

April 2, 2026

IT IS FINISHED

A Cleansing Fountain

Holy Thursday



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Holy Thursday

*It Is Finished:
Our Fasting Gives Way to Feasting*

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Lord God, because of your heavenly mercy, you did not spare your only Son, but gave him up to die on the cross for our sins. Send the Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may be comforted by this great forgiveness. Bless our prayers and praise. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Our special Lenten services this year have explored the prophecies of Zechariah. 500 years before Jesus' birth, the prophet was shown the blessings God's people would receive from the Savior's sacrifice. Tonight, we remember that Jesus' love turns our fasting and sadness into feasting and joy.

"MAUNDY" THURSDAY: Maundy Thursday receives its name from the Latin word "mandatum," which means "command." On the night our Savior was betrayed he gave his disciples the "new commandment" to love one another. That same evening Jesus ate what we call the "Last Supper" with his disciples. There he gave his disciples another new command when he instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion and instructed believers to "do this in remembrance of me."

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Luke Dorn

Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Praise Group: Jordyn Anderson, Emma Strachan, Charlotte Lonetti, Joy Ibsch

Violin: Charlotte Lonetti

Accompanist: Jessica Klatt

Soloist: Luke Dorn

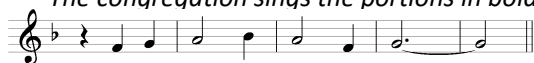
Order of Worship



Opening Evening Song

CW 225

The congregation sings the portions in bold.



The Lord Al - might - y grant us a qui - et



night and peace at the last.



A - men.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



to sing praise to your name, O Most High,



to her - ald your love in the morn - ing,



your truth at the close of day.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSIOIN & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

M: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

C: we have sinned against you

in our thoughts,

in our words,

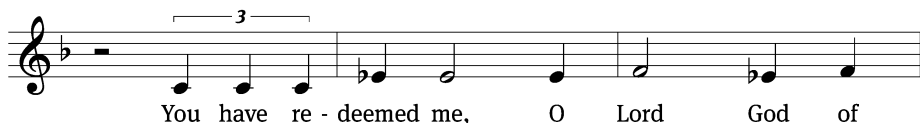
in our deeds,

and in all that we have not done.

Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deliver and restore us,

that we may rest in peace.



M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

C: Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 24:1-11

When God made a covenant with his people Israel, the contract was sealed with the blood of a sacrifice. This "Old Covenant" would not last.

¹Then the LORD said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, ²but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

³When Moses went and told the people all the LORD's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the LORD has said we will do." ⁴Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel.

⁵Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar.

⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey."

⁸Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem: Remember Me

Deborah Govenor

*In the night in which our Savior was betray'd,
He broke the bread and to His friends He said:
"Take and eat, this is my body giv'n for you;
take and drink, this blood of mine is shed for you.
Do this always to remember me."*

*In the night in which our Savior was denied,
He bowed His head, and to the Father cried:
"If it be your will, let this cup pass from me;
If it be your will, spare me this agony.
In my darkest hour will you remember me?"*

*In the night in which my deepest doubts are known,
You come to me and I am not alone.
When I taste your blood and body giv'n for me,
When I hear your prayer in dark Gethsemane,
Then I know you will remember me.
O Lord, remember me.*

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

The Apostle Paul teaches that every time we celebrate the Supper we receive the body and blood of Jesus, sealing again a new covenant of forgiveness.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

²⁸Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. ²⁹For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel

John 13:1-15, 34

In the Upper Room, Jesus teaches his disciples about humility and love.

¹It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

¹¹For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

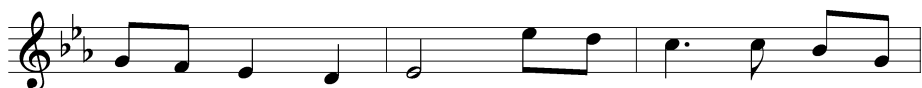
Hymn: When You Woke That Thursday Morning CW 416 sts. 1-4



1 When you woke that Thurs-day morn-ing, Sav-ior, teach-er,
2 Nev-er so a-lone and lone-ly, long-ing with tor-
3 What was there that you could give them that would nev-er
4 One in faith, in love u-nit-ed, all one bod-y,



faith-ful friend, thoughts of self and safe-ty scorn-ing, know-ing
ment-ed heart to be with your dear ones on-ly for a
be out-spent, what great gift that would out-live them, what last
you the head, when we meet, by you in-vit-ed, you are



how the day would end; Lamb of God, fore-told for
qui-et hour a-part: sin-less Lamb and fall-en
will and tes-ta-ment? "Show me and the world you
with us, as you said. One with you and one an-



a-ges, now at last the hour had come when but One could
crea-ture, one last pas-chal meal to eat, one last les-son
love me, know me as the Lamb of God: do this in re-
oth-er in a u-ni-ty sub-lime, see in us your



pay sin's wa-ges: you as-sumed their dread-ful sum.
as their teach-er, wash-ing your dis-ci-ples' feet.
mem-brance of me, eat this bod-y, drink this blood."
sis-ter, broth-er, one in ev-'ry place and time.

