

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

*Growing in faith. Growing in community.
Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*



MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 17, 2025

7:00 PM Service of
Holy Communion



In a room full to the brim with emotion, Jesus offers a tender, loving, and humble goodbye, stooping low to wash and caress his disciples' feet. Like the water splashing within the washbasin, his actions ripple out: "Go and do likewise. Just as I have loved you, love one another." We can't fully give without receiving also; love is designed to be shared.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

We believe all people are created in God's image. Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. If you need any other help with worship, please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have become known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34). The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day.

On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life.

PRELUDE

"Prelude in Dorian"

Edith Borroff

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We bring our body and all that we are to worship God.
Prepare your heart and mind for worship
by breathing deeply and intentionally.

A call to worship is a call to presence.

**We long to be fully present here,
and to feel God's presence here.**

Notice the space around us,
the way it looks, smells, and sounds.

**With all our senses, we recognize
a sacred space and our belonging in it.**

We gather as good creation, wonderfully made.

**We join our bodies into one body as we remember
the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now

ACS 930

1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
 2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
 3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
 vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
 ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
 is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
 praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.
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GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment in our hearts, give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

SCRIPTURE READING John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The service of Christ: footwashing and meal

A reading from the gospel according to John:

¹ 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. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For Jesus knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹² 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?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to

you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

^{31b}“Now the Son-of-Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in God’s own self and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Judeans so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

With simple elements and simple acts, Jesus flipped the scripts of power to bring about new possibilities for God’s love in the world. Before his betrayal and death, Jesus touched his followers and sealed their connection. Jesus taught us to wash one another’s feet so that we might witness each other’s goodness and be made clean.

Through the waters of baptism, God claims us as God’s own and marks the calling for our lives onto our bodies. Through repentance, we name that which we have left undone and ask for the help of God and our community to seek repair, restoration, and renewal.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Let us pray together our prayer of confession:

**Loving God, you pour out grace upon us exactly as we are,
but we confess we are suspicious and react from fear of scarcity.
You invite us to take our shoes off
and receive the care our bodies need,
but we sit on our heels.**

**We sort bodies into worthy and unworthy ones
to mask our insecurities.**

**We reject and punish fat bodies,
disabled bodies,
transgender bodies,
and racialized bodies –**

even when these bodies are our very own.

God, remind us that we are made in your image.

**Help us learn to receive from your abundance
so we can share all that we have with others.**

**Let us see that the cups we longingly hold out
are already full.**

May they overflow so that all will have enough!

As he does with Peter in the footwashing, Jesus transforms our confusion and rejection into joy and connection. With God's help and mercy, we can reciprocate abundance with one another and with Creation. In Jesus Christ we are loved and befriended by God. 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.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

At this time, we invite you to receive individual absolution in the chancel and/or to wash your hands in the font. Those worshipping at home can make the sign of the cross on their forehead with water.



HYMNS DURING THE RITUAL

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

ELW 358 (harmony)



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

A New Commandment

WOV 664

Repeat as necessary



A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as



I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.



By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if



you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know



you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

Text: John 13:34-35

Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

GATHERING OF GIFTS

Through the sacraments, God meets us in physical space, offering God's self to us again and again. In a spirit of grateful response, we offer what we have to meet the needs of our neighbors, to serve Creation, and to glorify God. Let us give our tithes and offerings.

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so records are maintained.*

ANTHEM

“As You Serve, Remember Me”
Sanctuary Choir

Joel Raney

Please stand and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TFF 84; Vss. 1-2



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear God's char - i - ty we learn;



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The passover of the LORD

A reading from the book of Exodus:

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.

³Tell 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. ⁴If 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. ¹¹This 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.

¹²For 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 deities of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴This 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God who took on flesh and lived among us, we greet you as a Creator who made us good in our bodies; we greet you as a Redeemer who was perfectly divine and totally human; we greet you as a Sustainer, an advocate, a helper who surrounds us in all our ways and all our days. We come in our bodies of all sizes, races, genders, abilities, sexualities, ages, and appearances, so that we might join with your body as we encounter you in bread and wine. Through this joyful feast, you fill our spirits to overflowing.

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."

We do not come to the Table with perfect understanding. Some of us come with child-like faith; some of us wrestle with questions and doubts; some of us bear

wounds that make us suspicious of this act. With your grace we trust the sacred possibilities that become tangible when we eat the bread and drink from the cup. We have hope that in doing this, we might gain a glimpse of all that you offer to us.

As you nourish us through this holy meal, leave us hungry for your Kin-dom. Leave us thirsty for the justice that you pour out on the world. Lead us to encounter the bodies around us. Help us to see you in the faces of strangers and friends, taste you in the sourness of grapes, hear you in the creaks of the sanctuary and the whisper of the breeze. Through the meal of your body and blood, teach us how to be for others as you are for us: sustaining help, loving accompaniment, eternal hope.

