



MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28, 2024



Drawing by Jon Hlafter

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah

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Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

Guests, welcome! We are delighted you are with us for worship this evening. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Erhardt, sign our guest book next to the main doors, and let us know how we can be of service to you. Bibles are available on a shelf in the back of the nave. Kneelers and large-print bulletins are available from the ushers upon request. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us here at Messiah.

Prayer upon entering: Holy God, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: To love one another as he had loved them. By your Holy Spirit write this commandment on our hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Worship begins with the prelude and continues through the postlude. Once the prelude begins, please refrain from conversation. We use two hymnals: the green *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW) and the blue paperback *With One Voice* (wov). Hymn numbers below 600 are generally in LBW; above 600, in wov. The pastor's parts (spoken and sung) are designated "P:". Parts spoken or sung by the congregation are italicized, prefaced by "C:". The liturgy text and music are in the bulletin.

Holy Communion: Lutheran Christians celebrate a divine service of Word and sacrament in which God comes to us both in his proclaimed Word and in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We invite to commune at the Lord's table all baptized Christians who with contrite hearts trust God's word of forgiveness for their sins, acknowledge the presence of Jesus Christ both in the communion elements and in this gathered body of believers, and seek, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to follow Jesus and walk in newness of life. If this doesn't describe you, we invite you to come to the altar rail to receive a blessing instead of the communion elements. Indicate this by folding your arms across your chest at the rail. All are invited to bring their children forward for a blessing.

Families with young children: Welcome! We have children's activity backpacks in the back of the church for use during the service, as well as an unstaffed nursery on the stage downstairs. Feel free to ask an usher for help locating them. The stairs are at the back of the sanctuary.

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able.

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

C: *Amen*

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: *who made heaven and earth.*

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: *and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

Please kneel or sit for silent reflection and confession.

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: *Most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal glory. Resting in Christ's righteousness and not on your own confession, receive God's free and full forgiveness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen*

Divine Service of Holy Communion

Opening Hymn

Go to Dark Gethsemane

LBW 109

Apostolic Greeting

P: 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, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. By your Holy Spirit, focus us on Jesus. May his love for us deepen our love for one another. Amen*

Please be seated for the scripture readings, found on pp. 16-19 of this service folder.

First Lesson

Exodus 12: 1–14, 20–33

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel Lesson.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter.

C (spoken): Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Lesson

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C (spoken): Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Homily The Lamb of God Prepares Us for Passover

Hymn of the Day My Song Is Love Unknown WOV 661

The Creed, historically a festive element of the service, is omitted tonight, in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion.

The Prayers of the People

P: With a holy mandate to love one another as Christ has loved us, let us pray for the body of Christ throughout the world and for those known to us in need of prayer.

After each prayer or petition,

P: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

C: *Have mercy on us.*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: *Amen*

The Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

Please exchange a greeting of peace with your neighbors, then be seated.

Gathering of Offerings

As the offering and communion elements are brought forward, please stand and sing vv. 10-12 of Psalm 51, a psalm of penitence:

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

The first system of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and a bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, starting on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5, then a half note D5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. A square box containing a 'C' time signature is located at the beginning of the first staff.

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note D5, followed by quarter notes C5, B4, and A4, then a half note G4. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are aligned under the notes.

way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note F#4, followed by quarter notes E4, D4, and C4, then a half note B3. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are aligned under the notes.

from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

The fourth system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note A3, followed by quarter notes G3, F#3, and E3, then a half note D3. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are aligned under the notes.

tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

The fifth system concludes the hymn. The treble staff has a half note C4, followed by quarter notes B3, A3, and G3, then a half note F#3. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are aligned under the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

C: *O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

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

C: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God: Who on the tree of the cross didst give salvation unto mankind that, whence death arose, thence Life also might rise again; and that he who by a tree once overcame might likewise by a tree be overcome, through Christ, our Lord; through whom with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

Sanctus

C (spoken): Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23b–26

P: ^{23b} 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.

The 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

Agnus Dei: Lamb of God

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Once the pastor says, “Welcome to the table of the Lord,” kneel or sit. Because Communion is important, please read and follow our Communion policy, printed on p. 2 of this service folder. Feel free to bring your hymnal and continue to sing. If you are not communing, you are invited to come forward to receive a blessing, but feel no pressure to do so. If you do come forward for a blessing (only), indicate this by folding your arms across your chest when you kneel at the altar rail. When the pastor dismisses you, please return to your seat by the center aisle. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, please raise your hand to alert the pastor.

Communion Hymn Jesus, I Will Ponder Now LBW 115

After all have returned to their places, the pastor says: (please stand)

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: *Amen*

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of his coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in his kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: *Amen*

Psalm 22

During the reading of the psalm, the altar is stripped. After the psalm is read and the altar is bare, please depart quietly.

