

St. Luke Lutheran Church
1400 Market St., Williamsport, PA 17701

March 28, 2024
Maundy Thursday
7:00pm

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*This evening 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. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.*  
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GATHERING

PRELUDE *Ubi Caritas, Plainchant*, Charles Callahan, arr.

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P 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.

P Most merciful God,

C 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.**

P 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.

C Amen.

GREETING

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

C 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

Sit

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

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.

¹The 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. [⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.] 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.

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

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. (Ps. 116:13)

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,
²**for the LORD has given ¹ear to me**
whenever ¹er I called.

¹²How shall I re- ¹pay the LORD
for all the good things God has ¹done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup ¹of salvation**
and call on the name ¹of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows ¹to the LORD

in the presence of ¹ all God's people.
¹⁵**Precious in your ¹ sight, O LORD,
is the death ¹ of your servants.**
¹⁶O LORD, truly I ¹ am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed
me ¹ from my bonds.
¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice ¹ of thanksgiving
and call upon the name ¹ of the LORD.**
¹⁸I will fulfill my vows ¹ to the LORD
in the presence of ¹ all God's people,
¹⁹**in the courts of ¹ the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, ¹ 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.

²³For 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.

Stand

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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.

P The holy gospel according to John the 13th chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to

God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

Sit
SERMON

Stand
HYMN OF THE DAY WOV 765 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In these holiest of days, we offer prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A ... Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

P Peace be with you R Peace be with you.

Sit

ANTHEM *Jesus, Remember Me*

MEAL

Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Extravagant God,

C you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

Now we gather at your feast

where you offer us the food that satisfies.

Take and use what we offer here, come among us,

and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding)*
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P 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!

C Blessed be God forever!

P 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... (The pastor proclaims the Words of Institution, concluding)...Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Blessed be God forever!

C Blessed be God forever!

P 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!

C Blessed be God forever!

P Amen, and amen.

C Amen, and amen.

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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen**

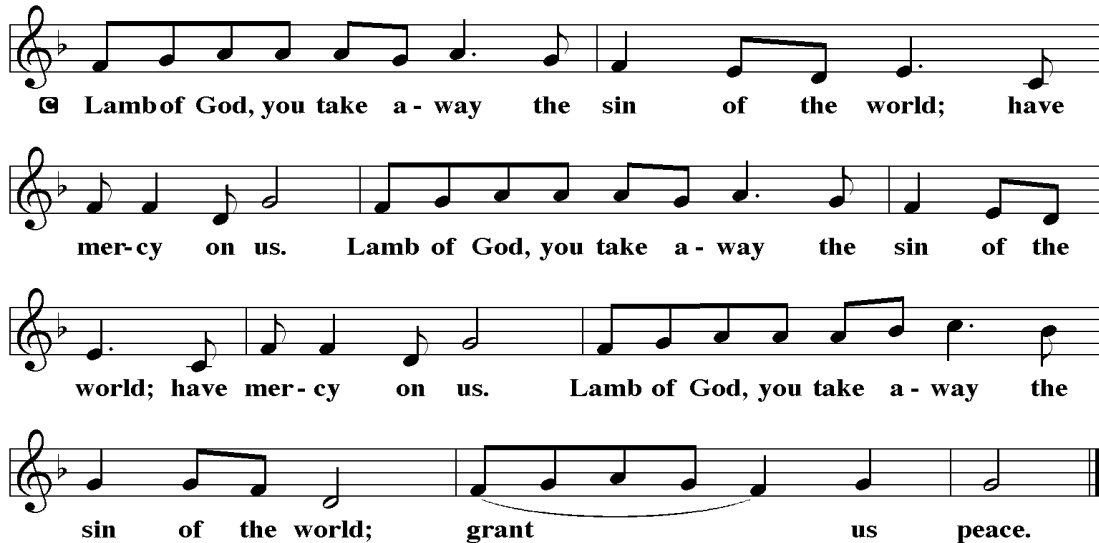
Sit

COMMUNION

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The communicant may say: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD (*Administrants commune*)



☐ 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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION (*Congregation communes*)

Jesus, Remember Me

Stand


BLESSING

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

C Amen

SENDING

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

Silence for reflection

**Silent prayer during the reading of Psalm 22
as the chancel area is stripped for Good Friday.
Depart in peace and silence.**

SERVING

March 28th *Maundy Thursday 7pm*

Lector - Jay Nau

Communion Helper - Marilyn Eshleman

Reading Psalm 22 - Nancy McCarty

March 29th *Good Friday 7pm*

Lector - Sandy Strother

Assisting - Minister Deb Smith

Readers - Wilma Reeder, Sue Duchman, Dave Byerly, Mary Lou Byerly,

Brad Nason, Melanie Taormina, Sue Beidler

March 31st *Easter Sunday*

Lector - Dan Lamade

Assisting Minister - Deb Smith

Communion Assistant - Susan Horn & Becky Lewis and Strother Family

OFFERING COUNTERS

31st **Easter Sunday/*Office Closed Monday – Tuesday, April 2nd - Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast*



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AT ST. LUKE

The church office is closed for Good Friday, March 29th

Friday, March 29: Good Friday Service 7:00PM

Sunday, March 31: The Resurrection of Our Lord 8:00AM & 10:30AM
(9:15 AM Easter Breakfast in Bell Hall)

The Church Office will be closed on Friday, March 29th and Monday, April 1st for all staff. If you require emergency pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor LeCrone at 570-220-3631.

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor
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Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager
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Chris Knaur, Sexton
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Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager
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REMINDERS: Office hours – M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-1
Bulletin 9:00AM – WEDNESDAY 9:00AM
Spectrum deadline – **15th of each month**
Council Pack 9:00AM due – Friday 9:00AM before Mtg.
Office E-mail – info@stlukeweb.com
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