



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

138 3rd Street NW, Valley City, ND 58072

(701) 845 - 1328 | oursaviorsvc.org

APRIL 17TH, 2025 + MAUNDY THURSDAY

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to 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 sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Most merciful God...**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on 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.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GREETING (p. 203)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

HYMN:

“Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now”

#930



1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
 2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
 3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you



feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
 vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
 ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in



life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
 is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
 praise pro - claim: “You are the Lord of all. A - men.”

John 13:1 – 17, 31b – 35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

SERMON

HYMN:

“What Wonderful Love Is This”

#666

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED (p. 105)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS

PEACE

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERING HYMN:

“Bread of Life from Heaven”

#474

FIRST COMMUNION BLESSING

As always, Jesus invites all to God's table, and today we welcome new guests who will partake in their first communion.

Those celebrating their first communion are invited to stand.

In the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we celebrate God's welcome of us. In the sacrament of Holy Communion, we are welcomed to God's table as friends. Just as Jesus welcomed strangers, healed the sick, forgave sinners, and helped those in need, we are now part of that way. In this meal, we are fed with the bread and wine of life so that we might welcome, heal, forgive, help, and love.

Let us pray...Generous God, we give you thanks for those who you now invite to your table. As you have claimed them in baptism, feed them with you love, and give them a hunger to live lives of love, forgiveness, and justice. **Amen.**

Together, we welcome our friends...**Welcome to Jesus' table! We rejoice with you and thank God for you. May this meal strengthen you to live as Jesus lived.**

HOLY COMMUNION (p. 206)

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 right....we praise your name and join their unending hymn: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n 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, hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O living God, sovereign of time and space. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Your word leads us across the sea to freedom, and you have carried us together to these holy Three Days. Blessed be God forever! **Blessed be God forever!**

Blessed are you, O living God, for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ. He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love. He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin. He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation. Blessed be God forever! **Blessed be God forever!**

In 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.**

Blessed are you, O living God, for the gift of your loving Spirit. Fill this meal with the life of your Son. Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need. Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection. Blessed be God forever! **Blessed be God forever!**

Amen, and amen. **Amen, and amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER (p. 208)

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.

COMMUNION HYMN (p. 208)

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (p. 208)

PSALM 22 & SENDING

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

During the final hymn, our service concludes with the stripping of the altar. We watch as the book, candles, communion setting, linens, and paraments are removed. In medieval times, the stripping of the altar was likened to the stripping of Jesus’ body before his crucifixion. Today, the church doesn’t ascribe one specific meaning to this ritual, but instead uses it as an invitation to think about the church’s sorrow over Christ’s death, the paring down of ourselves in order to receive the life of Christ, and the final stripping away of our own life before death. We return to worship in the empty space on Good Friday.

HYMN:

“What Wondrous Love is This ”

#666

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GIVE ONLINE

2025 Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Good Friday, April 18th

Worship (In Person & Online) – 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Worship (In Person & Online) – 9:00 am

Worship (In Person) – 11:00 am