



Holy Thursday

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | office@pilgrimcares.org

We need to be washed clean in the blood of Jesus. Our own needs can distract and overwhelm us with the details of our sin and our guilt. Blood always gets our attention, but it can make us feel queasy and uneasy. Jesus wants to lift our eyes above all that to his marvelous promise of forgiveness. Where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. The Lord's Supper gives us a glimpse of the heavenly feast where we will eat of the eternal manna and drink from the river of God's delights forever.

Serving in Worship

Preacher

Pastor Aaron Winkelman

Presiding Minister

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

Organist

David Porth

Cantors

Jared Justman, Dorian Medrow, Samantha O'Connell

Guitar

Kevin Kieper

Cello

Mari Welsh

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Stand

Confession and Absolution

Cantors: *We have come into God's presence; maker of the heav'ns and earth. He created us to love him; to serve him as his precious child. We have disobeyed and erred, thus deserving wrath and anger.*

M: Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Lord to you I make con - fes - sion; I have sinned and
gone a - stray; I have mul-ti-plied trans - gres - sion,
cho - sen for my-self my way. Led by you to see my er -
rors, Lord, I trem-ble at your ter - rors.

M: "This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word," declares the LORD. (Isaiah 66:2)

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Lord, on you I cast my bur - den; sink it in the
 depths be-low! Let me know your gra-cious par - don;
 wash me, make me white as snow. Let your Spir-it leave me nev -
 er; make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

For your Son has suf-fered for me, giv'n him - self to
 res - cue me, died to save me and re - store me,
 re - con - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a-lone can van -
 quish these dark fears and soothe this an - guish.

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated



First Reading

Exodus 24:1-11

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him.”

When Moses went and told the people all the LORD’s words and laws, they responded with one voice, “Everything the LORD has said we will do.” Moses then wrote down everything the LORD had said.

He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the LORD. Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey.”

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

It Was a Dark and Dismal Night

CW 417



1 It was a dark and dismal night when pow'rs of
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, in mem - 'ry
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate; we show your



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his
eat the liv - ing food." Then took the cup and
of your dy - ing friend; meet at my ta - ble
death; we sing your name till you re - turn and



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.
ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of grace he spoke!
blessed the wine: "This is my all - a - ton - ing blood."
and re - cord the love of your de - part - ed Lord."
we shall eat the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt. Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561 Text and tune: Public domain

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-28

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:1


Sung in unison

Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Tone



Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

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Gospel

John 13:1-15,34

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 659 sts. 1-4



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, turned a - way God's
2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, he, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; take heed how you
4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion if sal - va - tion



wrath for - ev - er; by his bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, gives his bod - y with the bread
are pre - par - ing, for if you do not be - lieve,
you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose



he saved us from the e - vil foe.
and with the wine the blood he shed.
judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
you need not him who died and rose.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546, abr.; John Hus, c. 1369-1415 Tune: Geistliche Lieder
auf's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer for Holy Thursday

Lord God, heavenly Father, author of the everlasting covenant and giver of the cup of salvation,

We gather in your courts to offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving.

For fulfilling your promise to establish a new covenant through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,

We give you humble and hearty thanks.

As our Lord Jesus Christ gave thanks to you when he broke the bread, as he gave thanks to you when he took the cup,

We also give thanks.

Precious Savior, both Priest and offering, awe and wonder fill our hearts as we partake of your body, sacrificed for us, and your blood, shed for us.

We praise you, bless you, and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In our poverty of righteousness, we have nothing to offer. Without your tremendous sacrifice, we would still be in our sins,

But through your sacrament of the New Testament, we are assured that our iniquities are forgiven and our sins are no longer remembered.

O Holy Spirit, dwell within us as we remember our Lord's death in this sacrament. Enter our hearts to strengthen our faith and fill us with gratitude for your great mercy.

Move us to encourage one another to love and to do good works.

Special prayers of intercession may follow.

As our Lord served his disciples by washing feet, so may we also humbly serve one another.

Help us to live our lives as sacrifices of thanksgiving to him who first loved us.

Amen.

