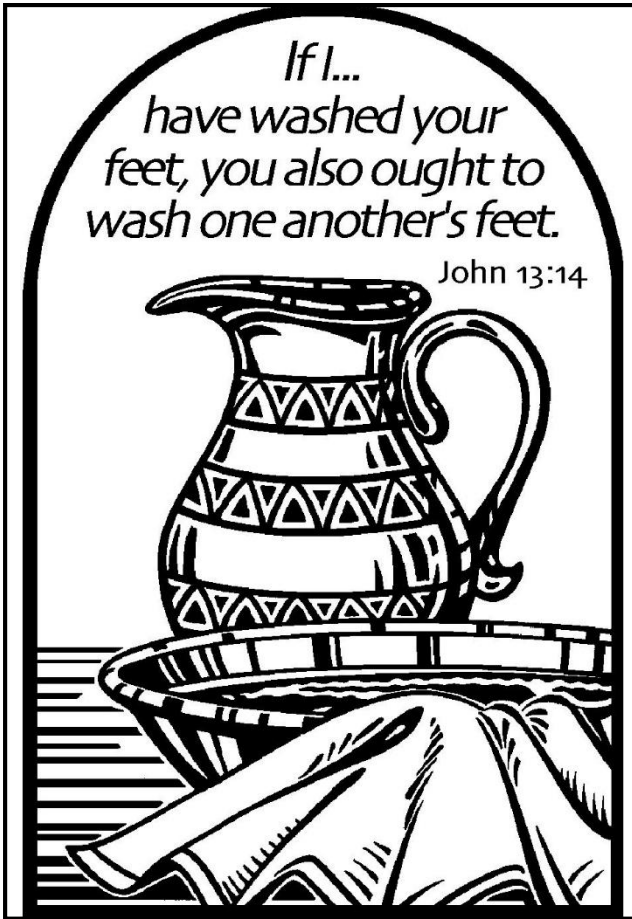


Messiah Lutheran Church

GATHER, EMPOWER, SERVE



✠ Holy Communion ✠

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026



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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Stand

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.

Kneel

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: 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.

C: Amen

Sit

Those who wish may come forward and kneel before the altar. The minister laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn:

P: In the mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I forgive † you
all your sins.

C: Amen

Stand

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.

P: 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.

C: Amen

Sit

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

A: A reading from Exodus:

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.

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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A: A Reading from First Corinthians:

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.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as
I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.
By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if
you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know
you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

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 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

SERMON..... **Janet Stroble, ALWL**

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*



1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
 2 How art thou pale with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for he who dies be - liev - ing dies safe - ly in thy love.



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, based on Arnulf of Louvain, c. 1250; tr. composite
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, German melody, c. 1500, adapt. Hans L. Hassler, 1564–1612

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God,
the Father, the 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 INTERCESSION

A brief silence is held after the introduction.

P: 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.

After each petition:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P: 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.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The pastor and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you. R: Peace be with you.

Sit

MEAL

OFFERING

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.

ANTHEM

Within the Shadow of the Cross Don Besig

Stand

OFFERTORY

As the gifts are presented, the Offertory is sung

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres- ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal- va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER**A**: Let us pray:

C: 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

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ,
 your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages
 to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.
 He is your Word, inseparable from you.
 Through him you created all things,
 and in him you take delight.
 He is your Word,
 sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.
 He there took on our nature and our lot
 and was shown forth as your Son,
 born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.
 It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will
 and won for you a holy people;
 he stretched out his hands in suffering

in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This is my blood poured out for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we lift this bread and cup before you,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.
And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him all glory and honor are yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church both now and forever.

C: Amen

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

P: Come to the table.
Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

C 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.

Sit
COMMUNION

All baptized believers are invited to this holy meal. Those not communing are invited for a blessing. Please follow the instructions of the ushers to gather at the altar table. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen



COMMUNION HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane, st.1-3*

1 Go to dark Geth-se - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

Stand

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: 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.

C: Amen

Psalm 22 is read by the congregation as linens, paraments, ornaments, and candles are removed from the altar and chancel.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

PSALM 22

Pulpit side of the congregation read verses 1-10

- 1**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me
and are so far from my cry, and from the words of my distress?
2O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;
by night as well, but I find no rest.
3Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
4Our forefathers put their trust in you;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
5They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
6But as for me, I am a worm and no man,
scorned by all and despised by the people.
7All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
8"He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
9Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
10I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

Lectern side of the congregation read verses 11-25

- 11**Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

- 14**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15**My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to
the roof of my mouth; and you have laid me in the dust of
the grave.
- 16**Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle
around me; they pierce my hands and my feet, I can count all
my bones.
- 17**They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my
clothing.
- 18**Be not far away, O LORD;
you are my strength; hasten to help me..
- 21**I will declare your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
- 22**Praise the LORD, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line,
give glory.
- 23**For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24**My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship
him.
- 25**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD
shall praise him:
"May your heart live forever!"

All read verses 26-30

- 26**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27**For kingship belongs to the LORD;
he rules over the nations.
- 28**To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29**My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the LORD's forever.
- 30**They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

*There is no blessing.
All leave the church in silence*

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

JARED GIST, ORGANIST

324 South Howard Street | South Williamsport, PA 17702

(570) 326-9171 | www.messiahsouth.org

SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Ushers: Rhonda Koch, Dave and Rita Strickler, Diana Rooker

Lay Assistant: Susan Bryan; **Communion Assistant:** Sherri Holtzman

Altar Guild: Alice Morrison



Holy Week Worship Schedule continues

Good Friday

April 3, 2025 at 7:00 P.M.

Worship Service of Tenebrae

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5, 2025

Festival Service of Holy Communion

9:30 A.M. Festive Music with Easter Choir and Handbells
beginning at 9:15 am

10:45 A.M. Easter Egg Hunt in Shaheen Hall.

PLEASE NOTE: The Church Office is closed Easter Monday, April 6.

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