we do not keep awake to the suffering of our world.**

**Forgive us when we put our own needs before others.**

**Forgive us when we take community, food, health, and safety for granted.**

**Forgive us when we deny and betray you.**

**For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to us, poor sinful beings; forgive our sins, give us your Holy Spirit for the amendment of our sinful lives, and bring us to everlasting life.**

Almighty God in mercy has given Jesus to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit we are cleansed and given the power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of light. As God forgives even those who turn their backs on Jesus before his death, so too is God's forgiveness and love poured out on us. God has washed us and made us new. God has given us a foretaste of the feast to come. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Believe the good news. **Amen.**

*During this time you are invited to come forward and receive personal confession and absolution*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

#712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

## GREETING

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord, Your disciples were not prepared for the events of your final days. Give us the perspective which they lacked, that we might stay present during this week of sorrows, knowing that you are leading us down the right path. In Jesus' name, **Amen**

## GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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.”

31b“Now 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.”

## REFLECTION

“Maundy Thursday” by Malcom Guite

Here is the source of every sacrament,  
 The all-transforming presence of the Lord,  
 Replenishing our every element  
 Remaking us in his creative Word.  
 For here the earth herself gives bread and wine,  
 The air delights to bear his Spirit’s speech,  
 The fire dances where the candles shine,  
 The waters cleanse us with His gentle touch.  
 And here He shows the full extent of love  
 To us whose love is always incomplete,  
 In vain we search the heavens high above,  
 The God of love is kneeling at our feet.  
 Though we betray Him, though it is the night.  
 He meets us here and loves us into light.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## "A NEW COMMANDMENT"



A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as



I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.



By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if



you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know



you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

## GOSPEL

Luke 22:1-23

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. <sup>2</sup>The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

<sup>3</sup>Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; <sup>4</sup>he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. <sup>5</sup>They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. <sup>6</sup>So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." <sup>9</sup>They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" <sup>10</sup>"Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters <sup>11</sup>and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover

with my disciples?”<sup>12</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there.”<sup>13</sup> So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; <sup>16</sup> for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, “Take this and divide it among yourselves; <sup>18</sup> for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>20</sup> And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. <sup>21</sup> But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. <sup>22</sup> For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” <sup>23</sup> Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

Word of God, Word of Life

### Thanks be to God

#### REFLECTION

And the table  
will be wide.  
And the welcome  
will be wide.  
And the arms  
will open wide  
to gather us in.  
And our hearts  
will open wide to receive.  
And we will come  
as children who trust  
there is enough.  
And we will come  
unhindered and free.  
And our aching  
will be met  
with bread.  
And our sorrow  
will be met with wine.

“And the Table Will Be Wide” By Jan Richardson

And we will open our hands  
to the feast  
without shame.  
And we will turn  
toward each other  
without fear.  
And we will give up  
our appetite for despair.  
And we will taste  
and know  
of delight.  
And we will become bread  
for a hungry world.  
And we will become drink  
for those who thirst.  
And the blessed  
will become the blessing.  
And everywhere  
will be the feast.

## CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We join with the family of Luke Rector in celebration of his first communion.

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

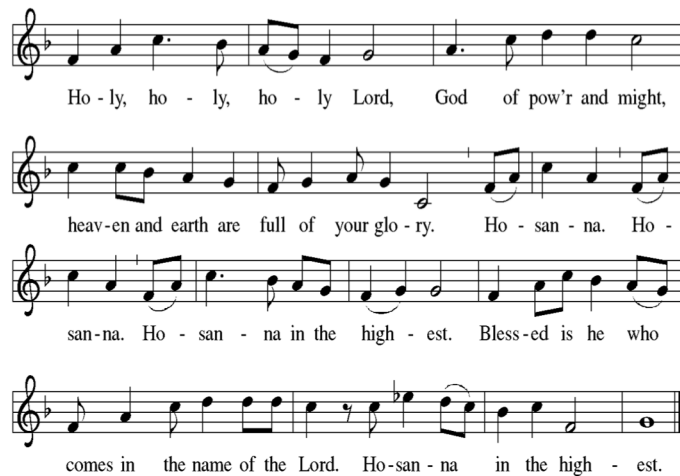
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

... "This is my blood of the new covenant for you. Remember me."

We remember, and we praise you with our lives

and these gifts of bread and wine,

proclaiming with one voice the mystery of faith:

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

Come upon us, Holy Spirit.

