

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025, Year C



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

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to Worship

(Members of the congregation bring forward a towel, a bowl of water, a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine as the following is spoken.)

In the glowing darkness we gather.

Our Lenten journey has brought us here.

Jesus, our Teacher and Lord, sets before us:

a towel, a bowl, bread, a cup.

He gives us an example

and a commandment ever-new;

To love one another as he has loved us.

This is how everyone will know we are his disciples, when we love one another.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

In This Room, a Towel and Basin
(to the tune of *Jesus Calls us O'er the Tumult*)

**In this room, a towel and basin
Stand as gifts we don't deserve.
Christ, you humbly knelt to use them;
Showing us the way to serve.**

**On a table, set for dinner
Are your gifts of wine and bread.
Christ, you give to every sinner
Food and love, till all are fed.**

**From you, Lord, we hear a teaching:
"Now I give a new command.
Love as I have loved, out-reaching!
Then the world will understand!"**

**Basin, supper, word and witness —
Then a cross — revealed your Way.
May we put our faith in practice,
Humbly serving you each day.**

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Tune: William H. Jude, 1877 ("Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult")

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Confession & 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 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.**

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.**

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 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**

Choir *Come, Ye Sinners*

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

WORD

Gospel: John 13:1-20

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. The devil had already put it into the heart

of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Handwashing

On this night we hear our Lord's commandment to love one another as God 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 hands, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

At this time, all are invited to come forward to the handwashing stations. Water will be poured over your hands and then they will be dried. Then you are invited to pick up a towel and dry the next person's hands.

Handwashing Hymns

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Cranberry 659



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
 3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
 4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
 5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
 on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
 of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
 laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
 Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
 walk the mile and bear the load.
 speak the peace you long to hear.
 till we've seen this jour - ney through.
 let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard

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Love Consecrates the Humblest Act **Cranberry 360**



- 1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act and ha - loes mer - cy's deeds;
- 2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ knelt and washed the feet
- 3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; what Christ in love so true



it sheds a ben - e - dic - tion sweet and hal - lows hu - man needs.
of his dis - ci - ples, he gave us a sign of love com - plete.
has free - ly done for one and all, let us now glad - ly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845–1917

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Prayers of the People

Here in this place, we join Jesus in the sacred space
between his last supper and his last breath.
Trusting in God's eternal solidarity, let us pray:

In the limbo of uncertainty, when all we can do is wait—
with those between paychecks, between jobs, between meals,
with those in hospital rooms or prison cells,

Ever-present Jesus, abide.

With those who fight to be believed by doctors,
who wait for diagnosis, treatment, or results,
and with those who have Long COVID or other serious conditions,

Ever-present Jesus, abide.

With those who are sick of waiting:
Indigenous people whose loved ones disappear in silence,
Black communities urged to wait for justice in an onslaught of brutality,
and all those who find themselves burning out
in the endless efforts to resist injustice,

Ever-present Jesus, abide.

With all who scramble between
life and death, survival and thriving: immigrants and refugees,
the people of Palestine and Haiti,
bombed, displaced, and denied aid,
Ever-present Jesus, abide.

With those enduring the worst of climate change,
and all whose homes or whole communities
have been ravaged by natural disasters,
Ever-present Jesus, abide.

With all whom our society fails to protect:
those who are unhoused,
and those whose homes are fractured by violence,
those experiencing mental illness or addiction,
and all who are shoved to the margins,
Ever-present Jesus, abide.

And when the in-between becomes permanent
with no going back to how things were,
in our moments of despair at the world's pain,
we cry out, "HOW LONG, O LORD?!"
Abide with us, everlasting God. Abide with us.

Gracious God,
we can count on your steadfast presence
even when we doubt and demand answers.
Teach us to share in one another's pain,
becoming your hands and feet on earth.
And now, as we break this bread and drink from this cup,
may this meal nourish us.
Pour out your Spirit upon this holy feast,
the one you shared with friends and betrayers,
not long before you took your last breath.
May it give us courage,
just as it surely gave you courage on that night many years ago. **Amen.**

Peace

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

Offering

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

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.

A Reading from Luke 22:1-20

Now the festival of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was near. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to put Jesus to death, for they were afraid of the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers of the temple police about how he might betray him to them. They were greatly pleased and agreed to give him money. So he consented and began to look for an opportunity to betray him to them when no crowd was present.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" Listen, he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ' He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." So they went and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I

suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

The 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

Lamb of God (setting 9)

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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.



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain
 sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me

in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

Luke 22:39-47

[Jesus] came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, Father, if you are willing, remove this cup

from me; yet, not my will but yours be done. [Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength.

In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.] When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him;

Special Music

Ten Thousand Angels

Psalm 22 & The Stripping of the Altar

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were saved;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not human,

scorned by others and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they sneer at me; they shake their heads;

"Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—

let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;

you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
Many bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they bound my hands and feet.
I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me
but heard when I cried to him.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
For dominion belongs to the Lord,
and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

*There is no benediction on this night as we watch and pray,
and return tomorrow as the story continues.
You are invited to remain in the sanctuary for prayer and meditation,
Leaving in silence when you are ready.*

Holy Week Services

Good Friday Worship

1:00 p.m. Service

6:30 p.m. Service

Easter Worship

9:00 am - Festival Service

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