Offering

Offering boxes are available in the back of church. If you wish to give an electronic offering, you may use the QR code located at the end of the bulletin or you may go to pilgrimcares.org/giving. We present the offerings before the altar as a reminder that our giving overflows out of the Gospel and is itself an act of worship.

To My Precious Lord

CW 542



To my pre-cious Lord I bring my flask of fra-grant oil;



kneel-ing down, I kiss his feet, a - noint them with the oil.



- 1 Je - sus, who for my sake walked the road to Cal - va - ry,
- 2 Je - sus, who for my sake had his feet nailed to the cross,
- 3 When in clouds of glo - ry you come back to earth a - gain,



with each step has marked the im - print of his love for me.
with his blood has washed and healed me, paid the heav - y cost.
Je - sus, with your love, em - brace and claim me as your friend.

Text: tr. Edward Poltras, b. 1932; Chung Kwan Park, b. 1958 Tune: Alfred V. Fedak, b. 1953; arr. Paul Junggap Huh, b. 1962; Chung Kwan Park, b. 1958

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Music Services, Inc. English tr. Used by permission: License no. 130028684 Tune: © 1983 Chung Kwan Park, admin. KCMCA. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Examination and Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Our Lord Jesus Christ has instituted the Sacrament of the Altar for the special comfort and strengthening of those who are properly prepared, as he instructs us through the Apostle Paul. "Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves." (1 Corinthians 11:28-29).

What is the sacrament of Holy Communion?

It is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?

That is shown us by these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can eating and drinking do such great things?

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.

Therefore, I ask you: Do you also believe the promises of God concerning this Sacrament — that in this Sacrament Christ truly gives you his body and blood with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins?

Yes, I believe it.

Do you intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend your sinful life, to forsake sin

and to serve God with all your heart, mind, and soul?

I do intend to do this, with the help of God.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who has instituted this Sacrament for the strengthening of your faith, bless your communing and keep you in the true faith unto life everlasting.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW 667 sts. 1, 7

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
7 Grant that we wor - thi - ly re - ceive your sup - per,
our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
Lord, our Sav - ior, and, tru - ly griev - ing
and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
for our sins, may prove by our be - hav - ior
as wea - ry souls, with sin op - pressed, we come to
that we are thank - ful for your grace and day by
you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
day may run our race, in ho - li - ness in - creas - ing.

Text: tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841–1931, alt.; Samuel Kinner, 1603–1668 Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630–c. 1692, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

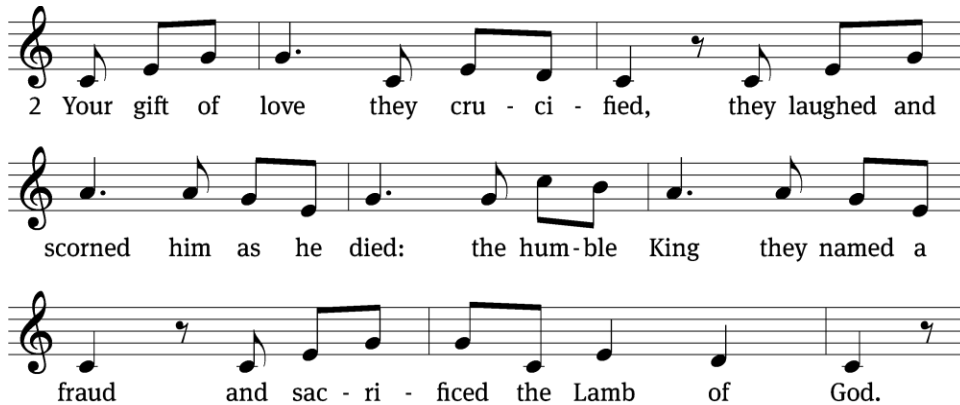
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

