



Maunder Thursday Service

Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion 7:00 pm

April 2, 2026

(The congregation enters in silence.)

Order of Confession and Forgiveness (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

P: Let us pray and make confession to God.

C: Almighty God, Merciful Father:

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You and for which I justly deserve Your punishment.

But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for Your boundless mercy.

For the sake of the suffering and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me Your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

P: Almighty God.....in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Those in the congregation may come forward and kneel before the altar. The minister, laying both hands on each person's head, addresses each in turn:

P: In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins.

C: Amen.

***Hymn**

O Living Bread from Heaven

(ELW) No. 542

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, You left to us a wonderful sacrament, a memorial of Your passion. Grant, we beseech You, that we may so partake of this sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The First Lesson

Exodus 24:3-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:12-19

¹²What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.**

¹⁶O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the house of the LORD, in Your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!**

The Second Lesson

Hebrews 9:11-22

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***The Gospel Acclamation (sung)**

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

*

***The Holy Gospel**

Matthew 26:17-30

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (sung after announcement of the Gospel)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (sung after conclusion of the Gospel)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

Mandatum Reading

St. John 13:1-35

Washing of the feet of the People of God.

Hymn

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

(ELW) No. 712

***Prayers of the People**

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into Your hands.....through Your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord.

C: Amen.

***Sharing of God's Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The congregation may greet one another: '**Peace be with you.**'

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise Your name and join their unending hymn: (sung)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

***Words of institution**

P: Blessed are You,.....as He comes to us in His holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night.....Do this for the remembrance of Me.

***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.

Distribution of Communion

C: Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Musical Offering

Bread of the World in Mercy Broken

Bell Choir

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.....Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

As the communion vessels are carried out Psalm 22 will be read.

The candles are extinguished and removed.

The altar is stripped and the linens are removed.

(Stripping the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands.)

The paraments are taken down and removed.

There is no benediction. All leave the church in silence. The omission of the benedictions at the end of liturgies of both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday indicate their continuity with each other and with the Vigil of Easter.

First Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Robert B. Grewe

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Dennis Schmidt, Mark Black, Matthew Mazzotti, Lutheran Lay Worship Leaders

Retired: J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

Matthew Cimino, Organist and Music Director

The Lay Reader is Dennis Schmidt.

Acolytes are Adults.

Welcome to our Visitors!

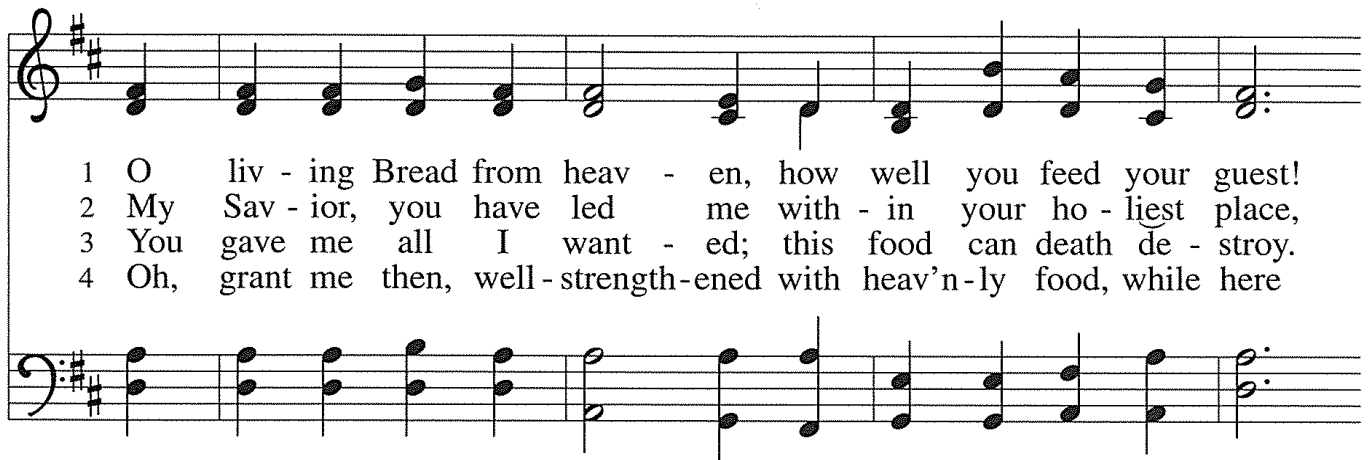
The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have any questions or are interested in hearing about membership, please see the pastor or contact the Church Office.

