



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

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Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church
Believe the Words, "Given and Shed For You!"
Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Enter Reverently, Worship Joyfully, Live Faithfully

The word "maundy" comes from the Latin word "commandment." When Jesus first gave His disciples The Lord's Supper, He also gave them a commandment, to "love others." We are all loved by Jesus in this meal and are commanded by Him to love others as He loves us.

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

HYMN

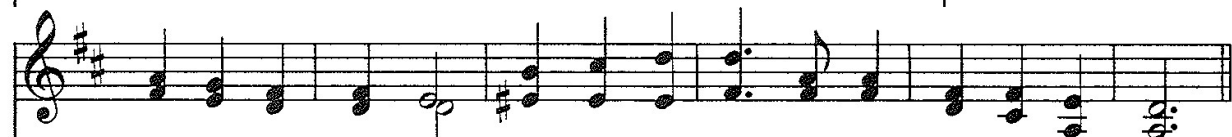
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness," #43 v. 1-3



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther, There is no
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest, Sun, moon and
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, Thy own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee; Thou chang - est not, Thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove Join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; Strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
hope for to - mor - row, Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

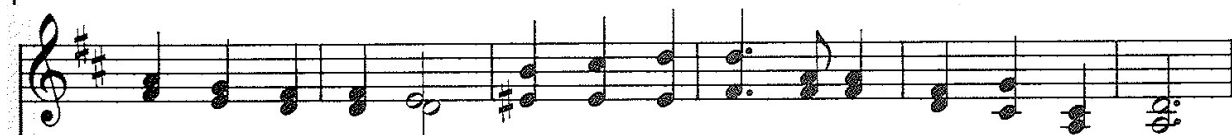
Refrain



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed — Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

ABSOLUTION

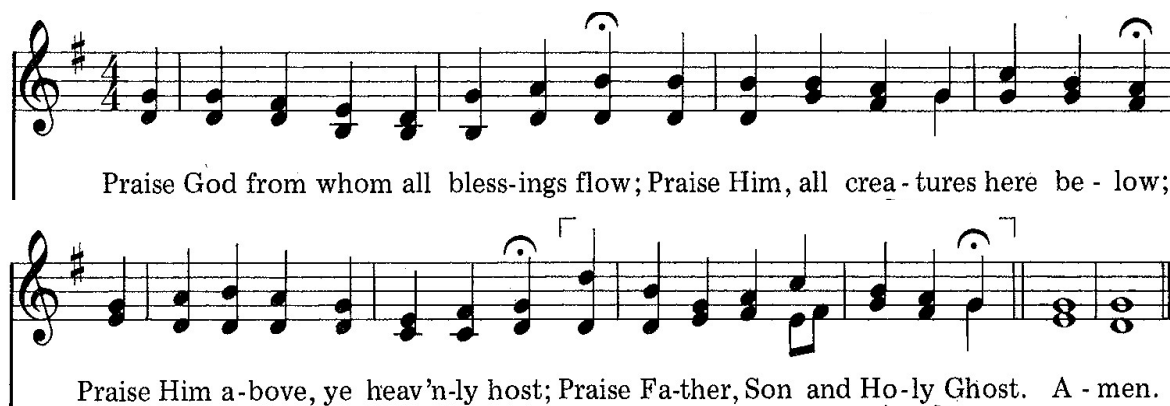
OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Rose Ann Sochan

OUR RESPONSE

Doxology #625



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.



HYMN OF PRAISE

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah", #51 v. 1-2



- > 1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this bar - ren
- > 2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing stream doth
- 3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious fears sub -



land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my
side; Bear me thro' the swell - ing cur - rent, Land me safe on



pow'r - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, Feed me
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, Be Thou
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will



till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
still my strength and shield, Be Thou still my strength and shield.
ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 12:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶ On the first day you shall hold a holy assembly, and on the seventh day a holy assembly. No work shall be done on those days. But what everyone needs to eat, that alone may be prepared by you. ¹⁷ And you shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for on this very day I brought your hosts out of the land of Egypt. Therefore you shall observe this day, throughout your generations, as a statute forever.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-9, 31-35 (ESV)

¹ Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Here ends our Gospel lesson for this evening.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON

"A New Covenant"

Pastor Kurt Hoover



HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together," #323 v. 1-3

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
2. Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)

Refrain

When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,
O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has three lines of lyrics. The second staff has three lines of lyrics. The third staff is labeled 'Refrain' and has one line of lyrics. The fourth staff has one line of lyrics. The music is in 4/4 time and G major. The lyrics are: '1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)' '2. Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)' '3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)' 'Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)' 'Let us drink the cup to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)' 'Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; (on our knees;)' 'Refrain' 'When I fall on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,' 'O Lord, have mer - cy on me. (on me.)'

WORDS OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 OF INTERCESSION

After each petition of, "Lord, in your mercy," congregation says, "hear our prayer."

