



Pilgrim
LUTHERAN
Church

**A Service of Holy Communion
& Stripping of the Altar**



**April 2, 2026
Maundy Thursday**

Reflection

Our forty days of repentance and prayer in preparation for the celebration of Easter are over; but there is no pause. We gather again for a deeper meditation, as we join with Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room of Maundy Thursday. The name Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which means command. On this holy night, Jesus gave two commands. The first one is to love one another selflessly and humbly. The second command is to take and eat his body in bread, and to take and drink his blood in wine. These commands are blessed means by which Jesus, our Savior, continues to bring his grace, direction, comfort, and nourishment to our souls.

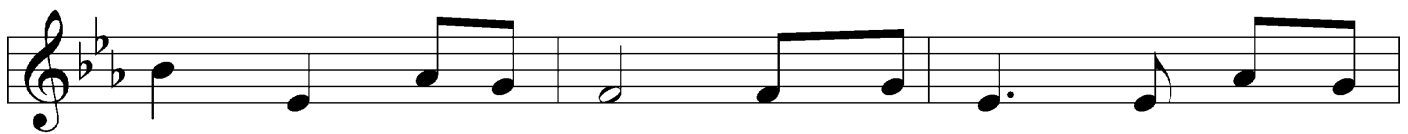
Welcome

Opening Hymn

When You Woke That Thursday Morning



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing
3 What was there that You could give them That would
4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one
5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



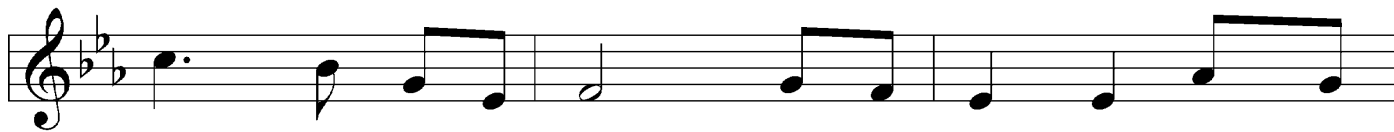
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty
with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones
nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -
bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -
vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;
on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:
live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.
rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at
 Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last
 "Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
 One with You and one an - oth - er In a
 When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's
 pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their
 as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
 u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,
 Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
 teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.
 of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
 broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.
 mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

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Invocation

Confession and Forgiveness

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all righteousness.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy in 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.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has give His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

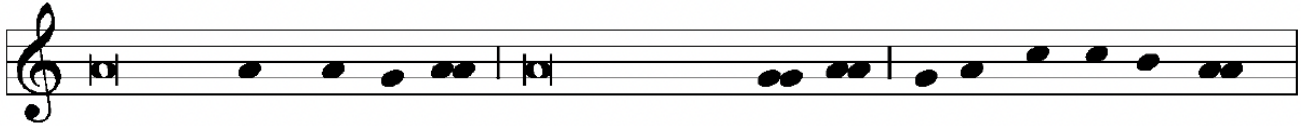
Kyrie



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



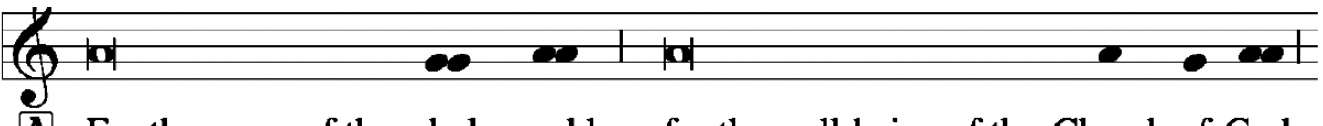
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



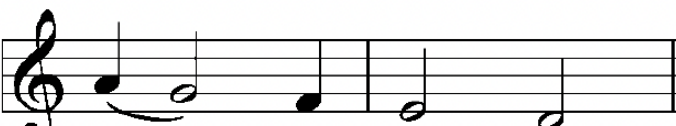
C Lord, have mer - cy.



