

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**April 2, 2026, 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.**

*Exodus 12: 1-14*

## HOMILY

### HYMN

### Now Behold the Lamb

ELW 341

### 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.**

**GOSPEL:**

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.**

## 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.

(when all have returned to their seats)

**HYMN**

**Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

**ELW 708**

*Refrain*




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
 this is the way we will live with you.

*Refrain*

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*A brief silence.*

Great Redeemer, on this holy night, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet and showed us a new commandment to love one another. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and shape us into a people who serve with humility. Open our eyes to care for the earth and all you have made, and guide the leaders of this world in the ways of justice and peace. Draw near to all who suffer—those who are lonely, captive, grieving, or in pain—and gather us all at your table of grace, united in your love. Strengthen us by your Spirit to live as you have called us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**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 COLLECTION** - *Grateful for all God has given us, let us offer a portion back to God at this time.*

**Offerings towards our Ministries are also welcomed by scanning this code with your phone camera.**



**OFFERTORY** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow **ELW 885**

## OFFERING PRAYER

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

O God, maker of heaven and earth, **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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, 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."

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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*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.**

## **IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**

(After the supper had ended) Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane with his disciples to pray. As Jesus moves from the intimacy of the Last Supper to abandonment and suffering, let us enter into a space of reflection as the altar is stripped - symbolic of the losses Jesus will endure in his passionate mission to save the world.

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**Now Jesus Went Into the Garden**

**sung by Abigail Griffin**

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Thursday, April, 2026**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Chris Dion

**Music Director:** Helen Glatthaar

Assisting Minister: Valerie Holcomb

Lector: Jill Little

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Tina Beaudoin, Gerry Beaudoin

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

Communion Assistant: Cheryl Davis

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Thursday, April 2, 2026 Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

### **Friday, April 3, 2026 Good Friday**

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

### **Saturday, April 4, 2026**

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class

### **Sunday, April 5, 2026 Easter**

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Time & Easter Egg Hunt

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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