



A MEDITATION ON MAUNDY THURSDAY

“THE UPPER ROOM”



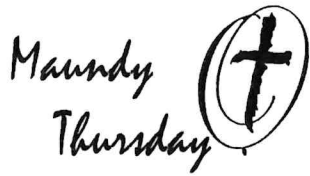
MAUNDY THURSDAY was the day before Christ was killed for the forgiveness of sins. The word “Maundy” comes from the Latin word “Mando” which means “command” or “mandate.” Jesus gave three special mandates on the first Maundy Thursday. The first one was: “love one another as I have loved you.” The second one was: “Take and eat this is My body...” The third one was: “Take and drink this is My blood...”

Jesus and His disciples gathered on the first Maundy Thursday to celebrate the Passover. This was the festival that commemorated God’s **deliverance** for the Israelites when they were in **bondage** to the Egyptians. At this festival the Israelites sacrificed a **lamb**, ate the **body** and spread the **blood** over the door posts so the angel of the Lord would “pass over” them on the night when he killed the **first-born son** of each household. As long as the people were under the blood, the angel would not touch them. God commanded Moses and the Israelites to celebrate this and the first (Old) covenant (testament) regularly.

On this first Maundy Thursday Jesus established the New (final) Testament (covenant) with His people. This New Testament would be God’s **deliverance** from the **bondage of sin**. The sacrifice would be Jesus ~ **the Lamb of God**. The disciples were to eat and drink His **body** and **blood**. Those who then remain under this **blood** would be free from everlasting death.

This day we gather as Jesus and His disciples did in the Upper Room to remember the New Testament our Savior established through the sacrifice of His own body and blood. This He freely gave for the full remission of all our sins.

May the Spirit of our living God be with you as we worship and adore the Christ - our Savior Jesus - on this Holy Maundy Thursday.



Divine Service for Maundy Thursday

April 2nd, 2026

10:30 am - 6:30 pm

*We request that silence be observed
in preparation for the start of today's worship.*

(6:30 pm) *Prelude* - "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE" [Sacred Ringers Adult Bell Ensemble]

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen**

First Reading - The Upper Room / Passover with the Disciples (Mark 14:12-17)

Opening Hymn

"Glory Be to Jesus" [LSB #433...vs. 1-3 and 5]

1. Glory be to Jesus Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From His sacred veins.
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind.
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem.
5. Lift we then our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood

Prayer

P: Blessed Heavenly Father, be with us this hour as we remember the first Maundy Thursday. Fill us with awe as we again experience the mysteries of Holy Communion and hear the call of Jesus to follow Him in serving and loving one another. This we ask in His name, He who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.
C: **Amen**

Second Reading - THE PASSOVER ACCOUNT (Exodus 12:1-14)

Hymn Response

"Not All the Blood of Beasts" [LSB #431...vs. 1, 2 and 5]

1. Not all the blood of beasts On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace Or wash away the stain.
2. But Christ, the heavenly Lamb, Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name And richer blood than they.
5. Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love.

Third Reading - JESUS INITIATES HOLY COMMUNION (Matthew 26:26-28)

Hymn Response

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" [LSB #621...vs. 1+2]

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descend -- ing
Comes our homage to demand.
2. King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faith -- ful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Fourth Reading - JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE (Matthew 26:36-45)

Hymn Response

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" [LSB #440...vs. 1 and 4]

1. Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy Passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain and death That I may not perish.

4. Grant that I Your Passion view With repentant grieving
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure.

Message - **“Two Different Cups...Two Different Contents
They Make a BIG Difference”**

Offering / Our Gifts Given to God

- *Special Music*

(10:30 am) **“WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS”** [Jessica Wendt, soloist]

(6:30 pm) **“KYRIE”** [Sacred Ringers Adult Bell Ensemble]

Confession and Absolution

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we confess together...

C: **O Almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities, with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Amen**

P: Upon this your confession.....

The Lord's Prayer (prayed in unison)

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.

The Words of Institution

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always
C: **And also with you.**

Agnus Dei

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Distribution Hymns

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” [LSB #637]

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
2. He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
3. Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” [LSB #428]

1. Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!
2. Here the King of all the ages, Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying, Crucified by sin for me.
3. O mysterious condescending! O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing All the sufferings of time!

4. Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

[LSB #436...vs. 1 thru 3]

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's power
Your Redeemer's conflict see. Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
2. Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
3. Calvary's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

“The Lamb”

[LSB #547...vs. 1 thru 3]

1. The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes - God will provide the Lamb of price!

Chorus: ***Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!***

2. The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. *Chorus*
3. The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill.
So still, His will on our behalf the Law to fill. *Chorus*

Post Communion Prayer *(Prayed by Pastor)*

Closing Hymn

“Abide With Me”

[LSB #878...vs. 1, 2 and 6]

1. Abide with me, fast falls the even tide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

(continues)

2. I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

6. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



(At 6:30 p.m. Service Only)

Stripping of the Altar

*(As Christ was stripped in preparation for His crucifixion, the altar is now stripped.
Please observe silently or bow your heads in silent prayer.)*

(as the service continues...)

The Dismissal

- P: Now as we depart in silence, may a prayer be on your lips and may the Holy Spirit be in your hearts until we join again tomorrow to remember our Savior's Passion and death.

*(Please depart in silence after you have said a silent prayer.
Please wait to greet one another until you are out of the church.
You may stay and pray in the sanctuary as long as you wish.)*