



Union Lutheran Church

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Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Worship & Holy Communion

(Please stand when indicated by *)

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal
With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal
P=Pastor, C=Congregation, L=Lay Reader

The last time Jesus had the opportunity to dine with his closest friends was at the Passover meal in Jerusalem. At that supper, he instituted a meal for his disciples to remember him by and gave the future church the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This meal binds Christians together from all places and times and is the means of God's grace for all who believe. Jesus is truly present with us at the table.

Please place your offering in the basket provided at the back of the Sanctuary. All loose offering and designated gifts will go towards the NALC Disaster Response.

Worship begins in silence with the Christ Candle lit at this time.

GATHERING

Hymn: *Love Consecrate* (stanzas 1 & 2)

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act 122

1 Love con - se - crates the hum - blest act And
2 When in the shad - ow of the cross Christ
3 Love serves and will - ing stoops to serve; What

ha - loes mer - cy's deeds; It sheds a ben - e -
knelt and washed the feet Of his dis - ci - ples,
Christ in love so true Has free - ly done for

dic - tion sweet And hal - lows hu - man needs.
he gave us A sign of love com - plete.
one and all, Let us now glad - ly do!

2

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness:

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

Portrayal of Feet Washing

John 13:1-5

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

* Hymn: *Love Consecrate* (stanza 3)

page 2

* Prayer of the Day

P Holy God, your Son gave us a new commandment and through his act of radical servanthood showed us the way of true love. Grant that we may share his servant nature as we live out your reign awaiting the promise of his return; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 24:3-11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

L Here ends the reading.

Psalm 116:12-19, sung in unison

During Lent we will be using Psalm Tone 2 found on page 291

¹²I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD* in the presence of | all his people.

¹³Precious in the sight | of the LORD* is the death | of his servants.

¹⁴O LORD, I | am your servant;* I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me | from my bonds.

¹⁵I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving* and call upon the name | of the LORD.

¹⁶I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD* in the presence of | all his people,

¹⁷In the courts of | the LORD’s house,* in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!

¹⁸I will pay my vows | to the LORD* in the presence of | all his people,

¹⁹In the courts of the house | of the LORD* in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

L Here ends the reading.

* Lenten Response

**C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

* Holy Gospel: Mark 14:12-26

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. ¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” ²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²²And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” ²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: *Let's Eat!*

Pastor Heidi Punt

* Hymn: *It Happened on that Fateful Night*
 Choir will sing stanza 1 with the congregation joining in stanzas 2-5.

127 It Happened on That Fateful Night

Fm B^bm Fm

1 It hap-pened on that fate-ful night When pow'rs of
 2 Be - fore the bit - ter scene be - gan, He took the
 3 "My bod - y, bro - ken for your sin, Re - ceive and
 4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, Re - mem - ber -

D^b B^bm7 C^m A^b C^m

earth and hell a - rose A - gainst the Son, our
 bread, and blest and broke. What love through all his
 eat as liv - ing food." He took the cup and
 ing your dy - ing friend; Meet at my ta - ble

D^b A^b C^m Fm D^b B^bm Fm

God's de-light, And friends be - trayed him to his foes.
 ac - tions ran! What won-drous words of love he spoke!
 blest the wine: "Share this new tes - ta - ment, my blood."
 and re - cord The full o - be - dience of your Lord."

5 **O Lord, your feast we celebrate;
 We show your death; we sing your name
 Till you return, when we shall eat
 The marriage supper of the Lamb.**

* Confession of Faith (*From Luther's Small Catechism: Holy Communion*)

P Let us confess our faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, calling to mind the promises we are given through the Supper of our Lord.

What is Holy Communion?

C **Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.**

P What benefits do we receive from this sacrament?

C **The benefits of the sacrament are pointed out by the words, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words assure us that in the sacrament we receive the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.**

P How can eating and drinking do all this?

C **It is not eating and drinking that does this, but the words "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with eating and drinking, are the main thing in the sacrament. And whoever believes these words has exactly what they say, forgiveness of sins.**

* Prayers of the Church

A Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

* Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Anthem: *Hands Are Holding Rust*

Chancel Choir

As the Anthem is being sung, the Lord's Table is prepared.

MEAL

* Words of Institution

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you

gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P 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.

C Amen

* Lord's Prayer

P 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

P Tender and merciful God at your feast you yearn to feed us who bring nothing but brokenness. You wish to turn our emptiness into joy and fill us with abundant grace. Create within us anticipation and hunger to gather at your table once again.

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the form of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten Free wafers and grape juice are also available upon request. Please fill out the communion card in the pew and hand to the Usher while following their directions to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Communion Music: *Were You There* (arr. Barbara Baltzer Kinyon) Beginner Bells

* Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**

* Closing Prayer

P The meal is done. The table is cleared. The room is empty. You make your way toward Gethsemane. Lord Jesus, where soldiers will come to capture you. Keep us ever mindful, as your passion and death approach, that your self-sacrificing love is for us. In your most holy name, Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, we pray.

C **Amen**

Stripping of the Altar (*6:30 p.m.*)

P Stripping the altar is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in our Lord's earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgatha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize His suffering and death.