**Come upon us, Holy Spirit.**

Come upon these gifts.

**Come upon these gifts.**

Make them be for us Christ's body, Christ's blood.

**Make us one body in Christ enlivened in love by his blood.**

One in heart, one in mind, one in you, Holy Spirit,  
as you move us to pray for the church and the world:

That we may proclaim the gospel boldly:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That healing may come for people who are sick, and peoples who are torn and weary:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That many dead and left for dead may be raised, and death itself vanquished:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are unclean may receive your cleansing grace:

**Hear us, Lord.**

That all who are possessed, oppressed, distressed, depressed and downcast may be set free at last.

**Hear us, Lord.**

That we may love one another, and all your creation, as you have loved us.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Even so, come and fill this feast, Holy Spirit,  
on this night, and every night  
until we eat it new at the marriage supper of the Lamb!

**All blessing, honor, glory and power**

**be yours, Holy Triune God,**

**now and forever.**

**Amen!**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BLESSING OF FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS**

*First Communion Students are invited to come forward and up to the altar*

Let us pray...

**Congregation: We welcome you and rejoice with you as you experience the gift of God's grace in the bread and cup. Together we will explore the mystery and wonder of Holy Communion and remind you of the loving presence of Jesus that comes to us through this holy sacrament.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

#496 "One Bread, One Body"

#492 "Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup"

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER****HYMN OF PRAISE**

"Go To Dark Gethsemane" vs. 1-3



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 22: 31-34, 39-46

<sup>31</sup> "Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." <sup>33</sup> And he said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day, until you have denied three times that you know me."

<sup>39</sup> He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." <sup>41</sup> Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, <sup>42</sup> "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." <sup>43</sup> Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and

gave him strength. <sup>44</sup> In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. <sup>45</sup> When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Word of God, Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God.**

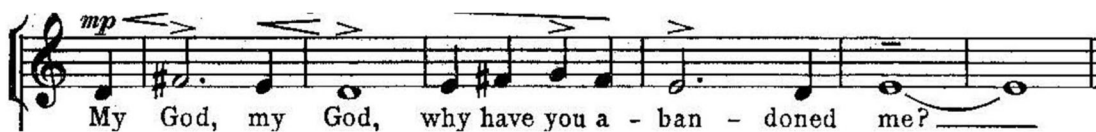
### REFLECTION

“Gethsemane” by Mary Oliver

The grass never sleeps.  
 Or the roses.  
 Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.  
 Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.  
 The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,  
 and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,  
 and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.  
 Jesus said, wait with me.  
 And maybe the stars did,  
 maybe the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move,  
 Maybe the lake far away, where once he walked as on a  
 blue pavement,  
 lay still and waited, wild awake.  
 Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not  
 keep that vigil, how they must have wept,  
 so utterly human, knowing this too  
 must be a part of the story.

### THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

“My God, My God” *Congregation sings refrain, cantor sings verses*



*All worship elements are removed as the lights dim in the sanctuary preparing us for Good Friday.*

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO DEPART IN SILENCE.**

**WE INVITE YOU TO MAKE SPACE FOR REFLECTION TODAY AND TOMORROW,  
AS WE HEAD TOWARD THE WONDER OF EASTER.**

**GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL TENNEBRAE WILL BE HELD AT FIRST PRESBYTERI-  
AN CHURCH AT 6:30 PM ON FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD WITH  
PRESBYTERIAN SIBLINGS IN CHRIST**

**EASTER VIGIL WILL BE HELD AT 5:00 PM ON SATURDY, APRIL 4TH  
WE BEGIN AT THE ENTRANCE DOOR OF MESSIAH FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE  
FIRE AND THEN PROCESS INSIDE FOR WORSHIP**

**EASTER SUNRISE WILL BE HELD AT MCCARTY'S COVE BEACH AT 7:00 AM ON  
APRIL 5TH**

**TRADITIONAL EASTER WORSHIP AT MESSIAH ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH AT 8:30 AM  
CONTEMPORARY-ISH WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM IN-PERSON AT MESSIAH**

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Liturgists:	Pr. Andrew Plocher
Senior Choir Director:	Sara Parks
Organist:	Kathy Strazzinski
Ushers:	
Greeters:	
Audio Technician:	Traci Zini
Livestream Technician:	Traci Zini

**Acknowledgements:**

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