



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Jess Christenson, CYF Director

Karina Roth, Musical Director

### Introduction

*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

*"A Va De"*

Philis Anderson, oboe  
Karina Roth, piano

### Welcome

### Gathering

*Come Bring your Burdens to God*

ACS 1009

### 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.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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.

## 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

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.**

## First Reading:

## Exodus 12:1-14

<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:

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Refrain (R):

I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion, and  
call on the name of the LORD.

(Sing Refrain)

<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.**

(Refrain)

<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.**

(Refrain)

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<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 (Sing twice)



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

### Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The holy gospel according to St John. **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><sup>12</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.**

Message

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn

*Loaves were Broken, Words were Spoken*

ACS 966

### 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. *(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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer. *We pray especially for John, Phyllis, Joan, Linda, Luke, Sarah, Bruce, Lynn, and Katrina.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence.)* We pray for all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. 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.**

### Peace

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

### Offering

*"Chereponi"*

arr. by Michael Hassell

Philis Anderson, oboe

Karina Roth, piano

### Offering Prayer

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.**

## Welcome to First Communion Students:

Let us welcome our friends to Holy Communion.

**Welcome to Jesus' table! We rejoice with you and thank God for you! Enjoy this meal that strengthens us to line as Jesus did.**

At this time, we invite parents, grandparents, sponsors, friends, and all who have journeyed with those being welcomed today to come close.

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

Let us pray. Loving God, you gather us from all kinds of places whether we are joyful or crabby. Thank you for calling us friends and inviting us to your meal. We rejoice with our friends who join to share in Holy Communion today: **Finnley Jacobsen, Lars Jansen, Carter Smith, Karsten Stieler, Freja Hedstrom and Aren Hedstrom.** As you have loved them throughout their lives, shaped their gifts for the world, and encouraged them through struggle, show them now your great love in this special meal. In the name of Jesus, who calls and welcomes us. **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

ELW 107

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.**

## Words of Institution

### 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. All are welcome.

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)*

## Communion Hymns

During First Communion: ***Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now*** ACS 930

Following, Congregation Communion: ***In This Feast of Love*** ACS 962

### 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.

### Stripping of the Altar

*Members of the Altar Guild and youth strip the chancel bare in symbolic remembrance of Christ's humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Psalm 88 is chanted during the rite (next page).*

*You may stay as long as you wish in the darkened sanctuary for silent meditation.*

*No benediction is spoken, as Holy Week forms one continuous service which will resume tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM.*

*All leave the church in silence*



## Good Friday Worship Service: 7:00 pm

Joint service: Bethlehem and Spirit of the Wilderness Episcopal Church

## Easter Schedule, Sunday April 5:

8:00 am Sunrise Worship Service

9:00 am Easter Brunch

9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 am Worship Service



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# Psalm 88: Lord, I Cry to You (Sing continuously until altar is bare.)

## Refrain

LORD, I cry to

LORD, I cry to you, I cry to you, I cry to

you, LORD, I cry to you,

you, I cry to you, I cry to you, I cry to

O LORD, I cry to you. (oo or mm)

you, I cry to you. (oo or mm)