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**AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
MAUNDY THURSDAY**

April 2, 2026
1:00, 3:30, and 6:30 pm



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

Thank you for joining us in worship. Please complete a Connection Card so we can provide God's people here at St. Paul's with the best spiritual care. You can also fill out the card online and find other resources by scanning the QR Code on the left.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC MEDITATION

The Lamb

*Arr. S. Hansen and J. Behnke
St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir*

RINGING OF THE BELLS CALLING US TO WORSHIP

OPENING – BLUE HYMNAL 416

When You Woke that Thursday Morning

**When you woke that Thursday morning, Savior, Teacher, faithful Friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning, knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages, now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages: you assumed their dreadful sum.**

**Never so alone and lonely, longing with tormented heart
To be with your dear ones only for a quiet hour apart;
Sinless Lamb and fallen creatures, one last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher, washing your disciples' feet.**

**What was there that you could give them that would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them, what last will and testament?
"Show me and the world you love me, know me as the Lamb of God;
Do this in remembrance of me, eat this body, drink this blood."**

**One in faith, in love united, all one body, you the head,
When we meet, by you invited, you are with us, as you said.
One with you and one another in a unity sublime,
See in us your sister, brother, one in ev'ry place and time.**

**One day all the Church will capture that bright vision glorious,
And your saints will know the rapture that your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union of the greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion in your never-ending feast.**

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

M In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

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.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

All Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

M Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C Cleanse me from my sins. Release me from my guilt. Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

M The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

M Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood to eat and drink.

C **Grant us thankful hearts as we receive this gift from you.**

M Enable us to see and believe what your Word tells us: that with this bread and wine you give us your true body and blood—your very self—for the forgiveness of our sins.

C **Help us treasure this gift and use it often, trusting in the promise you made when you instituted this holy meal.**

M We pray in your name. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now

C **and forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14, Bible page 1211

Instructions for the first Passover meal, pointing forward to the greater deliverance Jesus would accomplish.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 116, Red Hymnal page 107

What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation!

GOSPEL

John 13:1-15, 34, Bible page 1056

Jesus washed his disciple's feet demonstrating his humble sacrificial love.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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 fully human. 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – RED HYMNAL 136

Twas On That Dark, That Doleful Night

**'Twas on that dark, that doleful night
When pow'rs of earth and hell arose
Against the Son, our God's delight,
And friends betrayed him to his foes.**

**Before the mournful scene began,
He took the bread and blessed and broke.
What love through all his actions ran!
What wondrous words of grace he spoke!**

**"This is my body, slain for sin;
Receive and eat the living food."
Then took the cup and blessed the wine:
"'Tis the new cov'nant in my blood."**

**"Do this," he said, "till time shall end,
In mem'ry of your dying friend;
Meet at my table and record
The love of your departed Lord."**

THE MESSAGE

1 Corinthians 11:23-28 Bible page 789

Pastor Nate Strobel

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

**Jesus, your feast we celebrate;
We show your death; we sing your name
Till you return and we shall eat
The marriage supper of the Lamb.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, on this night you gave your Church the holy supper of your Son.

C **We thank you for this precious gift—the body and blood of our Savior, given and poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins.**

M In this meal you give us yourself. You assure us that our sins are fully and completely forgiven.

C **What an amazing, personal, tangible blessing you give to us!**

M Lord Jesus, you took bread and wine—ordinary elements—and through your Word made them something extraordinary: a meal that delivers forgiveness, strengthens faith, and binds us together as your body.

C **Help us never to take this gift for granted or to treat it carelessly.**

M As we receive this sacrament, work in our hearts true repentance over our sins and firm faith in your promises.

C **Feed us with your body and blood, and strengthen us for service in your kingdom.**

M Lord, we remember tonight the new command you gave: to love one another as you have loved us.

C **Fill us with your self-giving love, that we may serve one another in humility and grace.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M On this night you also prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." You willingly drank the cup of suffering for us.

C **Thank you, Jesus, for your perfect obedience and your willing sacrifice. We praise you now and forever. 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He has made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



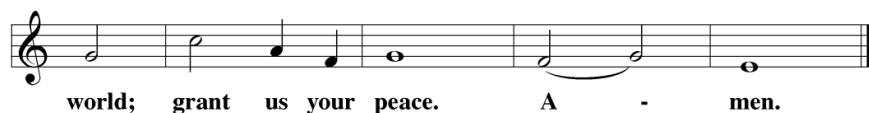
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Practice

The Lord's Supper is a fellowship meal. In this meal Jesus expresses his fellowship with us by giving us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. In this meal we also express our fellowship with each other, that is, that we are united in a common confession of faith.

We at St. Paul's want everyone to enjoy this fellowship meal. However, we cannot ask someone to express agreement with us until we give that person an opportunity to discover what we teach. That is why we schedule frequent membership classes to provide an overview of our teachings. If you are not a member of our Lutheran denomination, please speak with one of the pastors before joining us at the altar. Thank you.

Non-alcoholic wine (light-colored wine in tray) and gluten-free wafers (at Communion rail) are available.

DISTRIBUTION MEDITATION

The Power of the Cross

*By K. Getty and S. Townend, Arr. P. Bettcher
St. Paul's Adult Handbell Choir*

DISTRIBUTION – RED HYMNAL 313

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
Turned away God's wrath forever;
By his bitter grief and woe
He saved us from the evil foe.

2 As his pledge of love undying,
He, this precious food supplying,
Gives his body with the bread
And with the wine the blood he shed.

3 Jesus here himself is sharing;
Take heed how you are preparing,
For if you do not believe,
Judgment instead you shall receive.

4 Useless would be Jesus' passion
If salvation you could fashion.
Do not come if you suppose
You need not him who died and rose.

5 Christ says, "Come, all you that labor,
And receive my grace and favor;
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill."

6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the souls who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

7 Praise the Father, who from heaven
Unto us such food has given
And, to mend what we have done,
Gave into death his only Son.

8 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
Surely you will be his guest
And at his banquet ever blest.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Following communion and the closing hymn, the stripping of the altar takes place with a quiet reading of Psalm 22. This ancient ceremony visually represents Christ's humiliation and abandonment. The altar is stripped bare, reminding us that Jesus was stripped of his garments. The sanctuary is left empty and dark, reflecting the loneliness and suffering Jesus endured for our sins.

The congregation remains seated as the paraments, candles, and other items are reverently removed from the altar. No blessing or closing benediction is given. The congregation departs in silence, carrying with them the sobering reality of Christ's suffering.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SERVICES

- Good Friday, April 3, at 1:00, 3:30, and 6:30 pm
- Good Friday at The Bridge MKE, April 3, at 6:30 pm
- Easter Festival, Saturday, April 4, at 5:00 pm
- Easter Festival, Sunday, April 5, at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 am
- Easter at The Bridge, Sunday, April 5, at 9:00 and 10:30 am
- Easter at The Bridge MKE, Sunday, April 5, at 10:30 am

LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

- Good Friday at 1:00 pm
- Easter Festival at 9:30 am
- Easter at The Bridge at 10:30 am