

Thursday in Holy Week

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

12:10pm (Chapel) and 7:30 pm (Nave)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA, 17701

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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.

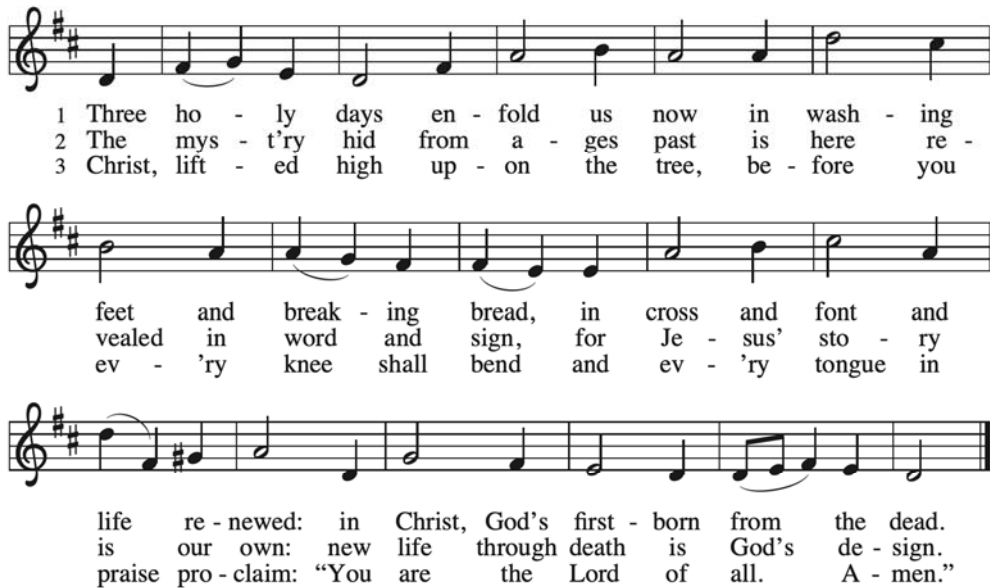
Amen.

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 Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now No reference available**

Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now



1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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,

²**for 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?

¹³**I 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, 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 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 thirteenth 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and

was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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

What Feast of Love

WOV, "Blue," 701

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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*THE PRAYERS

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
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.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.
When we had turned aside for your way and abused your gifts,
you gave us in him your crowning gift.
Emptying himself that our joy might be full,
He fed the hungry and healed the sick,
ate with the scorned and forgotten,
washed his disciples' feet and gave a holy meal as his pledge of abiding presence.

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."

In remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we remember proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body of Christ, redeemed by his precious blood.

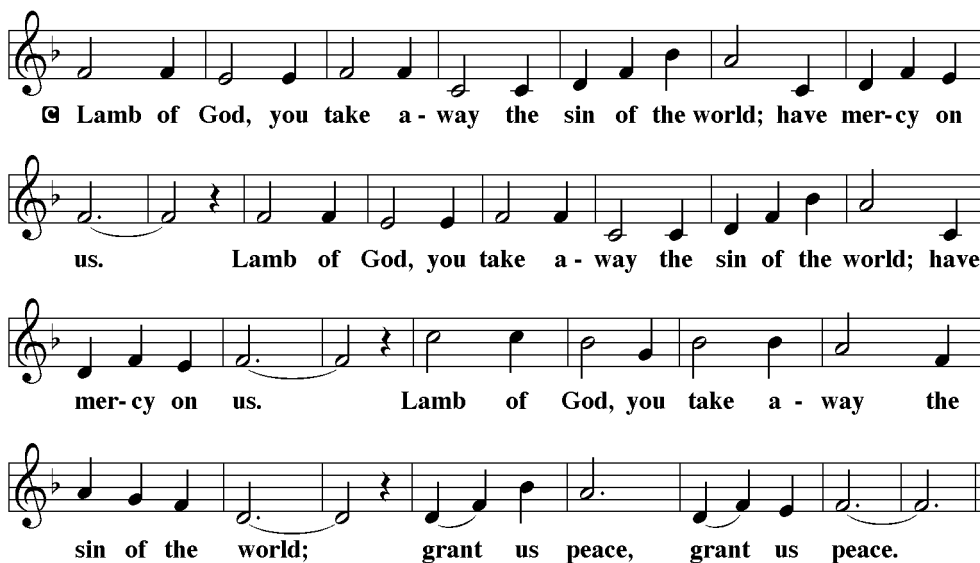
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

***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**



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

THE COMMUNION

All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Ushers will guide you to come to the chancel rail by tables. Kneel/stand according to your preference. Receive the bread followed by the wine from a pouring chalice. After you commune, please return to your pews by the side aisles. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing. Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his holy 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 and Communion Assistant (Chapel)

Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler

Lector and Communion Assistant (Nave)

Ray Huff

Organist

Carol Waltz

Preacher/Celebrant

Pastor Vasey

Good Friday, April 3:

Noon, Ecumenical Worship, Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport

7:30 pm, Tenebrae, *Service of the Shadows*, St. Mark's Nave

EASTER SERVICES

Saturday, April 4, The Eve of Resurrection

8 pm, “The Great Vigil of Easter”, beginning in the chapel

Sunday, April 5, The Resurrection of Our Lord

8 am, Holy Communion

9:15 am, Extended Hospitality in Fellowship Hall

10:30 am, “Festival Eucharist”

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