



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 2, 2026

**7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion
with Corporate Confession**



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. 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.

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, you are welcome to use the Prayground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Prayground 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 ✧

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.

*Worshippers enter in silence and stand,
as they are able, as the ministers enter.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

In remembrance, we gather:
**to be with the One who teaches us
the meaning of faithfulness.**

In remembrance, we worship:
**lifting our voices to the One who calls us
to love one another.**

In remembrance, we feast:
**breaking the Bread which makes us whole,
drinking the Cup which fills us with grace.**

HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TFF 84



- 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;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un-known; let all con - ten - tions cease.



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.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.

Be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

HYMN

Where Charity and Love Prevail

TFF 84

5 For love excludes no race or clan
that names the Savior's name;
his family embraces all
whose Father is the same.

6 We now forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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INSTRUCTION

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our 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 committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

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.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, we forgive one another.
The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people exchange with one another,
by words and gesture, signs of peace and reconciliation,
saying: **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a sacrament of remembrance. May your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

The Passover of the LORD

A reading from Exodus:

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the

houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹ Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ “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.



RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 116:10-17

Antiphon: Ps. 116:11

Let us read the psalm responsively:

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁰I believed, even when I said,

“I am greatly afflicted.”

¹¹In my distress I said,

“No one can be trusted.”

¹²How shall I repay the Lord

for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³I will lift the cup of salvation

and call on the name of the Lord.

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the Lord

in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵Precious in your sight, O Lord,

is the death of your servants.

¹⁶O Lord, truly I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;

you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

SECOND READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant

A reading from Jeremiah:

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

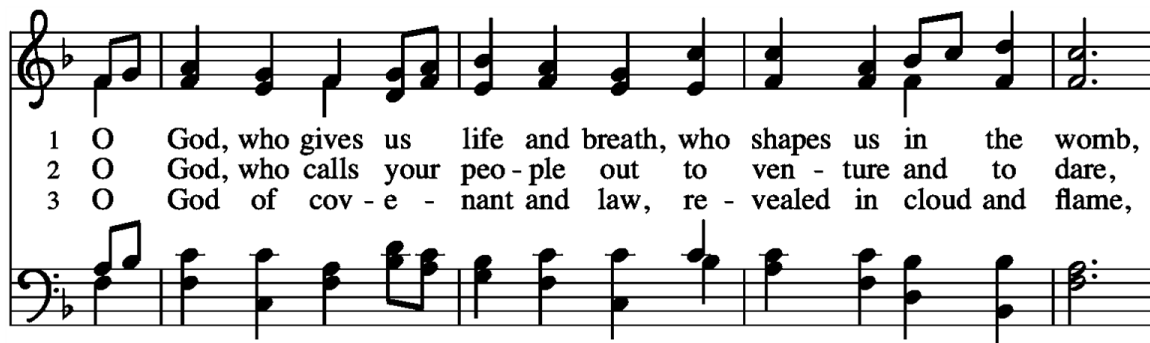
Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

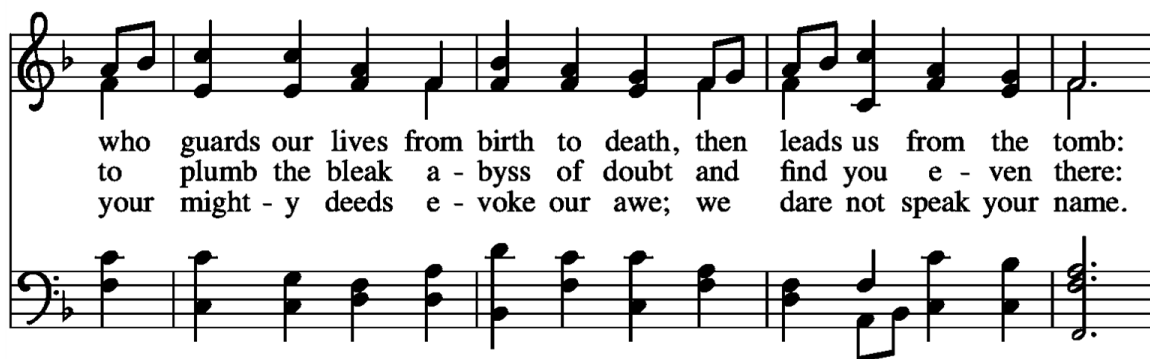
HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, Who Gives Us Life

