



**Maundy Thursday  
Service of Holy Communion  
with Stripping of the Altar  
April 2, 2026  
7:00 pm**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*\*-the congregation is invited to stand*

**INTRODUCTION**

*On this day 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 (the Triduum). At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.*

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*God gathers us in unity.*

**GATHERING**

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**PRELUDE**

*Were You There?*

*Molly Ijames*

Emily Hartman - piano

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**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 your Son, 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN**

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

ELW#347

**\*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The abundant grace and mercy of God 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 us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

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*God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.*

**WORD**

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**FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell 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. <sup>4</sup>If 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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>For 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 gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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.**

**PSALMODY: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup>I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,

**<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant,  
the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

**<sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,

**<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>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."

<sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

The Holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

ELW #349

## **HANDWASHING**

On this night we have heard our Lord’s commandment to love one another as he has loved us. 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. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

*\*Please come forward as you feel comfortable to have your hands washed by the Pastor. We are modernizing the traditional practice of foot washing by washing hands instead.*

## **\*THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each prayer concludes:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Share the peace with one another.*

*During this flu season and the ongoing pandemic, we remind you that it is appropriate to greet each other and pass the peace verbally rather than have hand contact, which helps to transmit the flu virus. Please remember to use the hand sanitizers that are available in each pew, upon arrival and throughout the service as needed.*

## **OFFERING**

*We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today’s offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church.*

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Soliloquy for Bells*

*Karen Buckwalter*

Bells of Grace

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

**\*THE 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:

**\*SANCTUS**

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



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, life-giving God,

We remember with thanksgiving your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who gave us a new commandment  
that we humbly serve one another with love.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,*

*our Lord Jesus took bread, 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.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **\*THE 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.**

## **\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW#885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all  
creatures here below; praise God above, ye



**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly may be seated.*

*Those communing at home or in their seats are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.*

*Please come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ in the bread and the wine.*

**DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**\*BLESSING**

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

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

*The assembly is seated. The service concludes with the stripping of the altar. The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space. Psalm 22 is sung.*

*All depart in silence.*

*The service continues with the Good Friday Liturgy.*

**SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP**

Presiding Minister ..... The Rev. Chad Butz  
Assisting Minister.....Donna Enrico  
Lector.....Patty Rohde  
Communion Assistants .....Rick Keen, George B. Osswald  
Acolyte .....Kinsey Hall  
Sound ..... Scott Swartzell  
Director of Music..... Kristopher Hartman  
Organist..... Emily Hartman  
Technology Operator .....Chris Jury

**Continue the “The Three Days” (Triduum)  
to the Resurrection of Our Lord**

**Good Friday  
The Stations and  
Adoration of the Cross**

April 3rd, 2026 7:00 pm – Nave (also via live streaming)

**Easter Vigil**

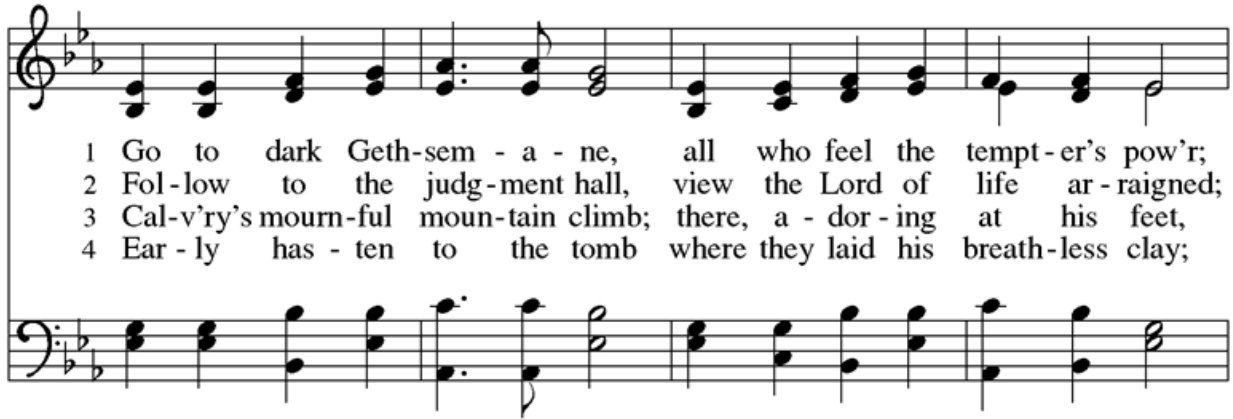
April 4th, 2026, 4:30 pm – Beginning in the Library, then moving to  
Barkley Chapel

