

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**April 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

**Maundy Thursday**

This evening 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. Tonight 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.

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**WELCOME**

**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. 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.

*All 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. 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. **Amen.**

### **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, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING:**

*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, Chapter 12.

<sup>1</sup> 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> I 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. <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**

<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:**

*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 reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, Chapter 11.

<sup>23</sup> 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:

*The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls 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 one other.*

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> 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 decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. 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 supper, 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 reclined again, 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, slaves 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.**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

Love One Another

H.H.Hopson

### *Refrain*

Love one another, love as I have loved you.

This is a new commandment I give you: to love,  
love one another with all your heart,  
by this I will know you are mine.

Hear; oh, hear me: see the hungry, then share your food.

Hear; oh, hear me: see the homeless, then build a house.

You are my hands. You are my feet and my voice.

For when you help all those in need you do it for them and for me. *Refrain.*

Hear; oh, hear me: see the suffering, then share a word.

Hear; oh, hear me: see the captives, then set them free.

You are my hands. You are my feet and my voice.

For when you help all those in need you do it for them and for me. *Refrain.*

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    **Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**    **ELW 708**

## **FOOTWASHING/HANDWASHING**

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. Following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death, you are invited to receive hand or foot washing at this time.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Heal the wounds of your church, O God. As we remember your commandment to love one another, guide us toward reconciliation within the

body of Christ. Bless all who gather around the world and in this community for these holy three days. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Renew the life of your creation. Restore lands suffering from chronic drought or flood, and protect fragile habitats from destruction. Encourage all who strive to build more sustainable systems for life and thriving. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Bring peace and justice among your people. Where there is oppression or fear, bring liberation and hope. Instill wisdom and humility in local and national leaders, and guide them to serve their communities in the way of Jesus. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Console all who suffer. We pray especially for all who are lonely and yearning for community. Assure them of your loving presence. Come alongside all who cry out to you in any need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In the bread and cup we share, you show us the way of love poured out for the whole world. Nourish all who hunger in body or in spirit, that they experience the life abundant that flows from you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember the saints who rest in you. We give thanks for all our beloved dead. Confident of your steadfast love, we commend them to your eternal care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

**We Are an Offering**

**ELW 692**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

*For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.*

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER (Luke's version)**

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us as we pray:*

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

## **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.**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR with Psalm 22**

### **DISMISSAL**

*You are invited to remain to contemplate this night and leave quietly when you are ready.*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Thursday, April 17, 2025**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion

**Minister of Music:** Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assisting Minister: Arlene Creswell

Lector: Joyce Chmura

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerry Beaudoin, Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

#### **Friday, April 18, 2025 Good Friday**

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service

#### **Saturday, April 19, 2025**

12:00 p.m. Meals for Neighbors Easter Meal at 27 Judd St.

#### **Sunday, April 20, 2025 Easter Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time

11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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Deacon Gwynne Hopko, Minister of Music