



Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
Holy Communion, Setting 6

Welcome! With nightfall 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. Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape.

These central days have come to be known as the Three Days (Triduum), recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34). The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life. The service for Maundy Thursday concludes with the stripping of the altar, in remembrance of Jesus' being stripped of his garments before his crucifixion.

Prayer Before Worship

Bless, O Lord, your people who gather this night to receive your life-giving Body and Blood in that holy Supper which you yourself instituted on the night of your betrayal. Be with us as we enter into your Passion during these Three Days, and help us to live out your new commandment: loving one another as you have loved us. Amen.

Welcome

Prelude

"There is a Fountain"(L. Larson)
Handbell Choir & Violin Solo

Ringling of the Bells

Rite of Confession and Forgiveness

P 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.

P Let us make confession to God.

Silence for reflection

P Most merciful God,

C **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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

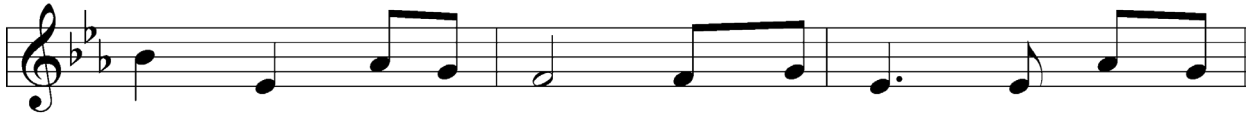
C And also with you.

You are invited to share the peace of Christ with those around you.

Opening Hymn "When You Woke That Thursday Morning" (LSB 445)



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing
3 What was there that You could give them That would
4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one
5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



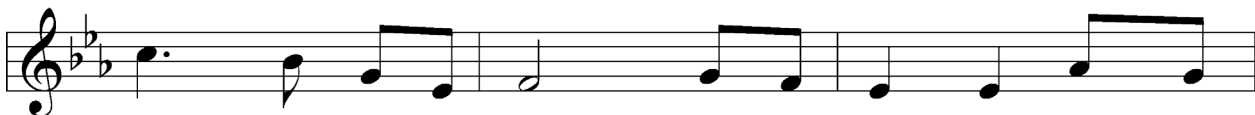
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty
with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones
nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -
bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -
vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



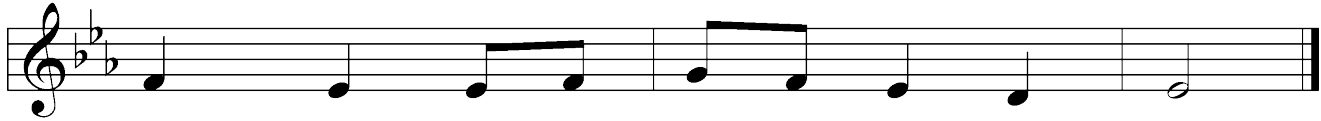
scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;
on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:
live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.
rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at
Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last
"Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
One with You and one an - oth - er In a
When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's
pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,
Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.
mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008
Tune: Marty Haugen, 1950
Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318
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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:

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

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.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *(spoken responsively)*

Psalm 116:12-19

L What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?

C **I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,**

L I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

C **Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.**

L O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.

C **I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.**

L I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,

C **in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse (Congregation)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now 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. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then 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. 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}"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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.


G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon "From Ashes to Alleluia: With Jesus in the Upper Room"

Hymn for Maundy Thursday "Lord of Lords, Adored by Angels"
(GIA 110)



1. Lord of lords, a - dored by an - gels, Is that you with
 2. As you shed your earth - ly gar - ments, So you laid a -
 3. Moved by your de - vo - tion t'ward us, Hon - ored to be
 4. Serv - ing Sav - ior, Mod - el Ser - vant, For the joy you



towel and ba - sin Wash - ing your dis - ci - ples' feet!
 side your glo - ry, So you shed your life as well.
 called your ser - vants, We have joined you in your Way.
 set be - fore us, Make your Way our his - to - ry,



Like the Twelve, we stare in won - der, Je - sus, Word of
Let the tow - el and the ba - sin Be the sym - bols
Hes - i - tant, we gird the tow - el, Fill the bowl with
Till we hear your com - men - da - tion: "Well done, good and



God e - ter - nal, Do you stoop to wash ours too!?
of our serv - ice; Let your mind be in us all.
cleans - ing Wa - ter, And be - gin to know your joy.
faith - ful ser - vant, Come and share my joy with me!"

