



MAUNDY  
*Thursday*



## Maundy Thursday Service Epiphany Lutheran Church

✠ IN NOMINE JESU ✠

With nightfall 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. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

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*Please enter the sanctuary in silence. You are invited to turn your heart to the Lord for a time of silent prayer and meditation.*

**EXHORTATION** *(read by Pastor)*

### **CORPORATE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C: Amen**

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**

### **PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19** *(Assistant and Congregation)*

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

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

<sup>12</sup>What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

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

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

<sup>15</sup>**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.**

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

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

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

<sup>19</sup>**in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the LORD!**

P: Let us make confession to God.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father:**

**I a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment.**

**But I am sorry for them and repent of them and pray for your boundless mercy.**

**For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me a poor sinful being, forgive my sins, and give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting . Amen**

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. 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.

**C: Amen**

### **FIRST LESSON** Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell 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. If 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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.

They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This 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.

For 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. The 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. This 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.

### **SECOND LESSON** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

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, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**HYMN 109** "Go to Dark Gethsemane" *Green Hymnal*

**Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power.  
Your Redeemer's conflict see watch with him one bitter hour.  
Turn not from his griefs away, learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**

**Follow to the judgement hall, view the Lord of life arraigned.  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering shame, or loss, learn from him to bear the cross.**

**Calvary's mournful mountain climb, there adoring at his feet.  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry, learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

**Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay.  
All is solitude and gloom, who has taken him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes Savior teach us so to rise.**

P: The Gospel for this Maundy Thursday is taken from the Gospel of John the 13th chapter, beginning with the 1st verse

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

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

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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### FOOT WASHING CEREMONY

*Anyone who wishes to participate is invited to participate.*



### NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As Jesus calls us to love one another, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief moment of silence.*

We pray for the church: Gather us together through your love. Heal the divisions holding us apart, especially at your table. Unite us in our common mission to be your servants in the world. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the earth: sustain all living creatures with seasonable weather and suitable environments. Protect fragile habitats from harm. Bless farmers, ranchers, and gardeners whose labors bring food to our tables. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the nations: lead all in authority to work for peace and justice. Bring an end to oppression. Heal nations and communities torn apart by violence and fear. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For those in need: fill tables of the hungry. Comfort those who know the pain of betrayal, and all who suffer from grief or illness... we pray especially for these members of our Epiphany Lutheran Church family... *Sarah, Don, Vera, Jim, George, Sara, Barb, Sandi, Karen, Sue* and for all of those whom we name in our hearts now... Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For this assembly: bless those who guide us in worship and those who lead us into the world to serve in your name. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

With thanksgiving we remember those who have died. Bring us to the fullness of your promise of resurrection and eternal life in you. Lord, in your mercy. **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with the "Peace of the Lord."*

## OFFERTORY

A: Let us pray, Merciful Father,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



**OFFERINGS can be mailed or dropped off at church  
6606 Maplecrest Road Fort Wayne, IN 46835 or sent through  
our website at [www.epiphanyfw.com](http://www.epiphanyfw.com).**

***Please place offering in basket on baptismal font.***

## THE 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 good to give him thanks and praise.**

P: *It is indeed right and salutary ..... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:* **C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE 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.**



*Everyone is welcome to come to the Lord's Table!  
Those baptized who believe in the true presence of Christ  
in the bread and wine are welcome to receive the elements.*

*Please come forward by pew sections,  
beginning with the left side of the sanctuary.*

**NOTE: There is grape juice in the center ring of each communion tray  
for those who so desire.**

## **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.**

**SOLO** Psalm 22 *(during the stripping of the altar)*

## **THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*Watch as items are removed from the altar,  
sit in silence and meditate on the Psalm.*

***Following the Psalm, the Pastor and worship assistants  
depart from the sanctuary...  
the congregation follows in silence.***

The altar is symbolic of the presence of Christ in our midst and is stripped of its paraments and ornaments to symbolize the indignities Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers prior to His crucifixion.

After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained of the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Events moved rapidly: the walk to the garden, the prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, the arrival of the soldiers, the betrayal by Judas, the arrest of Jesus, the mock trial, the painful beatings, the trudge to Golgotha, and finally the execution of Jesus. As His earthly life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of its signs of life — this is to symbolize Jesus' purpose, His redemptive suffering, and His death for all of us.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the earthly life of our Lord, the Light of the world. As Jesus' earthly life was extinguished giving way to darkness, so, too, do we extinguish the candles of our sanctuary and remove them to experience true darkness.

Our offerings are one way we serve God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus the Christ, into our world. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so now we remove our offerings.

Our worship books guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffered on the cross, our joyous hymn singing is silenced. Just as these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, so now we remove our service hymnals.

Jesus offered his body and shed his blood to be given to us in the form of bread and wine in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist. Just as Jesus was removed from us in the grave, so now we remove the elements and vessels of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Our altar is symbolic of a table. It is here that our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His Holy Banquet. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen: materials appropriate for feasting with our King. Even as our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so now we strip our altar of its coverings.

Symbolically, Christ was stripped of His power and glory, and handed over to His captors. Tonight we will hear no benediction, no postlude, no celebrative voices following worship...only the shuffle of our feet as we leave in silence.

## Holy week Services

Good Friday March 29th - 7:00 pm  
Reading of the 7 Last Words


Egg Hunt March 30th - 10:00 am

Easter Sunrise Service March 31st - 8:00 am

Easter Celebration Service March 31st - 10:15 am



Good  
Friday  
Service



**Tenebrae**  
*Service of Darkness*  
Friday, March 29, 2024

7:00 pm

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Pastor**  
**Assisting Minister**  
**Organist/Pianist**  
**Soloist**  
**Lector**  
**Communion Assistant**

Richard L. Hartman  
Rebecca Norberg  
Amanda Pickett  
Dia Herb  
Sue Johnson  
Cheryl Ralston