Holy Communion

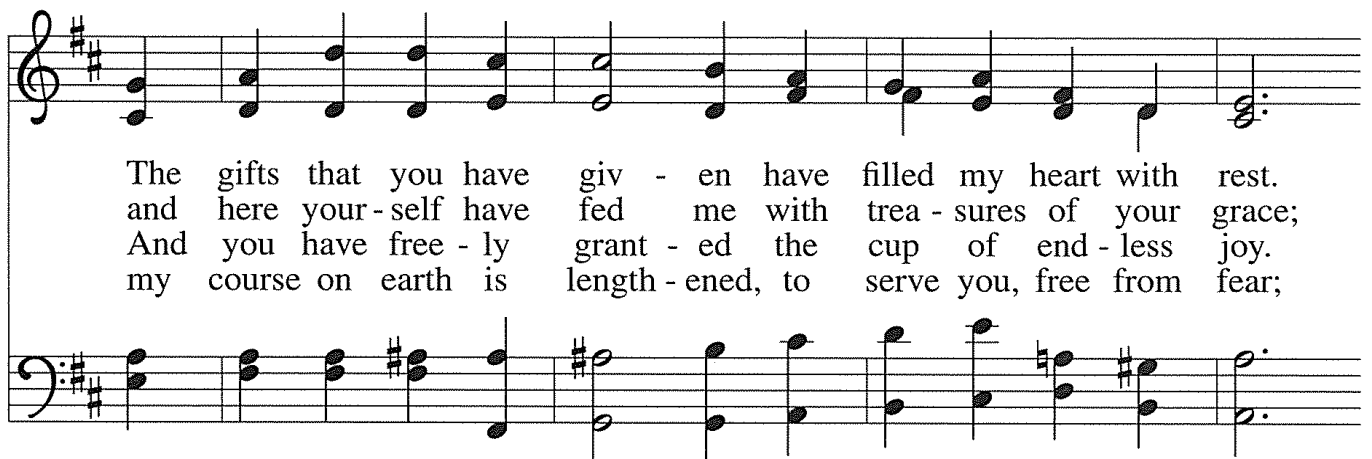
We come to the table today at the invitation of the Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Baptized and Confirmed Christians who share this faith and wish to join us at the table are welcome. Young children may be brought forward for a blessing.

Tomorrow—Good Friday Service is at 3 PM.