For the Church, the world, and our poor sinful selves, let us pray to the Lord, who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

A brief silence

Most holy Jesus, for the gift of yourself, thank you. For your Body and Blood as food for our journey through this death-shadowed world, thank you. For your love that forgives us, and strengthens us to love and forgive one another, thank you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your Church the one place on earth that speaks divine truth through human lips, offers divine forgiveness to the humanly-unforgiveable, lavishes divine love on the humanly-unlovable, and mirrors divine light in the darkest places in human hearts.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Draw your persecuted Church deeply into the mystery of your Passion. Give it grace to pray, as you did, for the forgiveness and repentance of all who hate you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep this congregation steadfast in faith, constant in hope, and overflowing with love for you and for one another. Use us to lead those far off from your saving presence closer to the foot of your Cross.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Anoint with the healing presence of your most Holy Spirit this poor world that is ravaged by sin, evil, and death. We plead for hatred, prejudice, lies, and bloodshed to cease, and for the pure light of your Gospel to lead all people into your embrace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give wisdom, prudence, integrity, and courage to all who stand in harm's way in defense of life, liberty, and justice, here and abroad. Bless all they do that is in accordance with your will. Strengthen and cheer them when they falter; and give patience and hope to their loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the Way, Truth, and Life to everyone who suffers in body, mind, or spirit. Bestow upon them healing, hope, faith, and trust in your good and merciful will.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shelter our beloved dead in the shadow of your wings, dear Jesus, and keep them safe in your eternal care. Walk with us, we humbly pray, even when we are passing through Gethsemane and lingering at Calvary. Give us grace to trustfully say to your heavenly Father, "Thy will be done." And lead us in that bright and eternal Easter wherein we gather with all whom you have redeemed, joyfully adore you, and dwell with you in the power of the Holy Spirit in your Father's house forever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

"Lamb of God"



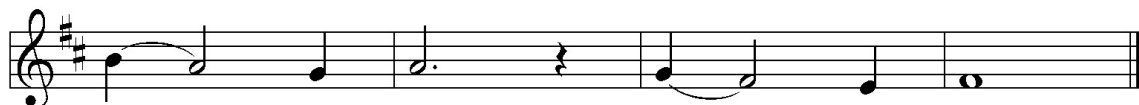
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE FIRST COMMUNION OF OUR CLASS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Gentle Shepherd," #458

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #68

COMMUNION BLESSING

HYMN

"Children of the Heavenly Father," #44 v. 1-4



1. Chil-dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther Safe-ly in His bos-om gath-er;
2. God His own doth tend and nour-ish, In His ho-ly courts they flour-ish;
3. Nei-ther life nor death shall ev-er From the Lord His chil-dren sev-er;
4. Praise the Lord in joy-ful num-bers, Your Pro-tect-or nev-er slum-bers;
5. Though He giv-eth or He tak-eth, God His chil-dren ne'er for-sak-eth;



Nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en Such a ref-uge e'er was giv-en.
 From all e-vil things He spares them, In His might-y arms He bears them.
 Un-to them His grace He show-eth, And their sor-rows all He know-eth.
 At the will of your De-fend-er Ev-'ry foe-man must sur-ren-der.
 His the lov-ing pur-pose sole-ly To pre-serve them pure and ho-ly.

Tomorrow, Jesus will go to the Cross and die for the sins of the world. And three days later He will be raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. Those days rightly overshadow everything else in our lives. As we leave tonight, let us remember the life and sacrifice of Jesus and the wonderful mystery we call The Lord's Supper. So as we return tomorrow, we may silently reflect on the sacrifice our Lord willingly makes on our behalf by going to the Cross.

Following the reading of Isaiah 53, we ask you to follow the pastor out of the Sanctuary in a quiet reflective tone, focusing on what was about to happen to our Lord.

ISAIAH 53

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors.

DEPART IN REFLECTION

*God will never lead you to a place
where His grace cannot keep you.*



*Welcome family members of our youth
receiving their First Communion!*

God bless our First Communion Class members!

Nora Burke

Gavin Hester

Susie Koenig

Maven Lawler

After finishing a course on The Lord's Supper, these fine young men and women are taking the next step in their faith journey. We celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ and thank God for answering the prayers of their parents, godparents, grandparents and families on their behalf.



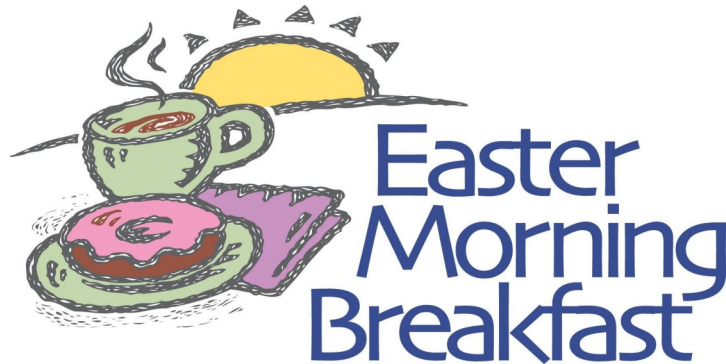
**Tenebrae Service
& Choir Cantata**

tomorrow evening at 7:00



Easter Services

*8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
(No Education Hour)*



Easter Breakfast is served from 7:30-10:45 a.m. in the FLC and is sponsored by our Head2Heart and FAM youth! Free will offering is appreciated. Here is just a taste of what you can look forward to:

A variety of delicious, homemade **Breakfast Casseroles** (vegetarian option too!)

**Sausage
Irish Potatoes
Donuts/Pastries**

**Biscuits & Gravy
Fresh Fruit
Coffee/Fruit Juices**

Served by: Messiah Student Ministries
Cost: Your donation - All proceeds support MSM

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 6th.