Sermon Text

Zechariah 13:1-3

"On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. ²"On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will remove both the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land. ³And if anyone still prophesies, their father and mother, to whom they were born, will say to them, 'You must die, because you have told lies in the LORD's name.' Then their own parents will stab the one who prophesies.

"A Cleansing Fountain"

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



 Connect Card

 Give Online

Prayer

CW 228

The congregation sings the portions in bold print.



Hear my prayer, O Lord;



lis - ten to my cry.



Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye;



hide me in the shad - ow of your wings.



In right - eous - ness I shall see you;



when I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy.

M: Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness;



through Je - sus Christ our Lord. **A - men.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

Confession: The Institution of the Lord's Supper

M: *First: What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?*

C: **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.**

Confession: The Blessings of the Lord's Supper

M: *Second: What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?*

C: **That is shown us by these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

Confession: The Power of the Lord's Supper

M: *Third: How can eating and drinking do such great things?*

C: **It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.**

Confession: The Reception of the Lord's Supper

M: *Fourth: Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?*

C: **Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.**

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

If you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.

Distribution Anthem: Remember Me

Aaron Adams

*At the close of the day in an upper room, the Lord sat down with the twelve. It was then that He took the bread, broke it and blessed it and said:
"Take, eat and remember Me. This is my body I give for you.
Take, eat and remember Me."*

*The disciples ate with their Lord that night, not knowing this was the last. It was then that He took the cup, raised it and blessed it and said:
"Take, drink and remember Me. This is My lifeblood I give for you.
Take, drink and remember Me."*

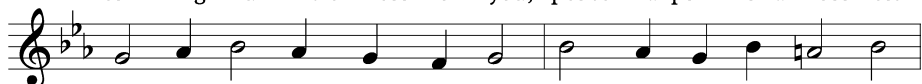
Distribution Hymn: *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* CW 420 sts. 1-2, 4, 6



1 Je - sus, I will pon-der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
4 Grant that I your pas-sion view with re - pent - ant griev - ing;
6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; help me bear my cross - es,



with your Spir - it me en - dow for such med - i - ta - tion.
bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
let me not bring shame to you by un - ho - ly liv - ing.
learn - ing hum - ble - ness from you, peace mid pain and loss - es.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you,
How could I re - fuse to shun ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death that I may not per - ish.
how for them you died, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
since for me God's on - ly Son suf - fered with - out mea - sure?
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Prayer

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Stripping of the Altar

Candles extinguished — Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The events of Good Friday snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles.

Altar book removed — The Altar Book and hymnal guides our worship together as we hear his Word and respond with prayer and songs of praise. As Jesus suffers these normally joyful sounds grow quiet.

Communion vessels removed — Jesus offered his body and blood as the payment for our sins. They have been given to us in, with and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Supper. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Paraments removed — Paraments are the cloths that cover our altar and display symbols of our God and salvation. Purple, the color of Lent, also points to the purple robe Jesus wore as the soldiers mocked him. As Jesus was stripped of the purple robe, and of his dignity, so we remove the paraments from the altar.

Solo: What Wondrous Love

Psalm 88C

Refrain: What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

LORD, you are the God who / saves me; day and night I cry / out to you.

May my prayer come be- / fore you; turn your ear / to my cry.

I am overwhelmed with / troubles and my life draws / near to death. *Refrain*

Your wrath has swept / over me; your terrors have de- / stroyed me.

You have taken from me friend and / neighbor, darkness is my / closest friend.

But I cry to you for / help, LORD; in the morning my prayer comes be-/fore you.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning, is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

After the completion of the psalm, there is no blessing. These services of Jesus' Passion flow together as one event until Easter, continuing next with our observance of Good Friday. The church is dark. The congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence.

Acknowledgments

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PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proudly, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize I have sinned against God and deserve punishment, what will I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help!

Please take note of a few helpful things:

- ✦ Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ Salem members give an offering to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ✦ Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