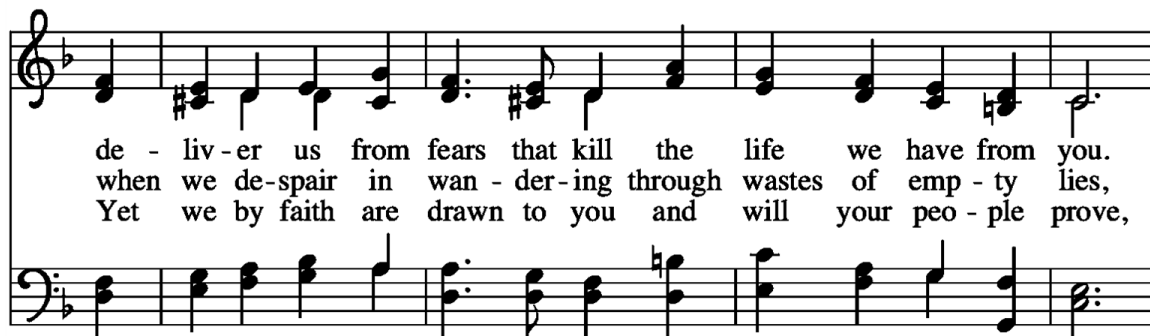
ACS 1086



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,

Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900

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HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:7-20

The institution of the Lord's Supper

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹ They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰ "Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³ So they went and found everything as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁴ When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶ for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸ for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ Then he took a loaf of

bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Remain standing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this night of the new covenant, we bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, who never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation, cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Be seated.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.

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. There are also QR Codes at the end of this worship folder for attendance, prayer requests, and online giving.

ANTHEM

"Celtic Communion"

arr. Mark Hayes

Sanctuary Choir

Cheryl Johnson, flute

Please stand, as you are able, as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

One in the Bread

BOL 10

Refrain

One in the bread, one in the cup, one in the

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'One in the bread, one in the cup, one in the' are written below the staff, with some words underlined. The music is a simple, rhythmic melody.

Text and music © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

The song continues on p. 12

bod-y of Christ, and one in love for God is love, and if we live in
love, we live in God, and God in us.

Text: Jeremy Young
Music: DAHLGREN, Jeremy Young

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray. God of the covenant,
as we celebrate the beginning of the paschal feast, we come to the table of the Lord in whom we have salvation, life, and resurrection. Renew the power of this mystery in our service to one another and to you, so that with Christ we may pass from this life to the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ,
 whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.
 You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
 transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy/Sanctus

ELW 190



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, O living God,

sovereign of time and space.

You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.

Your word leads us across the sea to freedom,

and you have carried us together to these holy Three Days.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God,

for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ.

He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin.

He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation.

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.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed are you, O living God,

for the gift of your loving Spirit.

Fill this meal with the life of your Son.

Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need.

Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.

Blessed be God forever!

Blessed be God forever!

Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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 THE TABLE

Where charity and love abide, there is God.
We rejoice in this holy communion.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Lamb/Agnus Dei
ELW 199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
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Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

Christ's body and blood nourishes faith, forgives sin, and forms us as living witnesses to God's promise of unity, justice, and peace.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing and those who choose not to commune 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.

Our communion bread is gluten-free. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471 (harmony)



- 1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
- 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
- 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

The Crumbs Left on the Table

LA 66



1 The crumbs left on the ta - ble, a top - pled cup of wine,
2 The gar - den needs its tend - ing, the sheep and cat - tle led.
3 Will Love seek out such an - guish to speak a word of peace



the emp - ty street and sta - ble, a tram - pled, bro - ken vine.
The tat - tered nets their mend - ing, the chil - dren clothed and fed.
and res - cue hopes that lan - guish in Love's pre - sumed de - feats?



The friends have all de - part - ed; a sud - den grief con - sumes.
Re - lent - less and un - bid - den, each dai - ly task sub - sumes
Can Love con - sole, a - bid - ing with - in a dwell - ing place



No end to what has start - ed; be - reft, each day re - sumes.
while grief re - mains well hid - den with - in its bolt - ed rooms.
where sor - rows still re - sid - ing con - ceal Love's qui - et grace?

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm

Music: MITT HJERTE ALLTID VANKER, Norweigan variant of Swedish folk tune from Västergötland, 1816

Text © 2013 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

After all have returned to their places, please remain seated.

BLESSING

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

Amen.



✠ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

GOSPEL READING

Luke 22:47-54

The betrayal and arrest of Jesus

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" ⁴⁹ When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰ Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel? ⁵³ When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!"

⁵⁴ Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

ANTHEM

"The Garden"
Sanctuary Choir

Larry Shackley

As the choir sings, 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.

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

The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love
for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.

Exodus 34:6-7

*My Father, if it is possible,
let this cup pass from me,
yet not what I want
but what you want.*

Matthew 26:39b



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The Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection continue with our service tomorrow evening at 7PM on GOOD FRIDAY.

The theme of this service will revolve around the folk tune, *What Wondrous Love*, which echoes John's telling of Jesus' passion. Hymns and anthems will be accompanied by chamber orchestra and the handbell ensemble will offer musical meditations.



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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Susie Olson (*President*), Anne Sullivan (*Vice President*), Phillip Gerecke (*Secretary*), Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Laura Blenderman, Heidi Burch, Kristine Cassar, Mark Deschere, Ian Kenyon.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast - articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared the following week.



Worship Attendance



Prayer Requests



Electronic Giving