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, † and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

- P** Gathered around Christ crucified and risen, let us pray for the whole people of God, the earth, and all who cry out for healing.

Prayer requests are announced, followed by a brief silence.

Each petition ends with the words: "Hear us, O God." Please respond by saying: "Your mercy is great."

- P** Hear us according to your steadfast love, O God, and in your great compassion bring us to resurrection and rebirth in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Offertory Prayer

- L** Let us pray: God of glory,

C receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

- 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.

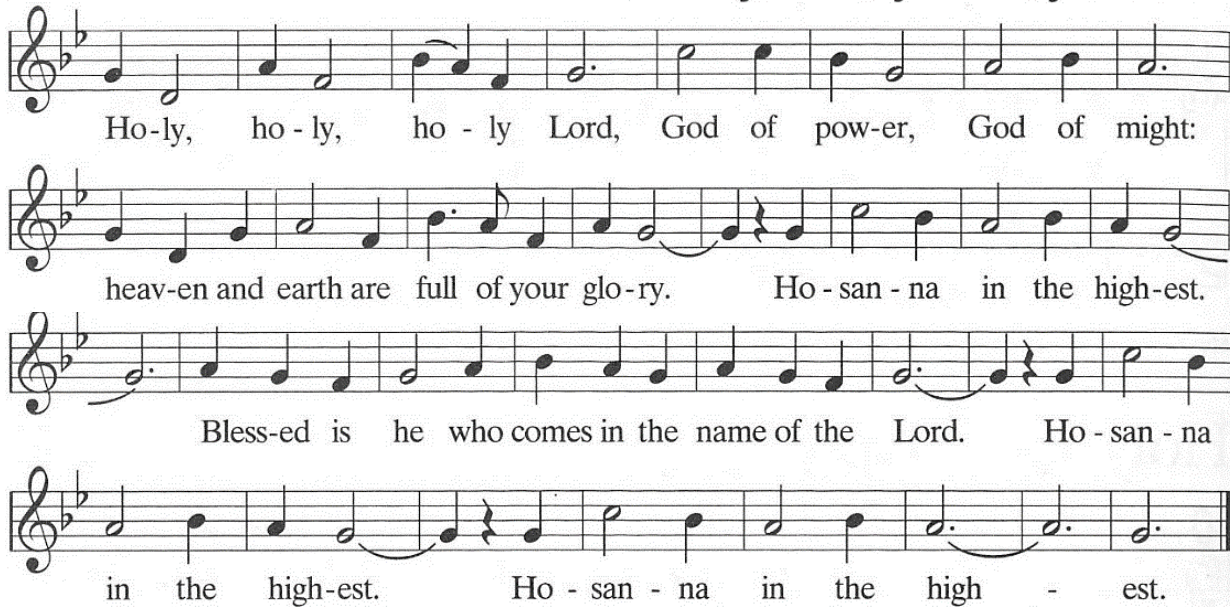
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface

- P** It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on the tree of the cross gave salvation to all, that, where death began, there life might be restored, and that he, who by a tree once overcame, might by a tree be overcome. And

so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might:
heav-en 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.

