

Welcome to Saint Michael Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday

+ April 2, 2026 + 6:30 pm +

About the Next Three Days

The name for this day, "Maundy Thursday," comes from the Latin word "mandatum," meaning "commandment" and refers to the "new commandment" Jesus gave His disciples on the night He was betrayed, namely "love one another." It was also on this night He instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, commanding His disciples to "do this in remembrance of Me." Tonight's service is the first portion of what the early church observed as "The Triduum," a three-day observance of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection as if it were one continuous service. Therefore, we begin with an invocation but will not conclude with the benediction until Easter.

+ + +

(* = please stand)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN #445: "When You Woke That Thursday Morning"

* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Dear friends in Christ, as we remember this night that our Lord Jesus was betrayed by one of His own disciples, denied by another, and ultimately abandoned to an unjust trial, torture, and terrible death, let us remember that it was for our sins that He suffered, and then confess those sins before Him. *(We pause for silent confession)* O Lord Jesus Christ. . .

C: We poor sinners confess that we too have betrayed and denied You by our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds, both by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. But for the sake of Your innocent suffering and death on the cross, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so we may desire Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, our Lord Jesus Christ was given into the hands of sinners so that He might suffer for us everything that our sins deserve. Now that Jesus has died for us and has risen from the dead, God declares righteous all those who trust in Him. Therefore, having heard your confession and acknowledging your faith in Christ, at His command and in His place I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

* **PSALMODY** *(Selected Portions of Psalm 116)*

A: I love the LORD, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.

C: Because He turned his ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.

A: The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me;

C: I was overcome by trouble and sorrow.

A: Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me!"

C: The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

A: The LORD protects the simple-hearted; when I was in great need, He saved me.

C: Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

A: For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,

C: That I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

A: How can I repay the LORD for all His goodness to me?

C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

A: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, graciously remember us for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to suffer and die on the cross. Grant us the grace to remember our Redeemer in sincere faith, and so to receive worthily the testament of His true body and blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 24:3–11

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Revelation 4:1-8

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL READING: Matthew 26:17-30

P: The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: *(After the reading the following is said. . .)* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

* NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BIBLE MESSAGE: *“Jesus Is the Door: The Door of Heaven” (Revelation 4:1-8)*

HYMN OF THE DAY #639: “Wide Open Stand the Gates”

RITE OF FIRST COMMUNION

* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord Jesus Christ, on this holy night in which You were arrested and handed over to Your enemies as our Passover Lamb so that death might pass over us, pour out Your Spirit upon us, so that we might keep in remembrance Your holy Passion in true repentance and faith;

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us and hear our prayer.

A: Lord Jesus Christ, on this holy night when Your own disciples betrayed and denied You, keep Your church leaders and pastors watchful in prayer; and when Satan seeks to sift them like wheat, uphold them with Your grace that their faith may not fail them;

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us and hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, on this holy night when You united Your Church in the fellowship of Your body and blood, bless our brothers and sisters throughout the world, especially those persecuted for Your name. Strengthen us all in the confession of Your truth, and help us to proclaim it boldly and faithfully until You come again;

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us and hear our prayer.

A: Lord Jesus Christ, on this holy night when You wrapped a towel around Your waist and filled a bowl of water to wash the feet of Your disciples, form in us Your sacrificial heart of love that we too may graciously serve others in our daily callings;

C: O Lord, have mercy upon us and hear our prayer.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, on this holy night when You entered into the dark night of the soul, comfort and help all those who suffer from depression, grief, or pain in mind, body or spirit, that they may be kept from despair, and have hope and confidence in Your compassionate care, for into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, for Your name's sake.

C: Amen.

* SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD

* SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right and proper for us to give Him thanks and praise.

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, with Your whole Church on earth and with all the hosts of heaven we ascribe to You honor and glory, thanksgiving and praise, for the great sacrifice of Your Son for the forgiveness of our sins and for earning for us through Him our eternal salvation. With the angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven we join our voices in praising and magnifying Your holy name, forever saying. . .

C: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (from Revelation 4:8)

P: Gathered in the name of Jesus, and remembering His saving work, we are bold 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.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying, "Take and eat, this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, this cup is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#637: "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Can You Drink the Cup?" by Pamela Martin and Craig Courtney

#634: "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord" (as many stanzas as time allows, but don't end on #6)

* POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (based on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

A: This cup of blessing that we have received is indeed a participation in the blood of Christ.

C: This bread that we have broken is indeed a participation in the body of Christ.

A: For even as there is one bread that we have eaten,

C: We who are many are one body in Christ.

A: Let us pray. Glorious God, grant that we who have partaken of the holy communion of the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in this Sacrament might go forth with renewed commitment to the communion of saints that is Your holy Church, that in addition to greater faith in You, we might also have more fervent love for one another, through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated for the stripping of the altar and then leave the sanctuary in silence)

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR (Solo: Hymn #455: "The Royal Banners Forward Go")

The stripping of the altar (i.e., the removing of all ornaments, linens, and paraments), is an ancient custom of the church done on Maundy Thursday to symbolize the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers as they stripped Him of His clothes and robbed Him of His dignity as well as of His earthly garments. Jesus willingly gave up Himself to be arrested, imprisoned and crucified so that He might clothe us with the robe of His righteousness and the garments of salvation for

all eternity. After the stripping of the altar, all may leave in silence.

Assisting Minister and Preacher (A): Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann

Presiding Minister (P): Rev. Daniel Maske

Lay Minister: Kerry Batten

Organist: Keith Eiser

Greeters: Jan Jett, Virginia Hetrick

Exodus 24:3–11

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do."⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient."⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.¹¹ And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

Revelation 4:1-8

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings^[a] and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Matthew 26:17–30

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?"¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.²¹ And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."²² And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?"²³ He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you,²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.