Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026 - 7:30 pm

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 South Defiance Street + Archbold, Ohio
www.the-welcome-place.org

WORSHIP NOTES

With nightfall and the beginning of this liturgy, our Lenten observance comes to its culmination. We gather with Christians around the world in celebrating the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection (known as the Triduum). Our remembering is more than a retracing of the last days of Jesus' life. Rather, throughout these Three Days, through word, sacrament, and ritual, we participate in the saving power of Jesus' passover from death to life. As the Three Days begin, we are invited to glory in the cross of Christ—our salvation, our life, our resurrection.

*On this night we hear Jesus' new commandment (*mandatum*, the Latin word from which the word* Maundy *comes) to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example, living out our baptismal vocation with humility and care for one another, and especially for the poor and the unloved.*

In remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples as an example of service and love, you may participate in the footwashing ritual if you desire to do so during communion distribution. *(see note on page 14)*

Tonight we also gather around the Lord's Table to remember the sacrifice of Jesus' life. We share the holy meal, becoming what we eat and drink: the body of Christ, offering ourselves in love for the life of the world. At that point in the service you will be invited to come forward and take your place at the rail.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, all adornments on the altar are removed, preparing us for Good Friday. Through this stark ritual we recall that Jesus was abandoned by his followers, stripped of his dignity, and left to face the cross alone.

A bare chancel will be the setting for tomorrow's worship service in the sanctuary. No benediction is given and no postlude is played as we close our Holy Week services because they are one continuous service. We depart the service in silence, ready to continue this observance on Good Friday.

Prelude

Bell & Welcome

*Hymn *“Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now”*

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Paul has strong words to the church in Corinth. After words of correction, Paul uses these words to say that in the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood.

[23]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, [24]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." [25]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." [26]For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading from Matthew and John

John 13:1-17; 31b-35

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. [2] It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. [3] Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. [4] So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, [5] and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

[6] When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" [7] Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will." [8] "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." [9] Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

10 Jesus replied, “A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the
feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you.” 11 For Jesus knew
who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, “Not all of you are clean.”
12 After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you
understand what I was doing? 13 You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right,
because that’s what I am. 14 And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you ought to wash each other’s feet. 15 I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have
done to you.

Matthew 26:20-29

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, **21** and while they
were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” **22** And they became
greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” **23** He
answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray
me. **24** The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son
of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been
born.” **25** Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have
said so.”

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it,
gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” **27** Then he took a cup, and
after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, **28** for this is my
blood of the[c] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell
you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with
you in my Father’s kingdom.”

John 13:31-35

31 As soon as Judas left the room, Jesus said, 33 “Dear children, I will be with you only a
little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can’t come
where I am going. 34 So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just
as I have loved you, you should love each other. 35 Your love for one another will prove to
the world that you are my disciples.”

Word of God, Word of life.
Thanks be to God

Hymn *"When You Woke that Thursday Morning"* *(Verses 1-3)*

Message — Pastor Steve Basselman

Hymn — *"When You Woke that Thursday Morning"*
(Verse 4-5)

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our 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 sins against God and our neighbor, and enter the paschal celebration reconciled with God and with one another.

(Silence for personal reflection and self-examination.)

Gracious God,
have mercy on me. I confess that I have turned from you and given myself over to the power of sin. I am truly sorry.
(Silence for personal reflection)

In your compassion Lord,
forgive my sins, known and unknown, things I have done and things I have failed to do.
(Silence for personal reflection)

We turn to you Lord,
Lift me up by your Spirit, so that I may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.
(Silence for personal reflection)

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light.
Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(We share with each other the words, "Peace be with you")

Words of Institution

O Lord our God, tonight we recall your love, your faithfulness and your grace as shown to us in the beauty and order of your creation, as experienced by Noah and his family, Abraham and Sarah, and the ancient people of Israel.

We give you thanks for giving us your Son, who became one of us to be near those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, and with us now.

Tonight, the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

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

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

As we gather at this table, send your Holy Spirit upon us, O Lord. Breathe life into our bones, that we may be people of hope, justice, and love. All glory and honor is yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever.

Amen

Anthem

Men's Quartet

The Lord's Prayer

arr. Craig Courtney

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 Lord's Supper & Footwashing

Communion will be distributed at the rail this evening. You are asked to come forward when indicated by the usher and take a place at the rail. After receiving the bread and wine, please wait at the rail until receiving a blessing.

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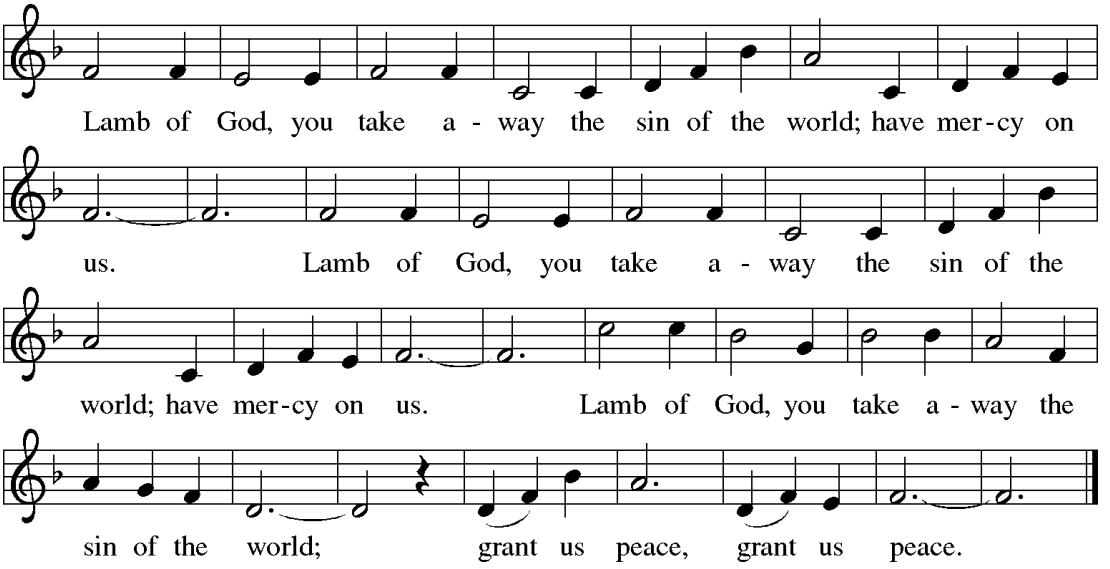
You may proceed to the footwashing station at any time during distribution.