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Thank you to today’s Temple Servants

Acolyte	Alan Gishlick
Reader	Alan Gishlick
Chancel	Carolyn Gishlick
Livestream	Mark von Bargaen

This coming week

Fri	8:00 PM	Tenebrae (Good Friday service)
Sun	9:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt (Christian Ed. classes will not meet)
Sun	10:00 (not 10:30) AM	Festival Service of Word and Sacrament
Wed	7:30 PM	Choir

Next Sunday (Easter Sunday)

Acts 10:34-43 • Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 • 1 Corinthians 15:1-1 • Mark 16:1-8
Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (LBW 151)
Hymn: Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (LBW 132)
Hymn of the Day: The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done (LBW 135)
Communion Hymns: Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands (LBW 134)
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (LBW 210)
Closing Hymn: Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (WOV 672)

Curious about what Maundy means in Maundy Thursday? *Maundy* is probably an adaptation of the Latin word *mandatum* (mandate) – the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples in John 13:34 : to love one another.

Adult Forum will not meet on Easter Sunday (March 31). Please join us on April 7 and following Sundays at 9am in the parish building library.

Easter Flowers: Members of Messiah's chancel guild are planning a beautiful flower arrangement for Easter Sunday. Contributions toward the flowers are welcome and may be made in memory or in honor of someone you name. Contributions may be put in the offering plate or mailed to the church and should be clearly designated as follows: "For Easter flowers, given by _____ in honor (or in loving memory) of _____." Please write clearly so we spell the names correctly in the Easter bulletin. To ensure inclusion in the Easter bulletin, contributions need to be received by **today, March 28**. Donations exceeding the cost of the flowers will be used for general operating expenses.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 9AM.

The fun starts at 9:00 am in the fellowship hall, with crafts, gift baskets, and hat decorating as well as tasty breakfast refreshments. Then it's time for the egg hunt, with hundreds of chocolate and candy-filled eggs hidden around Messiah's grounds for the children to find. All are welcome to attend - please invite your friends and family to come for this free, fun event!

A memorial service for John Bremer will be held Saturday, April 6, at 11:00am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1640 Amwell Rd, Somerset NJ, followed by lunch at Stage House, 1719 Amwell Rd, Somerset, NJ. All are welcome to the service and the lunch. No RVSP required.

New Date/Time for Spring Work Day: Saturday, April 27, 10am – 1:30pm (rescheduled to avoid a conflict with John Bremer's 4/6 memorial service)
Come when you can and leave when you must. We'll have plenty of work to go around for people of all ages and abilities. Gardening volunteers, please bring gloves and tools. It's fun, lunch is provided and your help is greatly appreciated!

Available on the back pew:

- (1) March/April 2024 edition of the *Messiah Messenger*
- (2) Portals of Prayer devotion booklets (April-June)
- (3) February - May 2024 Temple Servant schedule

Prayer Corner

We remember in our prayers:

- Mario Kurylak (father of Dan Baer, undergoing heart surgery), Riley Samuel Mihulka, (born March 20 to Pastor Erhardt's cousin Abbie and her husband Sam – for successful heart surgery for Riley and calm nerves for his parents), Lorna-Jane Bremer and her family (grieving the death of her husband John), John Baer (brother of Debbie Baer, recuperating and adjusting to life with a cardiac stent), Barbara Cooper Brennan (friend of Barbara Rutherford, living with heart problems and cancer), Janice Hofreiter (for relief from migraine headaches and healing), Karin Bergesen (for relief from back pain and recovery following a recent fall), Bernice Singh (for healing), Micha Livne (friend of the Gishlicks who is ill), Julia Majsztrik (for continued recovery from surgery and healthy growth, Carole Bleicher (friend of Carolyn Gishlick) and her sons-in-law Bob Atwood (diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer) and Mike Macceroni (preparing for heart surgery), Ted Alslev (son of Elda Alslev, to overcome his addiction to smoking), Mary Pickens (friend of Jon and Pat Hlafter, undergoing an experimental medical treatment), Sue Parisi (friend of Pat Hlafter, being treated for breast cancer), Peter Schulze (son of Lydia and Carl Schulze, friends of Miranda Hempel, Brad Bergmann, and Jenny Mills – for comfort, strength, and healing
- The people of Ukraine, Israel, and the Gaza Strip

Prayer requests are generally printed in the Prayer Corner and included in the Sunday intercessory prayers for 4 weeks. If you would like us to keep someone there longer, we are happy to do that. Please call the church office or email lcmprinceton@gmail.com to let Pastor Erhardt know.

First Lesson: Exodus 12: 1-14, 20-33 (ESV)

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. ⁷“Then 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. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD 's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD . ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD ; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

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²⁰ You shall eat nothing leavened; in all your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

²¹ Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb.

²² Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. ²³ For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. ²⁴ You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. ²⁵ And when you come to the land that the Lord will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. ²⁶ And when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ ²⁷ you shall say, ‘It is the sacrifice of the Lord’s Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.’” And the people bowed their heads and worshiped. ²⁸ Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

²⁹ At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰ And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. ³¹ Then he summoned Moses and Aaron by night and said, “Up, go out from among my people, both you and the people of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as you have said. ³² Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone, and bless me also!” ³³ The Egyptians were urgent with the people to send them out of the land in haste. For they said, “We shall all be dead.”

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-32 (ESV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, 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. ²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

Gospel Lesson: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35 (ESV)

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

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⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?”

⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not 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, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

^{31b} Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him.

³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”