



# ST. MICHAEL'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Our mission is to celebrate and share God's love in Jesus Christ*

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**Maundy Thursday**  
March 28, 2024 12:00 PM  
*Spoken Liturgy of Holy Communion*

## WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL'S!

If you are visiting with us for the first time, please share in all that is ours in Christ! We invite you to consider making St. Michael's your church home. Please ask us about our participation in God's mission in the world.  
By God's grace we celebrate and share Christ.

*Our worship service is streamed live to St. Michael's Facebook and YouTube pages. Please keep conversation to a minimum in the sanctuary, you may be picked up by our sound system. If you prefer not to be seen on camera please speak to an usher and they will seat you outside of the video frame. Thank you for your understanding.*

## DIGITAL SIGN IN

To help keep each other safe, you are welcome to sign in with our new digital sign in. Please use the QR Code that can be found here in the bulletin or on the tables in the Narthex. You are also welcome to still sign in on the hard copy on the table in the Narthex.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## INTRODUCTION

*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. Today 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.*

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## 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 to which we were called at baptism. We have shared this discipline of Lent with new brothers and sisters in Christ who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

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.

*The assembly is invited to kneel or sit. 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**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## **GREETING**

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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, and preaching.*

*The assembly is seated*

## **FIRST READING:**

**Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**

*Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.*

A reading from Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 (*Read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

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

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

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

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

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

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

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

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

**SECOND READING:**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

*In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.*

A readings from First Corinthians.

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, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL:**

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

*The story of the Last Supper in John's gospel presents a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere. Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for each other.*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>12</sup>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?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

<sup>31b</sup> "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.  
<sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.'  
<sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

*The assembly is seated*

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need, responding with "receive our prayer".

*A brief silence.*

God who kneels to wash our feet, gather your church around the world during this holy week. Humble the powerful and lift up any who are marginalized. Renew our faith and make us bold in service and love to our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who blesses the grain of the soil and the fruit of the vine, inspire in us a reverent care for the earth. Sustain fields, gardens, and wild places, that all people are fed and every living thing flourishes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God whose greatest commandment is love, guide all who govern by the principle of love. Transform unjust human systems that oppress some for the gain of others. Restore communities as places of justice and concern for those who are vulnerable. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who was betrayed, comfort people everywhere who have suffered abuse at the hands of someone they knew and trusted. Heal the bodies, minds, and hearts of victims of exploitation. Help all in pain to know that you are near, especially...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who sits at the table with us, grant the joy of your presence to people celebrating first communion today, and to all who share the meal. Strengthen communities of faith in grace and courage. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God who brings new life out of death, we pray with thanks for the lives of those who have joined the communion of saints. In our holy meal, connect us to the faithful who have gone before us, and nourish us as your people living today. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer. **Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offering is being gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You are invited to place your offering in one of the offering plates located in the rear of the Sanctuary or send your offering to the church office*



*through the mail or by having your bank mail a check directly. You can also contribute using any of the electronic giving options found on our church website.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.  
**Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

#### **DIALOGUE**

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.**

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**

**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**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

*All who are guided by faith to receive the Lord's Supper are welcome at Christ's table. We give thanks as we receive the real presence of our resurrected Lord in, with, and under the bread and the wine. Take an empty cup to receive from a pouring chalice (let the communion assistant know if you prefer grape juice).*

*Please let the pastor know if you require a gluten free host. When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say “The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.” and each person may respond, “Amen”.*

*Worshippers who are not yet communing are invited to come forward for a blessing.*

*After all have communed the assembly is invited to stand if able.*

## **TABLE BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in Christ’s Grace. **Amen**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. **Amen**

**PSALM 88** - *Please join in reading the Psalm responsively while the altar is stripped.*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, my God, my Savior,  
by day and night I cry to you.

<sup>2</sup>**Let my prayer enter into your presence;  
incline your ear to my lamentation.**

<sup>3</sup>For I am full of trouble;  
my life is at the brink of the grave.

<sup>4</sup>**I am counted among those who go down to the pit;  
I have become like one who has no strength;**

<sup>5</sup>lost among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,  
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand.

<sup>6</sup>**You have laid me in the depths of the pit,  
in dark places, and in the abyss.**

<sup>7</sup>Your anger weighs upon me heavily,  
and all your great waves overwhelm me.

<sup>8</sup>**You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be  
abhorred by them; I am in prison and cannot get free.**

<sup>9</sup>My sight has failed me because of trouble;  
LORD, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my hands  
to you.

**<sup>10</sup>Do you work wonders for the dead?**

**Will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?**

**<sup>11</sup>Will your lovingkindness be declared in the grave,  
your faithfulness in the land of destruction?**

**<sup>12</sup>Will your wonders be known in the dark  
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?**

**<sup>13</sup>But as for me, O LORD, I cry to you for help;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.**

**<sup>14</sup>LORD, why have you rejected me?  
Why have you hidden your face from me?**

**<sup>15</sup>Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death;  
I have borne your terrors and am helpless.**

**<sup>16</sup>Your blazing anger has swept over me;  
your terrors have destroyed me;**

**<sup>17</sup>they surround me all day long like a flood;  
they encompass me on every side.**

**<sup>18</sup>My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me,  
and darkness is my only companion.**

# Holy Week

