

MAUNDY THURSDAY



Artwork by Sandra Blade

APRIL 14, 2022 ~ 7:00 PM

The Triduum

Three Holy Days

Welcome to Our Guests

We welcome you in the name of Christ. You are invited to join in all parts of worship. Everything you need is printed in this worship folder except for some of the readings. If you would like to follow along with the scripture readings, Bibles are available in each pew, and page numbers for each reading are listed. Guests are encouraged to complete a blue card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate or give it to an usher, or sign our guest register in the Gathering Area.

All who desire to receive Holy Communion are welcome at the table. Feel free to remain seated if you prefer. For instructions on how to receive the bread and wine, see the Communion sections (no communion on Good Friday). Portions of worship in **bold print** are to be spoken/sung by the whole congregation. We **stand** for portions of our worship service. Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.

Amplification devices are available from ushers for the hearing impaired. A restroom is located at the north end of the Gathering Area (additional restrooms downstairs). Our **nursery** for newborns to age five is open (unstaffed) and available for your use during services for The Three Holy Days. **Masks** are optional but welcome. Please be mindful of others' comfort level with distance and touch (handshakes, etc).

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be live-streamed. Digital ministry is an essential part of our community with the Wellstream services allowing those at home to worship alongside our gathered community for a service of Holy Communion. The cameras will be primarily focused on our worship leaders and offer some wide-angle views of the sanctuary. If you have questions or concerns about appearing on camera, contact Pastor Alex or Communication Minister Christian Perritt (perritt@muhlenberglutheran.org).

The Three Days

Maundy Thursday is the beginning of the Triduum—the ancient observance of the mystery of our salvation, which plunges the faithful into the death of Jesus and brings them with him to resurrection life. **The Three Days is one liturgy, one worship service, extending from Thursday evening through the Easter Vigil.**

Conform your life to the worship rhythms of the church this week. We gather with Christians around the world to celebrate and remember. On **Maundy Thursday**, we heed Christ's commandment to love one another—we wash each other's feet and share the meal he instituted. On **Friday**, we hear the passion of Christ according to John, the narrative of Jesus as a king crucified and reigning from the cross. This service continues to the **Easter Vigil**—the night, the very night, the passover of Christ from death to life. This is the high point of the church's year, the night the church welcomes new Christians by baptism, lights the first of the resurrection candles, and celebrates the first Easter Holy Communion.

MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN CHURCH

Open ✝ Authentic ✝ Relational ✝ Serving
Pastor Lauren Eanes Pastor Alex Zuber

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Maundy Thursday

April 14 — 7:00 P.M.

On this night we begin the Great Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*mandatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. Our service this evening is an immersion into the gospel of John, with readings from the "Farewell Discourse," John 13-17. As we hear the readings, we will participate in the narrative through footwashing, confession and individual absolution, gathering at the Lord's Table, stripping the chancel's furnishings as a sign of Jesus' betrayal and abandonment, and moving to a fire outdoors to hear the conclusion of this evening's gospel readings.

Individual Absolution

Following the confession and absolution, you are invited to come forward to the altar rail and kneel as able or stand for a pronouncement of individual forgiveness by the pastor. Beginning from the center of the rail outward, worshippers should approach and leave in continuous fashion so that a flow is established.

Foot Washing

To remember our Lord's call to servanthood, after the first reading the assembly is invited to participate in foot washing.

WELCOME

(We sit and keep silence for reflection and self examination)

SONG

Stay with Me

Musical score for the song "Stay with Me". The score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and". The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "pray. Watch and pray." The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and accompaniment style.

GREETING

Dear Friends in Christ,
peace be with you on this holy night.
Why do we gather? What is this night?
It is a night of *love* —
for on this night Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment:
to love each other as he loved them.
It is a night of *communion* —
for on this night Jesus gave not only a commandment,
but also a sign: bread and wine broken and poured,
to remember him.
It is a night of *loving service* —
for on this night Jesus gave us not only a commandment,
not only a sign,
but also an example: on his knees with basin and towel,
washing feet.
It is also a night of *betrayal* —
for on this night a man Jesus loved
sold him for money,
and brought soldiers to seize and bind him
as he prayed.
This night is joyous, fierce, tender, terrible.
We begin in light, with memories and stories, friends and feasting.
We end in shadows, with a queasy fright.

We begin as the friends of Jesus did long ago: together, as one.
We end as they did: scattered in the dark.
We begin as they did: singing of love and deliverance.
We end as they did: without a single sound.
Friends, be at peace on this holy night.
Enter it with open hearts.

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.**

FIRST READING ~ John 13:1-17, 34-35 (page N.T. 111)

Silence for reflection

WASHING OF FEET

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

All who wish to participate in the foot washing are invited to come to one of the foot washing stations at the font. Hold your feet over the basin. Do not immerse your feet in the basin. A pastor will pour water over your feet and dry them.

Music meditations during the washing of feet

Ubi Caritas et amor (Taizé Community)

Choir

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV731 ("Blessed Jesus, We Are Here;" J. S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Organ

Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

SECOND READING ~ John 13:21-30 (page N.T. 112)

Silence for reflection

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 which Jesus' first disciples faced. 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.

(We sit and keep silence for reflection and self examination)

Most merciful God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

After the general confession, people may come forward and kneel at the altar rail for individual absolution. Worshippers kneel from the center of the rail outward in a continuous fashion and after receiving absolution, return to their seats by the side aisles.