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

Eucharistic Prayer

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, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

* May be sung in canon beginning here.
Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music © 1992 CPH Publishing

Please be seated

Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for

those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution

Choir Anthem

"Mercy" (Craig Courtney)
St. John's Choir

*I dare not lift my guilty eyes.
I hide my lips in trembling shame.
And in the darkness of my soul.
I shrink from Your rekindling flame.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, have mercy.
In mercy cover me with grace
And blot out my iniquity.
Renew my heart and wash me clean;
Grant with Your pardon, purity.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, have mercy.
In equal measure of your love who seeks Your face
You promise mercy, tender compassion to the one,
A broken heart, a fainting soul
A contrite spirit together cry for Your forgiveness
and Your grace.
My deeds are evil in Your sight.
Of your forgiveness let me sing
and in my singing take delight.
Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison, have mercy.*

"Your Table I Approach"

(LSB 628)



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

"The Death of Jesus Christ our Lord"

(LSB 634)



1 The death of Je - sus Christ, our Lord, We cel - e -
 2 He blot - ted out with His own blood The judg - ment
 3 That this for - ev - er true shall be He gives a
 4 His Word pro - claims and we be - lieve That in this



brate with one ac - cord; It is our com - fort
 that a - gainst us stood; For us He full a -
 sol - emn guar - an - tee: In this His ho - ly
 Sup - per we re - ceive His ver - y bod - y,



in dis - tress, Our heart's sweet joy and hap - pi - ness.
 tone - ment made, And all our debt He ful - ly paid.
 Sup - per here We taste His love so sweet, so near.
 as He said, His ver - y blood for sin - ners shed.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>5 We dare not ask how this can be,
 But simply hold the mystery
 And trust this word where life
 begins:
 "Given and shed for all your sins."</p> | <p>7 But blest is each believing guest
 Who in these promises finds rest;
 For Jesus shall in love remain
 With all who here His grace
 obtain.</p> |
| <p>6 They who this word do not
 believe
 This food unworthily receive,
 Salvation here will never find—
 May we this warning keep in
 mind!</p> | <p>8 Help us sincerely to believe
 That we may worthily receive
 Your Supper and in You find rest.
 Amen! They who believe are
 blest.</p> |

Text (sts. 1-4, 6-8): Haquin Spegel, 1645-1714; (sts. 1-4, 6-8): tr. Olof Olsson, 1841-1900, alt.; (st. 5): composite
 Tune: Sammlung alter und neuer . . . Melodien, 1742
 Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Post-Communion Prayer

L 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.

G Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

“Fantasy on Aloha 'Oe” (Brian Balmages)
String Quartet

The altar is stripped after the liturgy of Maundy Thursday, calling to mind how Christ was stripped of his clothing before being crucified. There is no benediction. When the bell has tolled, the congregation is asked to leave in silence.



See page 19 for the Holy Week and Easter Sunday Worship Schedule

Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Thuy Nguyen
Communion Lay Assistant	Barbara Pate
Organist/Pianist	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Caleb Rempe
Ushers	Joseph Godwin Jim Lofgren
Altar Care	Barbara Pate
AV Operators	AV team members

A sincere thank you to our string quartet for enhancing our worship on this meaningful evening. Their beautiful music adds incredible depth to our Maundy Thursday service, and we are deeply appreciative of their talent and commitment to ministry.

We also express our heartfelt gratitude to our handbell choir for sharing their wonderful music with us on both Palm Sunday and tonight. St. John's is truly blessed to have such devoted and passionate volunteers enriching its music ministry.



SCAN HERE TO



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Acknowledgments

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2026 Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

NOTE: livestreaming available for service times with an *

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

12 Noon – Stations of the Cross – No Communion

7:00PM* - Passiontide Lessons and Carols - No Communion

The most solemn day of the Christian year gives thanks to God for the life-giving death of Jesus upon the tree of the cross.

Saturday, April 4 - Holy Saturday/Great Vigil of Easter

7:00PM*- Holy Communion

One of the most beautiful and moving services of the entire year.

We light the new fire of Easter outside, process into the darkened sanctuary

for the service of readings, celebrate Holy Baptism, and conclude with receiving the risen Savior in the Lord's Supper.

Sunday, April 5 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Sunday

8:00AM & 10:30AM* -Holy Communion

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Our joy at Jesus' victory of sin, death, and the grave overflows on this blessed Easter morning! A brass ensemble will provide glorious music to lead us in singing praises to our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Between the worship services, Easter breakfast will be offered as well as egg hunts for children.

For Easter Sunday, remember to bring spring flowers to "flower" the cross in the church entrance.



St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

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Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
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