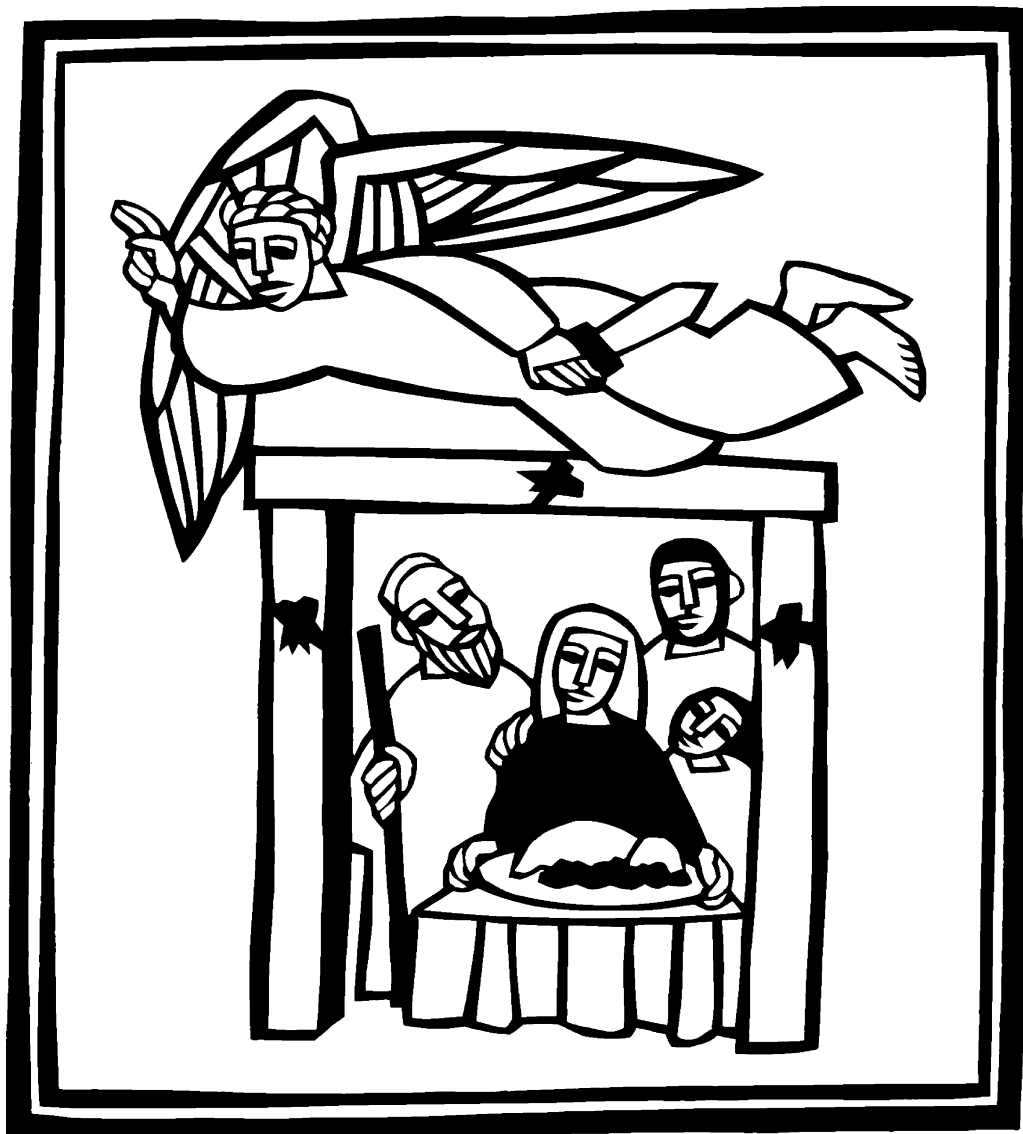




Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Maundy Thursday
April 6, 2023 – 7:00pm



MAUNDY THURSDAY HOLY COMMUNION AND STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

With nightfall 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. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

GATHERING

We gather in the sanctuary in silence to center our hearts and minds.

BELLS

PASTORAL PRAYER FOR MAUNDAY THURSDAY

Gracious God,

As those who strive to follow Jesus in our living and to trust your power in our dying, we gather to reflect upon the life that ended on a cross.

We recognize in ourselves the strengths and weaknesses of Jesus' disciples: although they loved him, they disappointed and failed him.

And yet, gathering with these imperfect friends at this last meal Jesus washed their feet in service, and then extended the bread and cup to each. Jesus called them to love one another, and invited them to share in his very life and in his acceptance of the road ahead.

We are humbled, honored and inspired by the deep love Christ extended to the world, and we take seriously the calling to be the body of Christ today.

Forgive us when we disappoint and fail you, and guide us back to a place of trust and faithful living. Grant us the vision to see the world as you see it, with love and compassion for each creature and all of your creation.