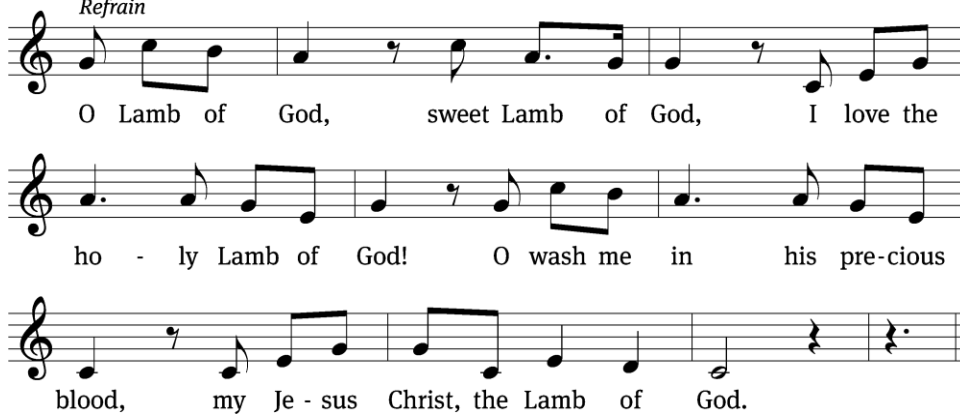
Lamb of God

CW 550 sts. Ref, 2



2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and
scorned him as he died: the hum-ble King they named a
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the
ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre-cious
blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958 Tune: Twila Paris, b. 1958 Text and tune: © 1985 Mountain Spring/Straightway Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI Copyright License no. 2932723 Size C

Be seated

Distribution

Choir Anthem

Sung by the Adult Choir

Gathered In the Upper Room

*Gathered as the time was drawing near,
the Savior spoke to those so dear.
Just awhile before He had to go,
with tenderness He showed such care.*

*Sitting 'round the table for a meal,
He shared with them the Father's will.
There, together in the Upper Room,
preparing now for what would come.*

*“Peace I leave with you,
not as the world would give,
that your joy may be complete,
forever with Me live.”*

*Then the Master washed the feet of men,
not just His servants, but His friends.
“When you take this cup and eat this bread,
remember Me and all I've said.*

*As I love you, love one another,
as I serve, you, serve one another,
let your light shine!
Let the world see a reflection of My love.”*

*“Peace I leave with you,
not as the world would give,
that your joy may be complete,
forever with Me live.”*

*Knowing now the time was drawing near,
gathered in the Upper Room.*

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

CW 674



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born for us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh was i - con
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came to God's own
4 But death would not the vic - tor be of him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; from flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's right - eous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
al - tar lit with flame; while weep - ing an - gels
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came he, a - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; his hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
hid their eyes, this Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
Ho - ly Place with - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
as at the rail on bended knee
our hungry mouths from him receive
the bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
a priestly food and priestly meat;
on sin-parched lips the chalice pours
his quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
our voices join the endless hymn,
and "Holy, holy, holy" sing
to Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, b. 1970 Tune: adapt. Edward Miller, 1731–1807; Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, London, 1778 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872 Tune: Public domain

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 659 sts. 5–8



5 Christ says, "Come, all you that la - bor, and re - ceive my
6 Then hold fast with faith un - shak - en that this food is
7 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en un - to us such
8 If your heart this truth pro - fess - es and your mouth your



grace and fa - vor; those who feel no pain or ill
to be tak - en by the souls who are dis - tressed,
food has giv - en and, to mend what we have done,
sin con - fess - es, sure - ly you will be his guest



need no phy - si - cian's help or skill."
by hearts that long for peace and rest.
gave in - to death his on - ly Son.
and at his ban - quet ev - er blest.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; John Hus, c. 1369–1415 Tune: Geistliche Lieder
auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533, ed. Joseph Klug, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray
that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Reading of Psalm 88

While the Psalm is read, the altar is solemnly stripped in token of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples and in preparation for Good Friday. The altar will remain stripped until the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The ministers exit the chancel.

The congregation may remain for prayer and meditation before leaving quietly.



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit pilgrimcares.org/giving Save the check – give online!

Acknowledgments

Holy Thursday from Christian Worship

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Holy Week Schedule

Good Friday (4/3) – 1:00 and 6:30pm

Easter Sunday (4/5) – 7:00, 8:30 & 10:00am

Pilgrimcares.org

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