

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

APRIL 2, 2026

7:00 PM



Lutheran Church of the Cross
Bismarck, ND

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Maundy Thursday First Communion Service
April 2, 2026 —7:00pm

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.

PRELUDE "Here I Am to Worship", "They Will Know We Are Christians"

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS OF PEACE

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE DAY

OUR CONFESSION, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: "Change My Heart O God

FIRST READING: EXODUS 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

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.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

²**Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

¹²What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.**

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

¹⁹**in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

Praise the LORD!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Thy Word”

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

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.”

SERMON Pastor Lisa Ahlness

SONG OF THE DAY: “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING: “Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

OFFERING PRAYER



PREPARATION FOR THE MEAL

INVITATION TO OUR LORD'S SUPPER

All are welcome

FIRST COMMUNION RECOGNITION

COMMUNION SONGS: "We Come to the Hungry Feast", "I Am the Bread of Life", "Let Us Break Bread Together"

COMMUNION BLESSING/POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"

DISMISSAL



First Communion Participants

Brek Blanchard, Parents, Baron & Kyle Blanchard

Kaija Rozier, Parents, Erin Bolinger & Steve Rozier

Emerick Sargent, Parents, Ben & Savanna Sargent



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“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”