

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
*Sweet Springs, Missouri*

Maundy Thursday  
*April 2, 2026*

“Maundy” is the English form of the Latin word for “commandment.” The major theme of this day is Jesus’ new commandment to “love one another even as I have loved you.” This love which Jesus shows in the washing of His disciples’ feet is sharply focused by the contrast of Judas’ betrayal which followed. Jesus’ love for us is demonstrated both in His example of servanthood and in His gift of Himself to us in the Lord’s Supper.

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE PRELUDE and RINGING OF THE BELL call us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN: 445 “When You Woke That Thursday Morning”

THE INVOCATION AND PSALM 143: (*please stand if able*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: Amen.**

P: O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;

**C: in Your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.**

P: Do not bring Your servant into judgment,

**C: for no one living is righteous before You.**

P: The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground;

**C: he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead.**

P: So my spirit grows faint within me;

**C: my heart within me is dismayed.**

P: I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all Your works

**C: and consider what your hands have done.**

P: I spread out my hands to You;

**C: my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.**

P: Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit faints with longing.

**C: Do not hide Your face from me or I will be like those who go  
down to the pit.**

P: Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have  
put my trust in You.

**C: Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.**

P: Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord,

**C: for I hide myself in You.**

P: Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God;

**C: may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

P: For Your name’s sake, O Lord, preserve my life;

**C:** in Your righteousness bring me out of trouble.

**P:** In Your unfailing love, silence my enemies;

**C:** destroy all my foes, for I am Your servant.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY:

**P:** The Lord be with you.           **C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray.                   **C:** **O Lord Jesus, since You have left us a memorial of Your passion in a wonderful sacrament grant, we pray, that we may so use this sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redeeming work may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 24:3-11

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God and ate and drank.   **P:** This is the Word of our Lord.   **C: Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL:

**P:** Christ entered the Most Holy Place once for all

**C: By His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.**

**P:** He is the mediator of a new covenant,

**C: That those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**

P: He provided redemption for His people;

**C: He ordained His covenant forever.**

THE EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 9:11-22

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Therefore, He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Therefore, not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P: This is the Word of our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF HOPE: 422 "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

THE HOLY GOSPEL: (please stand if you are able)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (Matthew 26:17-30 is read.)

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?" 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

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Passover at your house with My disciples.” And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, He reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, He said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. 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.” Judas, who would betray Him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

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.” And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 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.” And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed  
(inside back cover of the hymnal)

(please be seated) HYMN OF THE DAY: 718 “Jesus, Lead Thou On”

SERMON: “Jesus Will Make Him Who Overcomes a Pillar in God’s Temple” Revelation 3:7-13

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. 8 “I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept My word and have not denied My name. 9 Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. 10 Because you have kept My word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. 11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may

seize your crown. 12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from My God out of heaven, and My own new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

THE OFFERTORY: (*stand if able*) (tune: LSB 732 “All Depends on..”)

If my days on earth He length-en,  
God my wea-ry soul will strength-en;  
All my trust in Him I place. Earth-ly wealth is not a-bid-ing.  
Like a stream a-way is glid-ing; Safe I an-chor in His grace.

OUR CONFESSION AND GOD’S ABSOLUTION:

P: Let us make confession to God our Father.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father: I, as 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, 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 me 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 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. As a called and ordained minister of Christ’s church 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. **C: Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER: (prayed in unison)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: ....The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: (*please be seated*)

436 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

746 “Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit”

760 “What God Ordains Is Always Good”

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: *(please stand if you are able)*

P: O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.

**C: And His mercy endures forever.**

P: Almighty God, through the sacrificial death of Your Son You atoned for the sins of the whole world and in Him You reconciled the world to Yourself, not counting our trespasses against us. Receive our humble thanks for this precious gift of salvation by which You comfort and console our troubled hearts. Strengthen our faith that we may receive Your forgiveness and be at peace.

**C: We pray this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: "There Is a Green Hill Far Away"

**There is a green hill far a-way, Out-side a cit-y wall,  
Where the dear Lord was cru-ci-fied, Who died to save us all.**

**We may not know, we can-not tell What pains He had to bear,  
But we be-lieve it was for us He hung and suf-fered there.**

**He died that we might be for-giv'n, He died to make us good,  
That we might go at last to heav'n, Saved by His pre-cious blood.**

**There was no oth-er good e-nough To pay the price of sin,  
He on-ly could un-lock the gate Of heav'n and let us in.**

**Oh, dear-ly, dear-ly has He loved! And we must love Him too  
And trust in His re-deem-ing blood And try His works to do.**

*(please be seated)* THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR: Psalm 22

*(The altar is stripped by the members of our Altar Guild and the chancel is made bare and darkened in preparation for Good Friday just as our Lord was stripped bare for His crucifixion. When the altar has been stripped, you may leave in silence and return tomorrow to witness our Lord's death.)*

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*Serving Us in Worship Today*

Preacher/Celebrant: Pastor Mark Nebel      Organist: Mr. Ron Baker

OUR HOLY WEEK worship continues tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. with our Good Friday service. It will conclude with a Tenebrae (darkness) service. WE WILL celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord with two separate services of Holy Communion this Sunday at 6:30 and 9 a.m. After the Sunrise Service there will be refreshments in the church basement. Page 6