Music meditations during absolution

Come, Holy Spirit (Text & Music: Iona Community)

Meditation on “Wondrous Love” (arr. W. Wold, 2020)

Wenn Wir In Höchsten Nöthen Sein (“When in the hour of utmost need” J. S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Choir
Organ

THIRD READING ~ John 14:15-31 (page N.T. 113)

Silence for reflection

(We stand)

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words:
“Peace be with you.”*

(We sit)

OFFERING

Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray (text: Medieval German *Leise*; music: J. Walter, 1524)

Choir

FOURTH READING ~ John 15:1-17 (page N.T. 113)

Silence for reflection

(We stand)

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Beloved, let us celebrate with Jesus at the table of peace.

For he loved his own, even to the end.

Let us eat the Feast with him.

For now nothing can separate us from his love.

And let us love one another well,

For he laid down his life for us all.

Praise to you, God of glory!

Your love created the universe and sustains it.

You breathed life into our dust and placed us in paradise.

You found us when we hid ourselves, ashamed of our sin.

Your love shaped a people, and you are their God to this day,
in an alliance that lasts forever.

In the fullness of time, you called us also to be your own,

through the tender ministry of Jesus.
You spoke to us with his human voice
and healed us with his human hands.
He gave us his life in bread and wine,
and suffered for his faithfulness on the cross of shame.
But you loved him faithfully, raising him from the dead.
You sent his Spirit into our hearts
and adopted us, making us heirs of his glory;
forever we belong in your household of joy.
We remember that he longed to celebrate the Passover with his friends.
He arranged for a meal, his last in this life.

We remember that he gave them a new commandment:

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

We remember that he gave them an example:

He knelt before them and washed their feet.

We remember that his betrayer was with him.

Jesus loved and served him too.

And we remember that on that night,
with danger and death in the air,
Jesus remembered with joy
the deliverance of his ancestors
from the oppression of Pharaoh.
He told the story, shared the loaf,
and drank the cup of blessing.
In love for us, he took the bread,
gave thanks to you, and broke it.
He gave it to them, saying:
“Take and eat this, all of you:
this is my body, broken for you.
Do this and remember me.”
And when the supper was over,
he took a cup filled with wine,
blessed it in your name,
and passed it to them, saying:
“This is the cup of a new covenant in my blood.
Do this and remember me.”

Holy Spirit, come make all things new.
Bless this bread and cup, and us who share them.
May they be for us life-giving food and drink.
Give us love for each other,
and make us your servants in the world
until your new age of justice comes,
and every creature beholds it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Friends, if you are hungry for a taste of what is to come, when all creatures great and small will feast together without fear in the household of God; if you yearn to feast on a love without condition and without end; if you are thirsting for forgiveness, given and received in humility and in joy, then open your hearts to this meal, a sign of grace, a gift of peace, the bread of life, the cup of joy: The gifts of God for all God's people!

(We sit)

COMMUNION

Processional Communion

All are welcome to come to the Lord's Table! After the invitation to communion, the ushers will direct each row to come forward to receive the prepackaged communion kit. If you are unable to come forward, signal an usher or raise your hand, and an assisting minister will bring the elements to you.

As the minister says, "The body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you," you may take the elements and say: "Amen." Then return to your seat and consume the elements. If you need gluten-free and/or non-alcoholic juice communion elements, they are located on a small table at the front. Take one and present it to the pastor for blessing. Please dispose of your communion packaging in the trash can by the doors on your way out.

Music meditations during the distribution

Let Us Break Bread Together (Spiritual; arr. C. Beery)

Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless (Tune: O LAMM GOTTES; arr. M. Burkhardt, 2013)

Piano Solo

Organ Solo

(We stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us rise and give thanks. Thank you Holy God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the fruits of this holy communion: oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

(We sit)

FIFTH READING ~ John 16:12-24; 17:1-5 (page N.T. 114)

Silence for reflection

SONG

Stay with Me

The musical score for 'Stay with Me' is presented in two systems. The first system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics 'Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and' underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The second system also consists of two staves. The treble staff continues the melody with lyrics 'pray. Watch and pray.' underneath. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

SIXTH READING ~ John 18:1-12 (page N.T. 116)

Silence for reflection

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

This rite marks the transition from the eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors. The lights are dimmed and Psalm 22 is chanted as the altar is stripped. Each item is removed slowly as we reflect on the passion of Christ. The sanctuary lamp remains lit as a symbol of the Holy Spirit's constant presence with us.

After the Stripping of the Altar, the pastors will lead the congregation in silence outside to a fire. If you prefer to stay in the sanctuary for meditation, you may remain seated.

SEVENTH READING ~ John 18:15-27 (page N.T. 116)

Silence for reflection

SONG

Stay with Me

The musical score for "Stay with Me" is presented in two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray." The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords that support the vocal melody.

After the song, the congregation departs in silence to return on Good Friday. The congregation continues its journey with Jesus at the Good Friday Service and at the Easter Vigil on Saturday. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are thus considered to be three acts of one worship experience.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

PRESIDING MINISTERS ~ Pastor Lauren Eanes and Pastor Alex Zuber

LAY ASSISTING MINISTER ~ Mary Elizabeth Skinner

USHERS ~ Keira Miller, Linda Alley

SOUND TECH ~ Tom Pippert

LECTORS ~ Judy Wilfong, Linda Alley, Robert Alley, Kathy Thompson, Pam Bergey, Brett Tjaden, Mary Elizabeth Skinner

MUSICIANS ~ Elizabeth Williams, Music Minister

Linlin Uta, Music Ministry Accompanist and Piano Soloist

Kathy Thompson & Mark Briehl, Cantors; Celebration Singers, Choir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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