\*bring a bell to ring during worship

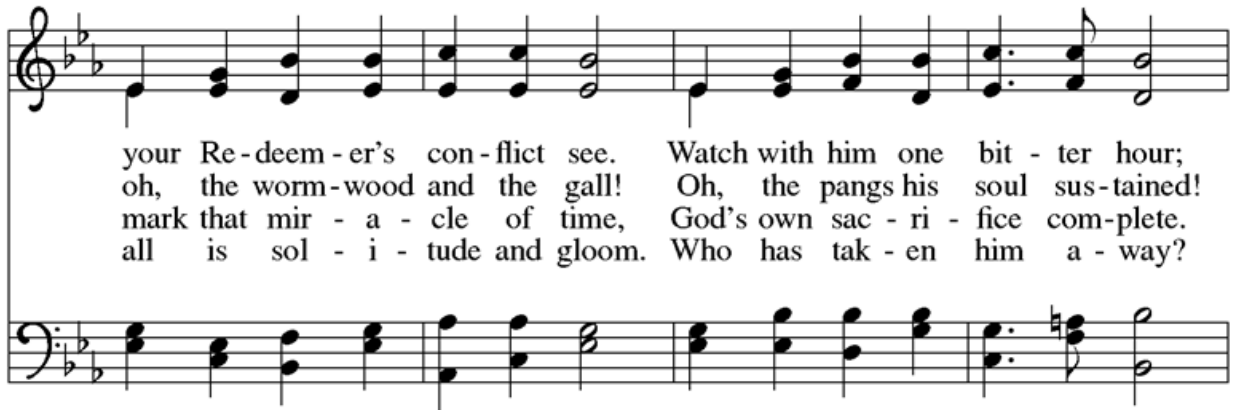
**Easter Sunday  
Festival Service of Holy Communion**

April 5th, 2025, 9:30 a.m. (also via live streaming)  
Festival music by the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir

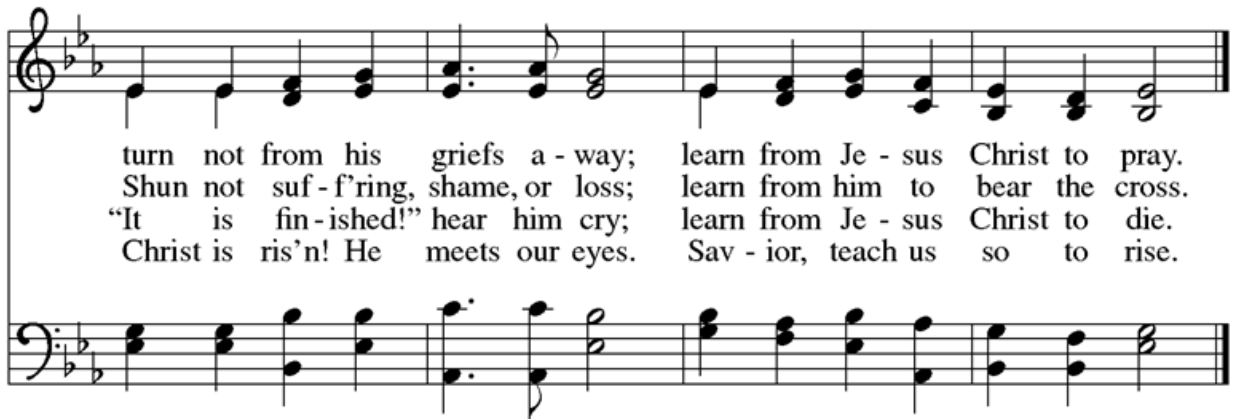
# Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;  
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!  
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.  
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854  
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

# Ah, Holy Jesus

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
sinned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
sorrow, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt.  
Music: HERZLIEBSTER JESU, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

## **Our Story**

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”*

***The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith***

### **Grace Church Staff**

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Administrative Specialist.....	Diane Deppen <a href="mailto:ddeppen@gracecamphill.org">ddeppen@gracecamphill.org</a>

To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; [office@gracecamphill.org](mailto:office@gracecamphill.org)  
Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Grace Lutheran Church \* 1610 Carlisle Road \*  
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