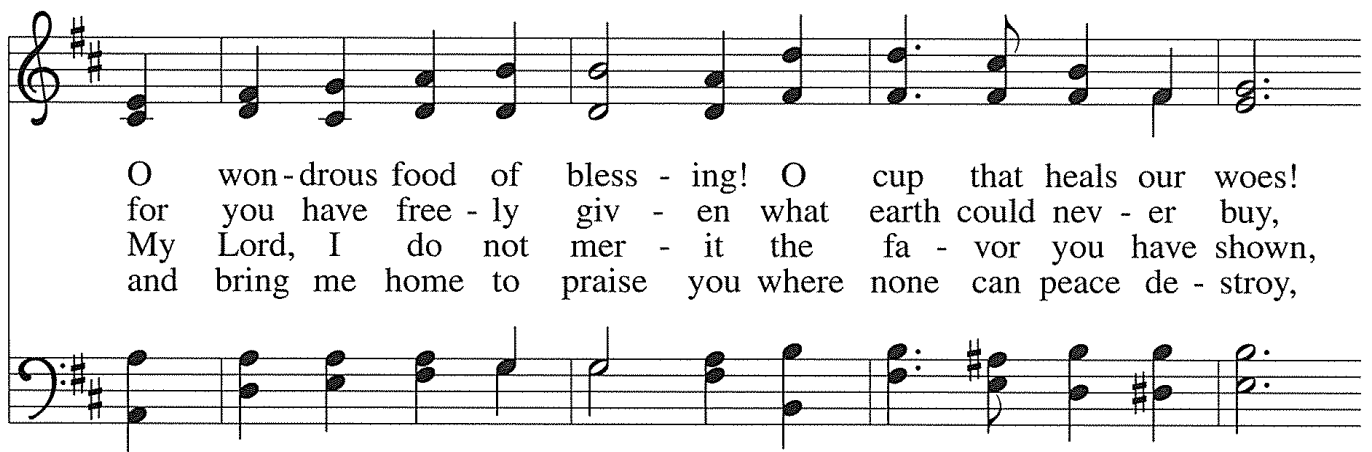
O Living Bread from Heaven



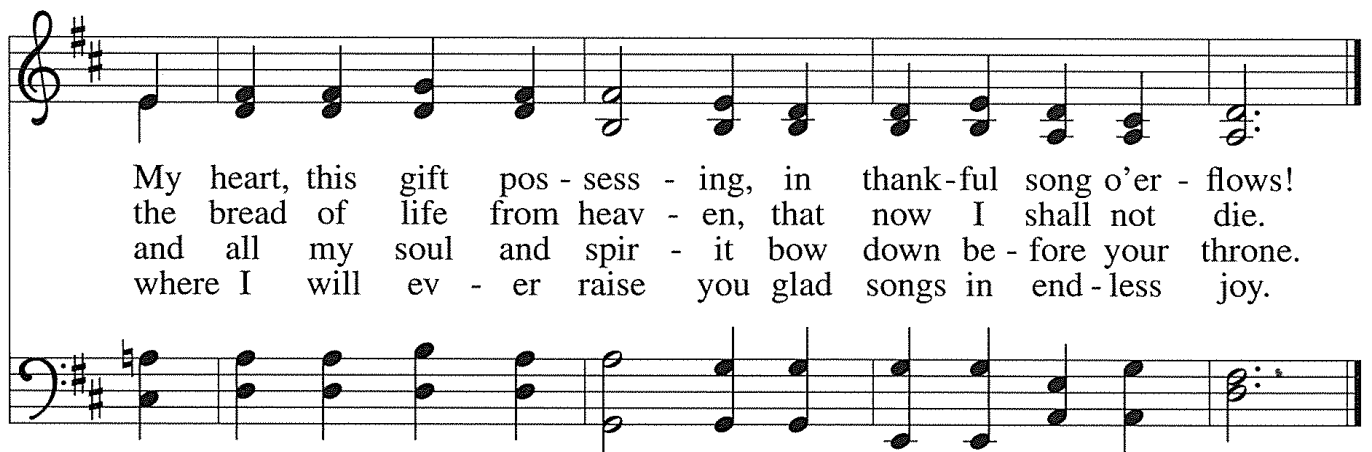
1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
 and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
 And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
 my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
 for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
 My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
 and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!
 the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
 and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
 where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
 2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home - less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
 4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed:
 still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great - ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
 by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
 stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
 that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.



Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Maundy Thursday - April 2, 2026

"{Jesus said,} ³⁴'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'"

John 13:34-35 -

Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, from where we get the English word *mandate* or *command*. Jesus gives us clear instruction when it comes to our call as disciples. He commands us to love one another. At first glance, it's easy to think that Jesus is stating the obvious. But Jesus is pushing us. Love shows respect and affection, sure, but Jesus teaches that we are to love others the same way that he loves. That's much deeper than affection and respect. How does Jesus love us? He loves us in the most sacrificial way, and he calls us to act the same.

Prior to Jesus' words in these verses from 34 and 35, we hear how Jesus took a towel, bent down at the feet of each of his disciples, and then proceeded to wash each of their feet. In a culture where the people wore sandals and the desert climate resulted in sand and dust, feet were often filthy after walking around. Much like we're accustomed to taking off our shoes before walking through someone's home, Middle Eastern people had servants to wash the feet of both homeowners and guests alike. For Jesus to stoop down and take on such a posture was not what any of his disciples expected. But Jesus was leading by example. He calls his followers to wash the feet of others. He calls his followers to take on humility and serve his/her neighbor. Jesus doesn't call us to boost ourselves and expect words of praise and adoration. No, because we are no better than the next guy. We are all guilty of sin, and we all need Jesus' washing poured out upon us. We need his grace and mercy, and so Jesus calls us to pour out that same grace and mercy upon our fellow man.

The fourth verse of the hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," says, "When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found, clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne!" We are clothed in Jesus' righteousness, and we seek to do his will here on earth. On the night before he died on the cross for us, Jesus gave us that law of love. It is not a commandment that we must obey to earn God's favor—we already enjoy that favor through the gift and sacrifice of his Son. It's a new commandment that the Holy Spirit has written on our hearts, to live and love in the self-sacrificing way of Christ Jesus.

