

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024



**St James Lutheran Church
1407 8th Avenue, Altoona PA
814-944-6835**

6:00pm Dinner Church Worship

The season of Lent came to conclusion at sunset this evening. Tonight begins The Tridumm (The Three Days). Tonight, we follow Jesus to a Passover Meal with his disciples where he gives us a new meal-his body and his blood. We follow Jesus as he is arrested and led off to a night of insult and suffering.

Tomorrow, we follow Jesus to trial and to the sentence of death. We follow Jesus to Calvary and to a cross. We follow Jesus as we hear him speak words of forgiveness, trust and triumph. We follow Jesus as his lifeless body is buried.

Sunday, we gather at the tomb, pondering darkness and light, slavery and freedom, death and life. We hear the first reading of the Easter Gospel and with bells and alleluias begin to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

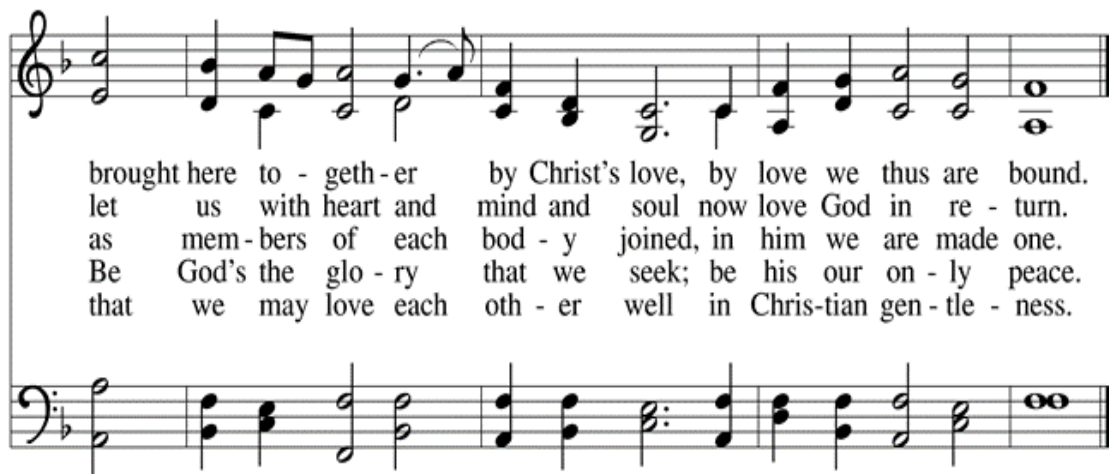
WORDS OF WELCOME

CENTERING HYMN: *Where Charity & Love Prevail*
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Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we 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.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God ,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here, at this place, is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GREETING

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

DISTRIBUTION OF BREAD

Holy God, we give you thanks for your holy name, which you planted in our hearts and for the knowledge, faith, and immortality you sent through Jesus your child. You created everything mighty, Lord, for the glory of your name. You gave us food and drink for our pleasure and that we might give you thanks; You have blessed us with spiritual food and drink and eternal life through your child.

While Jesus was eating with his disciples, similar to how we are tonight, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, broke it, gave it to them, and said “Take and eat, this is my body. Given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

As grain was scattered across the hills then gathered and made one in this bread, so may the church, scattered to the ends of the earth, be gathered and made one in your name.

Holy food for Holy people. Share in the meal with one another.

***If you are in need of gluten free, please inform Pastor**.*

MEAL:

SCRIPTURE LESSON: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

There are discussion questions for your respective table to share in. Its ok if your table doesn't go through all questions.

What about the Maundy Thursday story, leaves you puzzled?

What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself?

How is the community that we are drawn into, koinonia, etc., a manifestation of the love of God for us and for each other?

What challenge is before us as we try and express God's love for the world?

What questions are you left with as we take a breath in the story until Good Friday tomorrow?

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:

REFLECTION HYMN: *Great God, Your Love has Called us*
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Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat, and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889–1953

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Music © Oxford University Press.

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PRAYERS:

After each petition, the leader will say “merciful God” and we respond with *Lord Listen to your Children Praying*

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system has the lyrics: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;". The second system has the lyrics: "Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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*Let us pray. (*Sing “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”*)

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

You make a new covenant with your people. Gather your church around word and table in love and promise as these three holy days unfold us. Open us to behold the mystery of our salvation. Merciful God (*Sing “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”*)

You give us our daily bread, fruit of the earth and work of human hands. Bless those who labor and tend to their crops and those who prepare our meals. Strengthen us to advocate for food justice and a fair distribution of resources. Merciful God (*Sing “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”*)

You, our Savior and Teacher, stoop down to us in servant love. Inspire national and local leaders (especially) with a renewed sense of public service. Increase in them a humility to serve with equity and fairness. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Merciful God (*Sing “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”*)

You incline your ear to us in every need. Befriend all who are lonely. Comfort those who grieve. Soothe any who are anxious. Console all who are distressed. Graciously tend to the hurts of your children who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. We especially on this night lift up those affected by COVID 19, natural disasters, and various continued injustices caused by human hands. Merciful God (*Sing “Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”*)

You inspire your people to praise in word, song, and art. We give thanks for artists whose gifts enrich the church’s worship. Kindle in us appreciation for all who beautify our worship space throughout the changing seasons. Merciful God (*Sing “Lord Listen to Your children Praying”*)

Precious in your sight is the death of your faithful ones. We remember and give thanks for the those who have died. With them, we trust your promise to love your own until the end. Merciful God (*Sing "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"*)

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER:

DISTRIBUTION OF WINE:

God, we give you thanks for the holy vine of your servant David, which you made known to us through Jesus your servant. After Supper, Jesus took the cup And said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Drink of this in remembrance of me."

Remember Lord to deliver your church and it's people from all evil and teach us to love you perfectly.
Amen.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

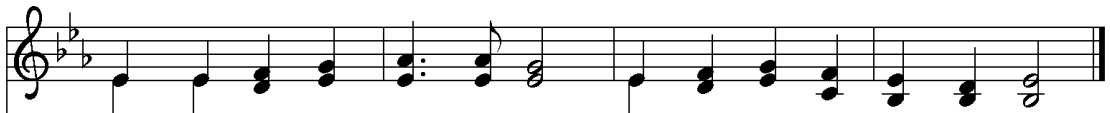
Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
 oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
 all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.



STRIPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped of candles, paraments and cloths, symbolic of Jesus, now captive, being stripped of freedom, respect and fairness. During the stripping of the altar, we read responsively Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;

I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

*When all the elements are removed, we depart in silence
May God's peace follow you into this night and bring you safely to
tomorrow.*

Good Friday worship begins at

2pm-St James Lutheran

7pm-Bethany Lutheran

Following service, you are welcomed to help clean up your tables and take items to kitchen.



Holy Week 2024 Times

Good Friday: 2pm @ St James
7pm @ Bethany

Easter Vigil: 5:30pm @ St Luke's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday: 9am @ Bethany
10:45am @ St James

*Service is adapted from St Lydia's Church (Brooklyn, New York),
Dinner Church Worship Service)*