We give thanks for the familiarity of rituals and ask that we would continuously notice the possibilities you offer in them. Be with us as we pray the familiar prayer that Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

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 THE TABLE

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

The Table of the joyful feast is not our Table but God's.

Nothing you do, nothing you say, nothing about you
can prevent you from partaking,

**for in communion God reveals the wholeness
of who we are together and with God.**

So as you receive this joyful feast, come exactly as you are.

There is more than enough. Come, for all is ready.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who are not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

ACS 963

Found on p. 13

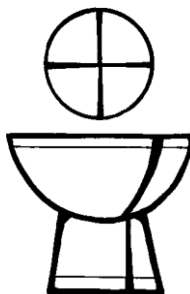
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940
Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524
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O Lord, We Praise You

ELW 499 (harmony)

Found on p. 14

Text: German hymn, 15th cent., st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–3; tr. composite
Music: GOTT SEI GELOBET UND GEBENEDEIET, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524





1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,
2 Christ says, "Come, that you may ev - er
3 This be - lieve with faith un - shak - en:
4 Christ says, "Come to me, you wea - ry;
5 Nour - ished, go to thank - ful la - bor,



took our sin a - way for - ev - er,
here re - mem - ber God's great fa - vor.
Je - sus' meal is to be ta - ken
all your bur - dens I will car - ry.
bear - ing fruit in love for neigh - bor.



bear - ing bit - ter grief and pain,
Take this bread, my bod - y; dine.
by all those with hearts dis - tressed,
There is noth - ing you can do
Those you serve can taste from you



free - dom from death for us to gain.
My blood I give for you in wine."
by all who yearn for peace and rest.
to earn this mer - cy; take it new."
what won - ders God in love will do.





1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you, in thanks -
 2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en, life to
 3 Lord God, be - stow on us your grace and fa - vor, that we



giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
 win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that
 love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of
 geth - er here in love and u - nion, nor re - pent this



they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest com - mu - nion. O Lord, have mer - cy!



May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our
 Lord, your kind - ness so much did move you that your
 Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; by this



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead
 blood now moves us to love you. All our debt you have paid;
 ho - ly ban - quet re - make us. Give your church, Lord, to see



in all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

After all have communed and returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

Let us pray. Holy Mystery, through communion we unite our bodies with your body, and in unity we gain strength and hope. We give thanks for your transforming love. Like the sacraments, we know that love is a *doing*, and so we ask for your help to turn this nourishment into love for all we meet. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 22:39-46

Jesus prays in Gethsemane

A reading from the gospel of Luke:

³⁹ [Jesus] came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." ⁴¹ Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." ⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to Jesus and gave him strength. ⁴⁴ In his anguish Jesus prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. ⁴⁵ When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God among us, when we cry out for justice, you hear us. When we fall to our knees, you witness us. When we lean into your comfort, you hold us. When we lose our way, you guide us. Hear our prayers. Stay with us here as we seek your way toward hope and wholeness.

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and

pray. Watch and pray.

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.

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.

Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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. 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, especially Phyllis, those on our prayer list and those we name before you now... (*brief silence*).



Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

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 abundant life that flows from you.

We remember the saints who rest in you. We give thanks for all our beloved dead, especially Dominic and Marie. Confident of your steadfast love, we commend them to your eternal care.



Stay with me, re-main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: STAY WITH ME, Jacques Berthier

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The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

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.

Be seated.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

As the anthem is sung, the linens, paraments, ornaments, and candles are removed.

The transition is made from the eucharistic celebration to Jesus' crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory is now in the hands of his captors.

ANTHEM

*“Shadow Garden”
Sanctuary Choir*

Joseph M. Martin

*There is no benediction and no postlude.
All leave the church in silence.*

**Worship continues on Good Friday, April 18 at 7PM
with "The Way of the Cross" based on the
Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
The service will conclude with the Bidding Prayer
and Adoration of the Holy Cross**

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Fill to the Brim: An Expansive Lent worship resources written by The Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

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**JOIN US IN WORSHIP ON
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
AS WE CELEBRATE
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
WITH A 10AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Followed by an Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall.**

WATER MARKS

By Rev. Sarah R. Speed

Jesus probably kneeled down.
He probably took Peter's heel
in his hands
to wash his feet.
And I wonder if they both thought of Jacob —
the heel-grabber,
the trickster who wrestled
with God.
I wonder if it felt like a do-over,
a fresh start for creation.
I wonder if the basin overflowed
when Jesus poured the water out.
I wonder if it splashed,
leaving water marks on the floor —
proof that love was really there.
I wonder if I would have let Jesus do the same.
Would I have been like Peter and said,
"Not just my feet but my head and my hands"?
I suppose I can look at my life today
and answer the question.
Have I allowed myself to be loved?
Are there water marks on the floor?





St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



The Reverend Cris Frigm

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Greg Johnson, *Vice President*

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Winnie Hull, Ian Kenyon, Susie Olson

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Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

the church office at office@stpaulsnewarkde.org

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

