

**Thursday in Holy Week
Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2025
12:05 pm (Chapel) and 7:30 pm (Nave)
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA, 17701
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570-323-4619
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor**



Welcome to St. Mark's! Thursday in holy week commemorates the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when he washed his disciples' feet and instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At the conclusion of our evening worship, we will "strip" the nave of all paraments and appointments. This ancient practice is a vivid and dramatic way of showing the desolation and abandonment of Jesus before he journeyed to the cross.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death and all evil- all that keeps us from loving God and one another. 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 Maundy Thursday, let us confess our sin against God and neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days, "The Holy Triduum", reconciled with God and neighbor.

Amen.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage 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.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.
Amen.

***HYMN What Feast of Love WOV, “Blue,” 701**

***THE GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Exodus 12:1-14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴If 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from

the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They 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 lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴This 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19 (Read Responsively)

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

**²for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

**¹³I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your sight, O LORD,

is the death of your servants.

16O LORD, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

17I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.

18I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

in the presence of all God's people,

19in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23For 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, **24**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." **25**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." **26**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL.....John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. John, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. **2**The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper **3**Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, **4**got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. **5**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. 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

FOOTWASHING (7:30 pm)

On this night, we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the

example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

***HYMN Where Charity and Love Prevail LBW, “Green,” 126**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each response: *Merciful God/Receive our prayer.*

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

We greet each other in the peace of our Lord using these or similar words and/or gestures.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

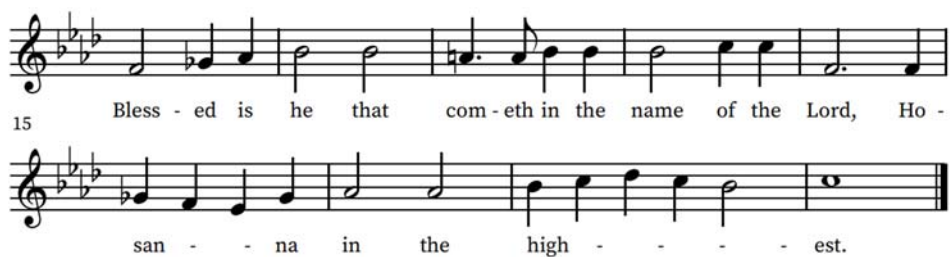
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is 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; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread,
 gave thanks; broke it
 and gave it to his disciples
 saying, "Take and eat;
 this is my body given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me."
 Again after supper,
 he took the cup, gave thanks
 and gave it for all to drink
 saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood
 shed for you and for all people
 for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me."

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
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.

*LAMB OF GOD



THE COMMUNION

All are welcome at our Lord's table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup from the tray and kneel/stand at the rail. After you commune, return to your pew by way of the side aisle. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only bread.

*THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Lord Jesus in this 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.

***THE BLESSING (Noon)** Almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you, now and always.

Amen.

***DISMISSAL (Noon)**

Go forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (Noon)

STRIPPING THE CHURCH (7:30 pm)

Psalm 22

LBW, “Green,” pp. 224-225, read in unison.

*After the worship space is stripped, please leave the nave as quietly as possible.
Please refrain from all conversation until you have left the building.*

Leading Us in Worship:

Lector (Chapel)

Ralph Zeigler

Communion Assistant (Chapel)

Lou Ann Zeigler

Lector and Communion Assistant (Nave)

Ray Huff

Organist

Sam Robinson

Preacher/Celebrant

Pastor Vasey



PLEASE JOIN US on Friday, April 18 (Good Friday) in the Nave at 7:30 pm for the Drama, “*The Temptation of Jesus*,” by the Rev. Curt M. Joseph. The drama imagines a conversation between Jesus and Satan while Jesus is being crucified. The character of

Satan “tries his best” to convince Jesus to come down from the cross and end his suffering and execution. Jesus remains steadfast and answers the devil’s temptation with the traditional seven last words from the cross. The drama’s message is a powerful one and seeks to remind us that (1) temptations were part of the life of Christ, (2) we can only “overcome” temptations when we rely on God in Christ, and (3) Satan and temptations come to us in many and various forms and nuances.

PLEASE JOIN US:

Saturday, April 19 (Easter Vigil)

Begins in the Chapel, 8:00 pm

Sunday, April 20 (Easter Sunday)

Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 am

Hospitality, Fellowship Hall, 9:15 am

What Feast of Love



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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