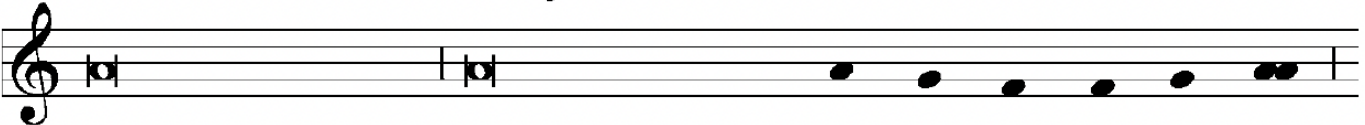
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



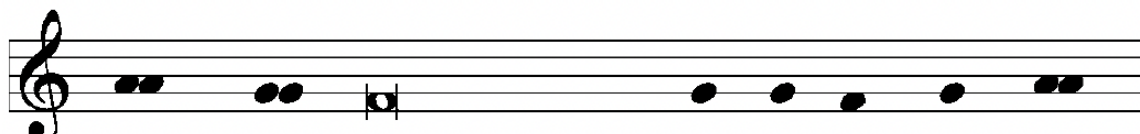
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery 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.

First Reading

Exodus 12

21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. 24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever. 25 And when you come to the land that the LORD will give you, as he has promised, you shall keep this service. 26 And when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?' 27 you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of the LORD's Passover, for he passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt, when he struck the Egyptians but spared our houses.' " And the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

28 Then the people of Israel went and did so; as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10

16 The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." 25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.**

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge
 the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, +
 and the life everlasting. Amen

Hymn

O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing



1 O gra - cious Lord, I firm - ly am be - liev - ing
 2 Lord, I have sinned, a thou - sand times of - fend - ing;
 3 You see my sin yet seat me at Your ta - ble;
 4 O Lamb of God, my faith - ful, lov - ing Sav - ior,
 5 Heav - en - ly Bread, my life and ben - e - dic - tion,



Your bound - less love will bless each faith - ful soul,
 My thank - less thoughts and words and deeds e - rase,
 Lord, as a guest, I sure - ly am the least:
 You I em - brace in faith and ho - ly love;
 This cup You give can take a - way each ill.



As from this al - tar we are here re - ceiv - ing
 To me Your hand of mer - cy now ex - tend - ing,
 Un - clean, un - fit, of wor - thy deeds un - a - ble—
 Grant me the strength to show by my be - hav - ior
 Come and re - lieve my soul from all af - flic - tion;



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole,
 O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace,
 My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast,
 A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove,
 Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still,



Your bod - y and Your blood to make us whole.
O God, my Sav - ior, I im - plore Your grace.
My heart pre - pare for this most ho - ly feast.
A life now hid - den in Your reign a - bove.
Calm ev - 'ry sigh un - til my heart is still.

Text: Spanish or Latin American, 20th cent.; tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: H. León

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Sermon

Pastor Lew Upchurch

Hymn of Meditation

Lord, Is It I?

Zabelle Huss

Prayer of the Church

P: Praise to You, O Lord, for Your ministry in the Upper Room.

C: Renew in us a mindfulness of our service to You and each other.

P: Assist us that we might be for the world signs of Your gracious presence.

C: Yes, that is our response to Your call for prayer and service.

P: Enrich our faith as we dine at Your table.

C: Refresh us with Your body and blood of the cross and the open tomb. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Altar

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 our duty and our joy...evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Words of Institution

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.**

O Lamb of God...

The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord as a sign of
unity and reconciliation.*

Distribution

We will commune together around the altar.

Blessing

Stripping of the Altar

The stripping of the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers. As the communion vessels, paraments, and appointments are removed, a portion of Isaiah 53 is read.

Benediction

The congregation is requested to leave in silence.

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used
Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

Serving at Worship Today

Preaching & Presiding

Pastor Lew Upchurch

Director of Music

Mary Harper

Upcoming Events



Learn more about all upcoming events at pilgrimsm.org/calendar

Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

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Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!



Pilgrim
L U T H E R A N
Church

Called by the Holy Spirit,
**we are an intergenerational community of
worship and service**
that invites the people of
Santa Monica and beyond
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ
through Word and Sacraments.**

Lew Upchurch

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