"Lamb of God"



"Around You, O Lord Jesus" ***LBW 496*** (Green hymnal)

Psalm 88 – *for your meditation during Communion*

The Psalms provide examples of raw human emotion and give us the words when we can't find words ourselves.

1 O LORD, God of my salvation,
I cry out to you by day. I come to you at night.
2 Now hear my prayer;
listen to my cry.
3 For my life is full of troubles,
and death draws near.
4 I am as good as dead,
like a strong man with no strength left.
5 They have left me among the dead, and I lie like a corpse in a grave.
I am forgotten, cut off from your care.
6 You have thrown me into the lowest pit,
into the darkest depths.
7 Your anger weighs me down;
with wave after wave you have engulfed me.
8 You have driven my friends away
by making me repulsive to them. I am in a trap with no way of escape.
9 My eyes are blinded by my tears. Each day I beg for your help, O LORD;
I lift my hands to you for mercy.
10 Are your wonderful deeds of any use to the dead?
Do the dead rise up and praise you?
11 Can those in the grave declare your unfailing love?
Can they proclaim your faithfulness in the place of destruction?
12 Can the darkness speak of your wonderful deeds?
Can anyone in the land of forgetfulness talk about your righteousness?
13 O LORD, I cry out to you.
I will keep on pleading day by day.
14 O LORD, why do you reject me?
Why do you turn your face from me?
15 I have been sick and close to death since my youth.
I stand helpless and desperate before your terrors.
16 Your fierce anger has overwhelmed me.
Your terrors have paralyzed me.
17 They swirl around me like floodwaters all day long.
They have engulfed me completely.
18 You have taken away my companions and loved ones.
Darkness is my closest friend.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May we always remember your model for a godly life and live that life of servanthood all our days. Guide our hearts through the coming hours as we remember the pain and agony of your spirit.

Amen

The Stripping of the Altar

At the beginning and after each section of scripture, the following refrain is sung by the congregation:

Matthew 26:30-50

30When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

33Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

34"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

35But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.
Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

[36]Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." [37]He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. [38]Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

[39]Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.
Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

[40]Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. [41]"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

[42]He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done."

[43]When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. [44]So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.
Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

[45]Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. [46]Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

[47]While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. [48]Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." [49]Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

[50]Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

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Our worship continues tomorrow evening at 7:30.
You are asked to leave the Sanctuary in silence.
Go in peace.

Presiding:	Pastor Steve Basselman
Organist:	Matthew Wachtman
Vocalists:	Adam Grisier, Philip Hoverman, Josh Voll, Matthew Wachtman
Pianist:	Rick Breier
Acolyte:	Jalen Thompson
Reader:	Andi Erbskorn

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 3 - Good Friday

7:30 pm **Good Friday Worship Service**

A bare chancel is our setting for worship. We will journey through the Passion narrative as recorded in Matthew interspersed with song and prayer.

April 5 - Easter Sunday

7:00 am **Easter Vigil Sunrise Service with Holy Communion**

Worship begins in darkness. And while we remember the story of God's salvation history through scripture, we quickly reset the sanctuary to celebrate the feast of victory.

8:00 am **Easter Breakfast**

A free-will offering will be received to support ongoing youth ministries,

8:45 **Easter Egg Hunt**

9:00 am **Sunday School** (ending at 9:45)

10:00 am **Festival Service with Holy Communion**

The celebration continues! All the festive flare we can gather is included in the climax of our Easter festival. The Chancel Choir invites you to join them in our annual tradition of singing the "Hallelujah Chorus"

Stay Here based on Matthew 26:38,45. Music by Jacques Berthier © 1984 Les Presses de Taize, admin by GIA Publications, Inc.

FOOT WASHING INVITATION

You are invited to participate in the act of foot washing reminding us of our Lord's action with his disciples on the night of his last supper with them. The spirit of that action, though, is not to be simply a reminder of an historic event. Instead, it is a sign of who we are called to be in the world. Much as our Lord washed his disciples' feet as a sign to them of how they were called to act in the world, we now receive this as a sign of our call to service in Christ's name in our world in our time.

Admittedly, this can be an uncomfortable moment for many of us. We are not used to having someone wash our feet. When we read the Gospel story, we hear how this was an awkward and uncomfortable moment for those first disciples as well. But this act comes to us as a gift. This act of foot washing is a reminder of what Jesus does for us and the ministry with which he entrusts us; a ministry of service to his world in his name.

Obviously, it is your personal choice to participate or not. But please know that this is an opportunity to share in a symbol of ministry that is as old as the church.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion will be distributed at the chancel rail this evening.

In the midst of this supper Jesus predicted Peter's denial and he also knew that Judas was going to betray him. We all take our place acknowledging our own sinfulness bringing our own betrayals and denials of Jesus in our lives.

You will be invited to come forward by an usher and Communion will be distributed with the bread and individual wine glasses. Once all have been served, please wait for a blessing before returning to your seat by the side aisle while placing your empty glass in the basket.