

MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A faithful, serving community, joyfully sharing Christ's love.



**Maundy Thursday
March 28, 2024**

228 Ramapo Valley Rd, Oakland NJ 07436
www.messiahoaklandnj.org | 201-337-4900
@MessiahOaklandNJ
Sunday Worship 10:00 am

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

SILENT MEDITATION DURING PRELUDE

WELCOME FROM THE PASTOR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P People of God, 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.

You are invited to stand, sit, kneel or join in another worship position for the confession and forgiveness. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Most merciful God,

C **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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Creator, and of the + Redeemer, and of the Sustainer.

C **Amen.**

HYMN *Great God Your Love Has Brought Us Here* ELW #358



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.

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING:

R A reading from **Exodus 12:1–14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

R The Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 shall be read responsively.

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

2for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

¹²How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

13I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

SECOND READING:

R A reading from **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

THE GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to **John 13:1–17, 31b–35**

C **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

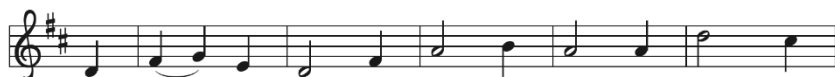
^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Religious Leaders so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON





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."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

OFFERING

*Offering can be left in the plates at the back of the sanctuary,
mailed to the church or given online by scanning the QR code.*



OFFERTORY

Create in me a Clean Heart

ELW #186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray:

C Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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

P Lift up your hearts. **C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

RESPONSE

ACS pg. 36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The Gifts of God for the people of God.

C Thanks be to God.

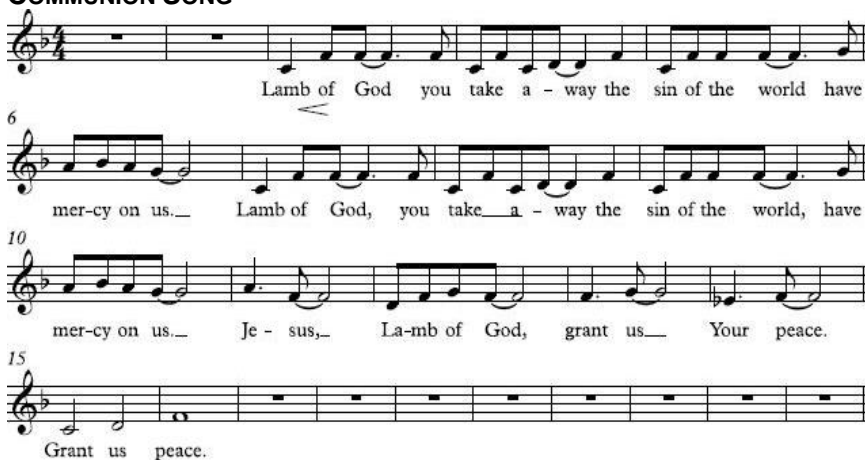
COMMUNION

You are invited to commune in your seats or at the altar rail using the prepackaged elements with a wafer and grape juice. The pastor will commune those at home and from their seats first and when the music begins, those wishing to come forward for communion at the rail may do so. You may commune after the pastor says:

P The body and blood of Christ, given for you.

C Amen

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, have
mer-cy on us. Je - sus, La-mb of God, grant us Your peace.
Grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Our Father, We Have Wandered ELW #606

See hymnal or back page for music

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you
and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray. 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 Creator and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

PRE-CLOSING CHANT

Stay With Me

ELW #348

The musical notation is for a two-part setting of the Pre-Closing Chant. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff begins with a G4 quarter note, followed by an A4 quarter note, then a B4 quarter note with a colon. This is followed by a G4 quarter note, an A4 quarter note, and a B4 quarter note. The final measure of the first system has a G4 half note and an A4 half note, both with a slur over them. The bass staff begins with a G3 half note and an A3 half note, both with a colon. This is followed by a G3 half note, an A3 half note, and a B3 half note. The final measure of the first system has a G3 half note and an A3 half note, both with a slur over them. The lyrics 'Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and' are written below the staves. The second system also has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a G4 half note and an A4 half note, both with a slur over them. This is followed by a B4 quarter note with a colon, then a G4 quarter note, an A4 quarter note, and a B4 quarter note. The final measure of the second system has a G4 half note and an A4 half note, both with a slur over them. The bass staff begins with a G3 half note and an A3 half note, both with a colon. This is followed by a G3 half note, an A3 half note, and a B3 half note. The final measure of the second system has a G3 half note and an A3 half note, both with a slur over them. The lyrics 'pray. Watch and pray.' are written below the staves.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The service concludes with the stripping of the altar. The assembly may sit or kneel or come forward to help. The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, and books are removed from the worship space while Psalm 22 is read. Please use this time for reflection, silence, and meditation.

All are invited to come forward and help with the stripping of the altar.

THE PSALMODY: Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm, and not human;

scorned by others, and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

⁸"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver —
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

⁹Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

¹⁰On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me,

for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls encircle me,

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;

¹⁷I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For 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.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To 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.

³⁰Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

P You may leave quietly or stay awhile to pray.

The service concludes in silence. Please depart silently when you are ready.

WORSHIP CONTINUES
Good Friday, March 29
7:30pm Tenebrae Worship Service

TODAY'S MINISTERS:

PASTOR: Rev. Courtney Smith Westerlund

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR: Bob Luderer

VIDEO TECH: Alex Boyce

ASSISTING MINISTER/LAY READER: Eleanore Orman

USHER: Len Nicolosi

GREETER: Brigitte Albrecht

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Liturgies #SAS022700

Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.