*The Stripping of the Altar is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers.
The Chancel Choir and Altar Guild will assist in this.*

As Jesus' life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

- 1 Plants and Vases - New life springing forth. In recognition of Jesus' death, we remove plants and vases from the altar.
- 2 Candles - Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." Creation was dark when Jesus suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.
- 3 Offerings - As Jesus offered his body in sacrifice and was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.
- 4 Missal and Stand - As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal book and stand.
- 5 Communion Vessels - Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us and placed in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

- 6 Altar Linens and Paraments - As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.
- 7 Vestments - As Christ is stripped of his identity and crucified as a common criminal, we remove the vestments of the ordained.
- 8 Paschal Candle - The Paschal candle is carried from the baptismal font to the Narthex where it is extinguished. There is no benediction or postlude at the end of this service, which indicates that the service of the Three Days has not concluded.

Sanctuary lights are turned down.

SENDING

Departure

The assembly departs in profound silence. In the evening, some find it a good custom to drive home and to go to bed without any further conversation.

Please prayerfully consider in participating tomorrow's Prayer Vigil following worship.

Those Serving Today
Acolyte: Adam Thompson
Communion Assistants: Robyn Arey, Patsy Lyerly, and Vivian Sprinkle
Lay Reader: Ellie Wilhelm
Ushers: Steve Arey, Phil Cauble, Ali Davis and Don Davis

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OUR MISSION: Christ Centered ~ Mission Driven~ Traditionally-Grounded ~
 Congregationally Focused (Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR 2024 VISION: “Love God and Love our Neighbor” (Mark 12:30-33)

OUR 2024 ACTION PLAN: “By feeding, clothing, visiting, helping...”
 (Matthew 25:35-40)



**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29
10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22:1-31;
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

This holy day recalls the last hours of Jesus' life as the suffering servant is nailed to the cross, fulfilling his mission as the sacrificial Lamb of God. The sinless One takes on humanity's sin as he is betrayed by his closest companions, arrested and sentenced to a shameful death, even as Pontius Pilate finds no fault in him. We see ourselves in the angry crowd and lament our own denial of our Lord.

*Our Middle & High School Youth will have a **Lock-in** at 7:30 p.m. on Good Friday, March 29, to prepare for Easter Sunrise.*

Following the evening Good Friday service, we will have a **PRAYER VIGIL**. A prayer vigil is a watchful, awake time set apart for the purpose of prayer. As an act of public witness, it offers the community a space to connect with God so that God's vision for love and justice can be carried out through us.

Union understands prayer vigils to be grounded in the power of the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts and minds and to strengthen us in our work and witness.

Sanctuary doors will be open for those who wish to pray.

Due to Holy Week, newsletter articles deadline has been rescheduled for Easter Sunday, March 31.

April Messenger and Handouts will be available for pick up on Sunday, April 7.

Saturday, March 30

**9:15 a.m. drop off flowers
for the Indoor Cross**

**11:00 a.m.- 12 noon drop off
Potted Flowers**

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

The resurrection of our Lord ushers in a new reality for those who believe: a new life in Christ. God, who shows no partiality, offers salvation and forgiveness to all who believe. Our confession of faith in the resurrection of Christ is a commitment to a deeper walk with God: one characterized by worship, prayer, and an intentional living out of Jesus' kingdom principles. This Good News is something we have no choice but to respond to.

Easter Sunday, March 31

You are invited to bring flowers from your yard for the outside cross.

7:30 a.m.

Sunrise Service

Exodus 15:1-11; Psalm 188:15-29;
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-18

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

Menu: Sausage Casserole, Gravy,
Biscuits, Fruit, and Drinks

9:15 a.m. Kids Choir
(singing during worship!)

9:35 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

This year we will have an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School. Get ready for our children and youth to hide and seek!

Needed: Volunteers, Candy, Prizes.

10:30 a.m. Easter Service

Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 16:1-11;
1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Mark 16:1-8
Sermon: *Why the Resurrection Story*

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

Nursing Home Residents – Brenda Mahaley, Ruth Monroe, Jean Ray & Jay Rusher (Autumn Care); Arnold Cauble (The Meadows)

Homebound/Shut-ins Members – Sarah Bame, Glenn Eagle, Rachel Earnhardt, Joan Kerns, Teresa Kesler, James Kluttz, Glenn Lowder, Frances Norris, William Page, Rev. TC & Mary Plexico, Macky Swicegood, Effie Vellines, Billy Waller & Michael Walton

Sick/Surgery/Recovery –Brenda Cauble, Lucinda Fraley, Glenn Honeycutt, Jr., Steve Hutchens, Jean Kluttz, John Knight, Wade Leazer, Sharon Moore, Kay Morgan, Marvin Nunn, Janet Overcash, Doris Page, Patsy Sigmon, Wayne and Pam Vellines & Rev. Bob Young (son of the congregation)

Continual Prayer –Jim Baker (Genevieve Baker’s uncle), Shonna Lanning Black (Jack and Deena Lanning’s daughter), Bill Broadway, Sharon Peeler Bullock (Sylvia Peeler’s daughter), Billy Hutchens (Steve Hutchens’ brother), Pat Kluttz, Dr. Sean Malone (Pam Vellines’ doctor), Fay Miller (friend of Pat Kluttz); Della Morgan (Pam Vellines’ mother), Ben Smith (Cathy Painter’s brother-in-law), Glen Wall (Frank & Dawn Merrell’s friend), Pat Wiles (Genevieve Baker’s friend), Union Fire Department #76, Global Missions (Congo, Slovakia, and Haiti) & those affected by natural or political disasters

Confirmands: Caylea Cline, Mallory Eagle, Landon Kesler, Moses Miller, and Noah Trexler