Hear us now as we confess our sins, and receive your forgiveness. Bless our children receiving their first communion. Open our hearts as we enter into this Holy Three Days as we remember your suffering, passion and death. Prepare us for the joy and promise of the Resurrection.

Amen.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may remain seated making the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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. We have gathered midweek to learn how we are called to turn towards God's abundance with acts of faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. These are the acts we are called to give and receive along our faith journey. We have welcomed the child through baptism this Lent, We have shared this discipline of Lent with our fifth and sixth grade youth who have been preparing to receive first communion on this Holy Night.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

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.

LAYING ON OF HANDS AS AN ACT OF GIVING AND RECEIVING GOD'S FORGIVENESS.

Laying both hands on the head of another each person is invited to address another in turn.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

*The person may respond **Amen.***

Friends, remember that you are loved. 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.

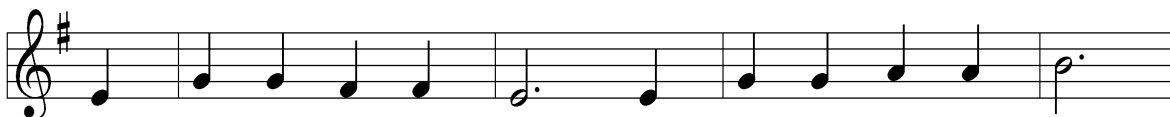
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

CONFESSIOINAL HYMN

Have Mercy on Us Lord

HFV #458



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing Word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord, and then remain standing for the prayer of the day.

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

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.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

The psalm is spoken responsively beginning with the men.

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.
¹⁵**Precious 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.

¹⁷**I 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,
¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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, 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.

VIDEO: JESUS OF NAZARETH SCENES 73-74 "The First Communion"

PRAYERS

United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

You call your people to hand on what we receive from you. Form all the baptized into teachers of faith. From one generation to the next, give your church hunger for your promises in the sacraments and joy in receiving and sharing your word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your creation provides all that we need. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for washing and drinking, water on which all life depends. Sustain crops and herds that provide food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You redeemed your people from slavery. Preserve people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression. Establish just leadership in place of tyranny and peace in place of war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Jesus loved his followers to the end. Grant assurance of that love to all who need it: those living with guilt, those struggling to forgive, those who are lonely or overlooked. Heal the sick and embrace the dying. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus washed the feet of the one who betrayed him. Inspire this congregation's ministries of service, that we love as Jesus loved us. Give us renewed courage to serve. Bless the ministry of deacons throughout the church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your glory shone in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord's death. Unite us with them in hope until he comes again. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

“Come, Let us Eat”

ELW #491

Leader or All



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,

All



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.

Leader or All



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,

All



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

The candidates for first communion, sponsors and parents are invited remain stand.

RECEPTION TO HOLY COMMUNION

In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father, liberates us from sin and death, gives us new birth, adopts us as children, and makes us members of the body of Christ, the Church.

In Holy Communion, at the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink.

With this bath and meal we are washed and fed as we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Who presents these children of God to be received as communing members of Christ's Church?

The parents and sponsors present the candidate with these words.

We present Gavin Levorson, Finn Ritter, Taryn Wempen, Danika White to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

In Christian love you presented these children for Holy Baptism.

In Baptism, sacred promises are made. As parents and sponsors of these children it is your calling to keep these sacred promises.

- To faithfully bring them to the services of God's house
- To teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments
- To place in their hands the Holy Scriptures
- And to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith

Do you renew your commitment to these baptismal promises? **We do.**

As members of this congregation and the priesthood of all believers, do you promise to support and encourage these parents and sponsors in the keeping of these sacred promises? Will you pray for them, encourage them and welcome them into fuller participation in the life of our community here in this place? **We will.**

We thank you, O Lord, for Gavin, Finn, Taryn and Danika. As in Baptism you made these children your own, now make them faithful in the communion of your Son, our Savior. Bind us close to Christ and to each other by your forgiving power, bringing us all to that day when our hunger and thirst for your love will be perfectly satisfied. **Amen.**

The candidates, families and sponsors may be seated.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O living God, sovereign of time and space. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Your word leads us across the sea to freedom, and you have carried us together to these holy Three Days.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God, for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ. He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love. He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin. He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of 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.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God, for the gift of your loving Spirit. Fill this meal with the life of your Son. Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need. Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and 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

Jesus draws the whole world to himself.

Come to this meal and be fed.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 *My Song is Love Unknown* ELW #343

Our youth who have just received their First Communion will aid the Altar Guild in the Stripping of the Altar. When all the items have been removed the service has ended and all should leave in silence.

1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

- 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.
- 4 We cry out; we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes
that he his foes from thence might free.
- 5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!