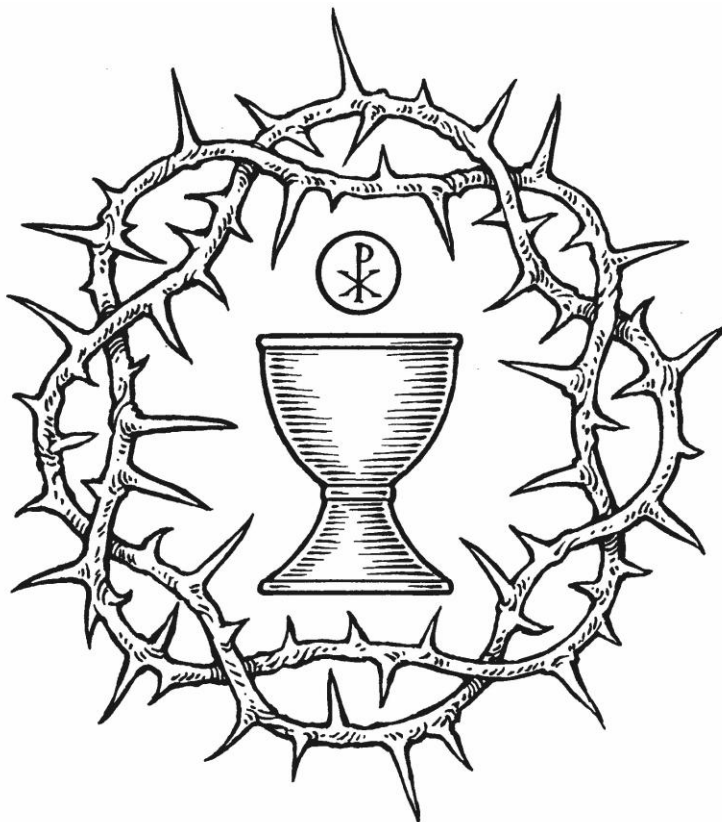


**St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
Holy (Maundy) Thursday**

Pastor Erik Sorenson



April 2, 2026

MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

If you are partaking of the Lord's Supper, please read and fill out one of the registration cards on the back of the pew. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to the usher. Please also see the communion statement on the inside of the bulletin.

Families and Children:

We are glad you are here to receive the Lord's gifts together. Your presence is a gift from God and a reminder of Christ's words: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14)

There are two names traditionally associated with this day in Holy Week. The more common name is Maundy Thursday. This name comes from the traditional Gospel reading (John 13:1-17, 31b-35) where, after washing the disciples' feet, Jesus tells them, "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." The Latin word for "commandment" is mandatum, from which we get "Maundy." The other name for this day is Holy Thursday. This name reminds us that this service takes place within Holy Week and begins the focus on our Lord's passion. It also points us to the institution of the Lord's Supper which we celebrate tonight as well, as this Sacrament is "holy," that is, set apart and sacred.

Just as we have fasted this Lenten season from our words and songs of praise, so too tonight we omit several ordinary parts of the service, such as the Introit, the Kyrie, the Lenten Verse, the Creed, the Offertory, and the Nunc Dimittis. We do this to reflect the penitential and reflective nature of this night and this week.

Finally, tonight is the beginning of the Triduum (literally "three days"). The Triduum is one continuous service which takes place from Thursday through Saturday. We celebrate the Triduum as we meditate upon Christ's passion in real time. May God bless us during this Holy Week.

Corporate Confession and Absolution

445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

Hymn of Invocation

** Please stand as you are able.*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

** Please be seated.*

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.” It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Again, it is as if He said, “I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink.”

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

** Please stand as you are able.*

C **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Salutation and Collect of the Day

LSB 156

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1-14 (p. 53, p. 68 LP)

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,
thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 (p. 958, p. 1219 LP)

Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35 (p. 900, p. 1146 LP)

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

Hymn of the Day

Sermon

The Blood and the Water

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

Pax Domini

LSB 163

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

Distribution & Hymns

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

634 The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

446 Jesus, Greatest at the Table

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 166

Stripping of the Altar

The stripping of the altar symbolizes Christ's own humiliation as He was stripped of His garments by the Roman soldiers prior to His crucifixion. In this way, the altar and the chancel area are prepared for Good Friday. As the altar is being stripped, Psalm 22 is read in its entirety, further preparing us for the crucifixion, where Jesus recited this very psalm.

Psalm 22

There is no Benediction, as this service continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 PM. The congregation departs in silence.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Holy Week Schedule

April 3 – Good Friday (7 PM)

April 4 – Easter Vigil (8 PM)

April 5 – Easter Sunrise (6:30 AM)

Easter Breakfast (7:15-8:45 AM)

Easter Divine Service (9 AM)