



# HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Maundy Thursday Service

### with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar

Order of Worship

April 2, 2026

*On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (mandatum, from which the word Maundy comes) to love one another.*

*On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's Supper. At the service's conclusion, the altar area is stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.*

*Silence for reflection*

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

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**

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 Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Hymn

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

ELW 347

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together. 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**

Choral Anthem

*He Lives!*

*Allen Pote*

The Luther Singers

[Sit]

First Lesson

**Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: <sup>2</sup>This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell 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. <sup>4</sup>If 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.

[<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.]

<sup>11</sup>This 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. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>The 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.

<sup>14</sup>This 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.

Response: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

**Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

*(Congregation speak together.)*

<sup>1</sup>**I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.  
<sup>12</sup>How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?  
<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.  
<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.  
<sup>15</sup>Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.  
<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.  
<sup>17</sup>I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.  
<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,  
<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

## Second Lesson

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup>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, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In 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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Response: Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

[Stand]

## Return to the Lord

**Return to the Lord our God for he is gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

## Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**



**John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus 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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After 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?" <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

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

Response: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

[Sit]

## Sermon

**"God on His Knees"**

[Stand]

## Hymn of the Day

***Love Consecrates the Humblest Act***

ELW 360

## 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 to the dead.  
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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

[After each petition, the congregation responds with: **Receive our prayer.**]

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**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(The congregation is asked to greet one another with the words of Christ: "Peace be with you.")*

[Sit]

## Offering

### Offertory

[Stand]

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen**

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together. God of good gifts, **receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy . . . *(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest.**

## Words of Institution

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## 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, forever and ever. Amen**

## Lamb of God

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

[Sit]

## Communion

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to receive communion, but would like a special blessing from the pastor - please join us at the table.  
We offer wine in the small individual cups in the silver tray. The small cups in the large outer ring of the tray contain the dark wine. The light colored cups in the middle of the tray contain non-alcoholic white grape juice. For those who are gluten-intolerant, please ask for rice cake.*

## Communion Hymns

***Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love  
In All Our Grief  
Jesus, Remember Me***

ELW 704  
ELW 615  
ELW 616

[Stand]

## Post-Communion Canticle

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.  
Mine own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:  
A light to reveal to you the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray together. 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**

[Sit]

## Stripping of the Altar

*The chancel area is now stripped of paraments and appointments in preparation  
for Good Friday. The altar will be restored for worship on Easter morning.  
As this is done, Psalm 22 is spoken.*

*When the stripping of the altar is completed, the service ends in silence.*

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## Worship Participants

Presiding Minister - Rev. David Smedley  
Assisting Minister – John Hanson  
Director of Music – Sandy Hunter  
Lector – Judy Kruger  
Ushers – June & Leon Edgemon  
Greeters – Mike Hoover & Leroy Polk  
Communion Assistant – Judy Kruger

For the Stripping of the Altar:  
Jan & Steve Austin  
Julianne Deloney  
Rudy & Judy Kruger  
Sylvia Negri

## Hope Lutheran Church

Ministering in His Mountains



3295 Old Hwy 5 South  
Ellijay, GA 30540  
Telephone: 706.636.4673 (HOPE)  
Email: hope.elca.ellijay@gmail.com  
Web site: www.hopeonthehill.church

Pastor: Rev. David Smedley  
Ministers: The People of Hope Church

*"Making Christ known through reaching, welcoming,  
praising, equipping and sending"*