

Maundy Thursday



April 2, 2026

*Faith Lutheran Church
Jacksonville, Illinois*

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE: "Let Us Break Bread Together," arr. Cindy Berry

INVOCATION AND INVITATION

P: We begin in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: 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.

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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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 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.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

SONG: “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us” ELW 358

- 1 **Great God, your love has called us here as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.**
- 2 **We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined yet seeking hope for humankind.**
- 3 **Great God, in Christ you call our name and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim, but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat and find you kneeling at our feet.**
- 4 **Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and call us
friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed, and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.**
- 5 **Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do while love is making all things new.**

WORD

John 19:23-30

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: "Jesus' Call to Community"

SONG: "My Song Is Love Unknown" ELW 343

- 1 **My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**
- 2 **He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!**
- 3 **Sometimes we strew his way and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.**
- 4 **We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes that he his foes from thence might free.**
- 5 **In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home but mine the tomb wherein he lay.**

6 Here might I stay and sing—no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please respond to the words, "Lord in your mercy,"
 with "hear our prayer."

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

Refrain

As of - ten as you eat this bread and
 drink this cup You pro - claim the Lord's death un - til he comes.

P: On the night of his betrayal, ... This do so you remember me.” *Refrain*
 After supper, ... This do so you remember me.” *Refrain*

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

DURING DISTRIBUTION

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken” (ACS 966)

- 1 **Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore.**
*Refrain: By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*
- 2 **Loaves were broken, words were spoken in a quiet room one night.
In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.** *Refrain*
- 3 **Loaves are broken, words are spoken, as in faith we gather here.
Jesus speaks across the ages: "I am with you; do not fear!"** *Refrain*
- 4 **By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care.**
Refrain

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338

- 1 **Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**
- 2 **Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**

**3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray...

C: Amen.

STRIPPING THE ALTAR

Stripping the altar is a symbolic act of the humiliation Jesus endured at his crucifixion. The altar is always a beautiful focal point of our worship, adorned with paraments and candles, but now is strikingly bare. Our worship is both an act of mourning Jesus' suffering and death... as well as an act of hope and confidence that the deep, deep love of Jesus expressed on a cross also reveals the glory of God.

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” sung by Marilyn Dichsen

Omitting the benedictions at the end of the liturgies of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday indicates their continuity with each other and with the Easter celebration to come. The congregation is invited to leave in silence.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Musician: Susan Roegge
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert
Altar Assistants: Kay Schnitker & Karen Sibert
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth
Greeters: Kay & Sharon Woodworth

CONTINUING WORSHIP

Good Friday

12:00 noon Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches Community Service
Centenary United Methodist Church
331 E. State St.

Join us at Faith at 7:00 pm as we reflect on Jesus,
the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.



Easter Sunday

8:00 am Easter Breakfast
9:30am Festival Resurrection Worship Service
10:30am Easter Breakfast

