

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

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The office will be closed on Friday, April 2.

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**April 1, 2021**



**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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 then enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most merciful God, **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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.**

**THE GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray, **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.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING:** Exodus 12:1–14

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's Supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

**A reading from Exodus.**

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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19**

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

**<sup>2</sup>for the Lord has given ear to me Whenever I called.**

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

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

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

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

<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.

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

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

**<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

*In the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.*

**A reading from First Corinthians.**

<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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** ELW, p. 151 Setting 4, "Return to the Lord"

**GOSPEL :** John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.*

<sup>1</sup>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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**REFLECTION:** "Faith Active in Love"

**HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #358 “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” vs. 1, 4 & 5**

### **FOOT WASHING**

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.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

United with Christians around the globe on this Maundy Thursday, let us pray for the church, the earth, our troubled world, and all in need, praying Hear us, holy God and responding **Your mercy is great.**

...

Receive, merciful God, our prayers, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the host of our meal of life, who died and rose that we might live with you, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING**

Let us pray, Faithful God, **you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

As we walk through the Great Thanksgiving and as we share communion here and at home, we do so believing that it is God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who unites us in all times and in all places. This is God’s gift of grace for you even as we gather online in our worship today.

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.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, 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, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able.

We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people, and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed. **Thanks be to God!**

### **COMMUNION**

As we share our communion at home, you may say "this is the body of Christ given for you", as you consume the bread or wafer. And you may say "this is the blood of Christ given for you," as you consume the wine or grape juice.

## TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our precious Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and unto everlasting life. **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, 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. **Amen.**

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

### PSALM 88 (chanted as the altar is stripped)

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, my God, my Savior, by day and night I cry to you.

<sup>2</sup>Let my prayer enter into your presence; incline your ear to my lamentation.

<sup>3</sup>For I am full of trouble; my life is at the brink of the grave.

<sup>4</sup>I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I have become like one who has no strength;

<sup>5</sup>lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

<sup>6</sup>You have laid me in the depths of the pit, in dark places, and in the abyss.

<sup>7</sup>Your anger weighs upon me heavily, and all your great waves overwhelm me.

<sup>8</sup>You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be abhorred by them; I am in prison and cannot get free.

<sup>9</sup>My sight has failed me because of trouble; LORD, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my hands to you.

<sup>10</sup>Do you work wonders for the dead? Will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?

<sup>11</sup>Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave, your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

<sup>12</sup>Will your wonders be known in the dark or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

<sup>14</sup>LORD, why have you rejected me? Why have you hidden your face from me?

<sup>15</sup>Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death; I have borne your terrors and am helpless.

<sup>16</sup>Your blazing anger has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me;

<sup>17</sup>they surround me all day long | like a flood; they encompass me on every side.

<sup>18</sup>My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, and darkness is my only companion.