

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 2, 2026 – 1:00pm and 7:00pm

Maundy Thursday

The Triumph of a Meal

As We Gather

The name for Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word “Mandatum,” which means “commandment.” It refers to the two new commandments our Lord gave to His disciples on this day: “Love one another,” and, “Do this in remembrance of me.” In the early Christian Church, Maundy Thursday was also the day on which those who had fallen away from the Church were restored to full fellowship with other believers after having observed the 40-day penitential time of Lent.

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther asks: “What is the benefit of eating and drinking in the Sacrament of the Altar?” Luther’s answer: these words, “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” shows us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given to us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. Today’s service focuses on these gracious gifts of God freely given in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

This evening, the Confirmands will sit together as a class and assist in stripping the altar. This is a meaningful way for our young people to participate in the worship and service of God.

Prayer Before Worship

My Lord Christ, I have fallen, I would gladly be strong. For this purpose You have instituted the Sacrament, that with it we may rekindle and strengthen our faith and be helped. Therefore I am to receive it. Behold, Lord, it is Your Word. My weakness and failings are known to You. You Yourself have said: “Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” I now come to be helped. Amen. – *Martin Luther*

If you wish to join us at the Lord’s Table, please read this Communion information. If you share our beliefs regarding the Lord’s Supper, we welcome you to our altar.

- + I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, Satan, and death.
- + I believe that Christ is really present in the Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His true Body and Blood.
- + I resolve to dedicate my life to my Lord and Savior in His Body, the Church, by regular worship, and devoted Christian service and living.

Prelude

Rick Helderop

Opening Hymn 158

Glory Be to Jesus

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins!
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem!

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution *(Adapted from Psalm 116)*

P: I love the Lord, for He heard my voice; He heard my cry for mercy.

C: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P: The Lord is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

C: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P: For you, O Lord, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

C: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P: How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?

C: In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He has lavished upon us.

P: As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God unto you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I assure you all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Children’s Message - 7:00pm

Gospel Lesson

(The Last Supper)

Matthew 26:20-30

Hymn of the Day

I Am the Bead of Life

1. I am the bread of life. You who come to Me shall not hunger;
And who believe in Me shall not thirst.
No one can come to Me, unless the Father beckons.

Refrain:

*And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up.
And I will raise you up on the last day.*

2. The bread that I will give, is My flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever,
You shall live forever. *Refrain*

3. Unless you eat, of the flesh of the Son of Man,
And drink of His blood, and drink of His blood,
You shall not have life within you. *Refrain*

Sermon

The Victory of a Meal
Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Exodus 12:1-11

Offering - 7:00pm

(1:00pm offering will be received at the door.)

Prayer of the Church

Liturgy of Holy Communion

The Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

P: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord’s Prayer

P: 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The Pax Domini

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

C: Amen.

The Agnus Dei

O Christ Thou Lamb of God,
That takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ Thou Lamb of God,
That takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us

O Christ Thou Lamb of God,
That takes away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

For prayers before and after receiving the Sacrament, see pages 118-119 in the Red Hymnal.

Communion wine is dark in color, grape juice is light. It is in the individual cup trays in the glass cups allowing for each member to grab their own wine cup.

If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer or desire the common cup, at the appropriate time, please raise your pointer finger.

Communion Song

1:00pm

Little Boy, How Old Are You? – American Spiritual
James Rose, Jr., *Vocalist*

7:00pm

Mourning Hymn – Sorenson
Chancel Choir; Ben Kletzli, *Cello*; Heidi Kletzli, *Violin*

The Nunc Dimittis *(Sung)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word. For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

As the disciples, following the supper, sang a Psalm, so, now after the Holy Supper, we sing a Psalm and depart. “When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (Matthew 26:30)

Psalm 22 *(Sung during the stripping of the altar.)*

Psalm 22 is known as the ‘Psalm of the Cross.’ The Psalm begins with Jesus’ words from the Cross, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” and ends with, “For He has done it,” bringing to mind the words of Jesus on the Cross, “It is finished.”



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Refrain: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
Cantor sings the refrain. Congregation repeats the refrain.
Cantor sings verses. Congregation sings refrain after each verse.

There is no Benediction or Postlude as the altar is cleared in preparation for Good Friday. This ritual symbolically represents Christ stripped of His power and glory and abandoned to His captors. We thank the Confirmands of Redeemer for participating in this solemn tradition at the 7:00pm service. After the worship leaders leave, all depart from the church silently. We leave, but our worship is not over. Tomorrow, we will continue our worship as we reassemble to follow our Lord to the Cross.

Silent Recessional

Thanks and appreciation to the Chancel Choir, James Rose, Jr., Ben Kletzli, and Heidi Kletzli for providing special music at today's services.

A heartfelt thank you to Laurie Krentz for designing and sewing the Black Chancel Mourning Drapes, which represent the sorrow, suffering, and death of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Good Friday.

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Altar Guild

Laurie Krentz, Julie Nummer, Beth Lanthier, Sandy Pourcho, Cheryl Carr, Asia Maeder, Crissy Bienkowski, Erin Mortenson, Sandy Springer

Acolyte and Crossbearer

7:00pm - Charlie Dean and Jackson Dean

Audio and Video Operators

7:00pm - Jim Endress and Bruce Helmke

Elders Assisting with Communion

7:00pm - Brad Baldner, David Mammel, and Carter Ortale

Ushers

1:00pm - Bob Stewart

7:00pm - Karl Bushuiakovish, *Captain*; Greg Bloom, Jacob Imhoff, Ben Kamm, Scott Kamm, Brian May, John Mills



EASTER SERVICES

Good Friday – April 3
The Triumph of Suffering
1:00pm Worship
7:00pm Tenebrae Service

Easter Eve – April 4, 5:00pm
We will end the Easter Vigil service in the Columbarium announcing the resurrection.

Easter Sunday Services – April 5
The Triumphal Parade
7:30am – Holy Communion
9:00am and 10:30am – Hallelujah Chorus

*Easter Egg Hunt to follow the 10:30am
Easter Sunday service. Bring your Easter Basket and
join us on the front lawn! (Weather Permitting)*

***The 10:30am Easter Sunday Service will be livestreamed.*
All services will be held in the Sanctuary.**



THE TRIUMPH OF A MEAL

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2, 2026
1:00pm / 7:00pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
1800 WEST MAPLE
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009