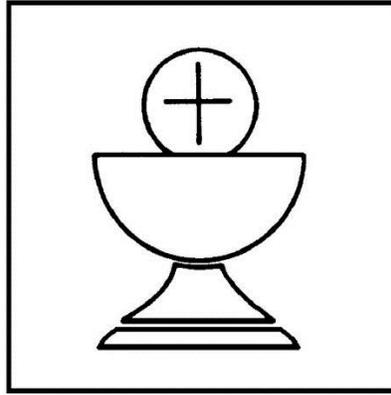


# MAUNDY THURSDAY



*The Maundy Thursday service is one of endings and beginnings. What was begun on Ash Wednesday is brought to a close here today. What begins today does not end until the resurrection of Easter. It is the ancient Triduum, "The Three Sacred Days," which lead us to Easter: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.*

*The theme is love, our Savior's love for us, expressed in the washing of the disciples' feet, in giving himself in bread and wine, in dying upon the cross. An invitation to confession is given. The focus is on forgiveness. On Ash Wednesday, we began Lent with a major act of confession and ashes, but we did not receive forgiveness in the absolution. That forgiveness comes now "in the name and by the command of our Lord," at the service celebrating Christ's love. The peace is shared after absolution and seals that forgiveness in a loving embrace, as if embraced by Christ himself.*

*The lessons of love are read. A new command derives from it: "Love one another." A song and a sign of love goes with it. The prayers are said. The table is made ready. The time of the Lord's Supper arrives, and our Lord is revealed in bread and wine as once he "revealed himself to his disciples." It is a solemn moment, but we cannot linger here. Nor could the Lord. His betrayal was imminent. Before we know it, the markings of betrayal are seen before us. The symbol of Christ in our midst, the altar, is stripped bare. Christ is stripped of his power and glory. Good Friday is inescapable. The powers of darkness work upon him.*

*In silence, we depart without benediction. The Three Sacred Days continue with the Good Friday service tomorrow at 7 p.m.*

**ST. OLAF LUTHERAN CHURCH  
APRIL 1, 2021**

## “GATHERING”

### Prelude

**Silent Prayer** *Please keep reverence at this time to prepare your hearts for worship this evening.*

**\*Gathering Hymn:** *“Where Charity and Love Prevail”*

**#359**

### **\*Instruction**

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 are 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.

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

AM: Let us make confession to God.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

AM: Almighty God, merciful Father:

**C: I, a troubled a penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen**

P: On Ash Wednesday, we began this season of repentance with confession, and we received the ashes of repentance. Receive this absolution. Please mark yourself with the sign of the cross. + This forgiveness comes from Christ our Lord. In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ +, your sins are forgiven. **Amen**

### **\*The 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.**

AM: Let us pray together:

**C: 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 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. Amen**

*(please be seated)*

## “WORD”

### First Reading: Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell 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. <sup>4</sup>If 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. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>This 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. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>The 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. <sup>14</sup>This 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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 *(please read responsively)*

L: <sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

C: <sup>2</sup>**for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

L: <sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

C: <sup>13</sup>**I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

L: <sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

C: <sup>15</sup>**Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

L: <sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.

C: <sup>17</sup>**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

L: <sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

C: <sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Return to the Lord you God,  
who is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love.

**\*Gospel:   John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

**P:**     The holy gospel according to John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C:**     **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now 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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus 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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>After 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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. <sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little 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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By 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.**

*(please be seated)*

**Sermon**

*Pastor Emily Sauer*

**\*Hymn of the Day**     *"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"*

**#712**

**\*The Prayers of the Church**     *(Response after each petition)*

**AM:**    Hear us O God,

**C:**     **Your mercy is great.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace** (*We greet one another at this time with a peace sign or air high five.*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

### **Gathering of Gifts and Offerings**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. As you leave today please drop your offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. If you are tuning in online, please feel free to give online through our [Paypal.me/stolaffd](https://www.paypal.com/merchot?p=stolaffd) or mail a check to the church. **If you are visiting with us**, please do not feel obligated to contribute an offering today. Your gift is worshipping Our Lord alongside us. If you choose to monetarily support our ministries, we appreciate your generosity.*

### **“MEAL”**

#### **\*Offertory Prayer**

AM: Let us pray. Almighty God,

C: **Creator and Redeemer of the world, we give you thanks that you have loved us and given us the bread of life, your Son, our Savior. With these gifts of bread and wine and our possessions, we dedicate ourselves to a life of love for the sake of him who gave himself in love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

#### **\*Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

#### **\*Words of Institution**

#### **\*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**

*(please be seated)*

### **Holy Communion**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to participate. Prepackaged elements are available in a Ziploc bag at the entries. The congregation will wait for the first communicants to receive, and then will consume the elements following the communicants and their families. Each of our first communicants will take their first communion with their immediate families at the altar. As they receive this gift for the first time we ask that you please sing the hymns below to offer encouragement in this important step of faith.*

