

Advent Lutheran Church (E.L.C.A.)

1416 Vernon Road. LaGrange, GA 30240. 706-882-0130.

April 2, 2026 – Maundy Thursday

(Gathering music, church announcements, lighting of candles, and words of welcome may precede the following liturgy.)

(The congregation stands.)

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

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. The pattern is not identical to, but is reminiscent of the ancient Jewish pattern used at Passover.

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. **Amen.**

(Please kneel if you are able.)

P: Gracious God,

C: In whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

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

(Please stand.)

Gathering Song: Red Book #359 — “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

Let us pray: 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**

(Please be seated for tonight's readings.)

A reading from the Book of Exodus:

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This 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 with fire.] 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. ¹²I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and 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.

¹⁴“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.”
(12:1-4[5-10] 11-14)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Let us read from Psalm 116 responsively.

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

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

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

²³ For 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, ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. (11:23-26)

The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

(Please stand to sing the gospel acclamation.)

Gospel Acclamation:

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,

slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ 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. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?” ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷ If 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. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ 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.’ ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (13:1-17, 31b-35)

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

(Please be seated.)

THE SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Handwashing

For those choosing to do handwashing tonight, please come in pairs to the baptismal font where each will wash the other’s hands. All ages are welcome to participate!

For those choosing not to participate in either the foot - or handwashing, please join in singing at your seat until the foot washing and handwashing are complete and the worship continues.

[P] 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.

Ministers and people may wash each other's feet or hands.

While this is occurring, congregation stands and sings, followed by silence.

Hymn of the Day: Red Book #708 — “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love.”

Intercessory Prayers

[Assisting minister:] With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation [...] Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

[Presiding minister:] The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(We share greetings of God's peace, and we offer our gifts to God.)

(Please stand to sing the offertory response.)

Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL — Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

[P] It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy...

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music. The first system has the lyrics: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. God of pow - er, God of might." The second system has the lyrics: "Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The third system has the lyrics: "Blessed! Blessed is the one who comes" and the fourth system has the lyrics: "Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God." The piano part provides a steady accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands. The vocal part is written in a single line with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat).

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. God of pow - er, God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed! Blessed is the one who comes

Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

It is truly right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks and praise to you, the Prince of Peace. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your plentiful grace. We receive your countless blessings, and are nourished with your eternal love. Jesus Christ, our strength, we joyfully sing:

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy...

The musical score is written for piano and voice in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a piano accompaniment on the left (treble and bass staves) and a vocal line on the right (treble staff). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. God of pow - er, God of might.

System 2: Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

System 3: Blessed! Blessed is the one who comes.

System 4: Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

The Words of Institution

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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] Come to Christ, for all is now ready. **Amen.**

Agnes Dei: Lamb of God.



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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready at this the table of Jesus Christ. The table is prepared for those who love Him, and for those who long to love Him more.

So, come—you have much faith, and you who have little; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow, and you who have failed. Come, because Christ Himself invites you to meet Him here, in person.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

[P] May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you ✝ peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Red Book #463 — “Lord, Who the Night You Were Betrayed”

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Psalm 88 is chanted as the altar is stripped. All paraments, linens, ornaments, cross and candles are removed. Stripping the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands. When the altar is bare and the Psalm is completed, the congregation may leave the church in silence.

Psalm 88

- ¹O LORD, God of my salvation, when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
²let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry.
³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol.
⁴I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; I am like those who have no help,
⁵like those forsaken among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.
⁶You have put me in the depths of the Pit, in the regions dark and deep.
⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. Selah
⁸You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call on you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the shades rise up to praise you? Selah
¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?
¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?
¹³But I, O LORD, cry out to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you.
¹⁴O LORD, why do you cast me off? Why do you hide your face from me?
¹⁵Wretched and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me; your dread assaults destroy me.
¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long; from all sides they close in on me.
¹⁸You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me; my companions are in darkness.

Today's scripture readings are appointed by the *Revised Common Lectionary*, an ecumenical resource first published in 1992 and summarized in pages 18-53 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006. For more information about the *Revised Common Lectionary*, please visit lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/faq/

Today's communion preface is composed based upon the lectionary readings.

All other material is from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

