



# **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

**MARCH 28, 2024**

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY**

*"A family of faith, rooted in Word and Sacrament proclaiming the redeeming love of Jesus Christ through worship, nurture, and service."*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

*The joy of the disciples' last supper with Jesus is muted and imperfect, but it is enough to carry them through the difficult hours ahead. In the Bible, this evening is rich with symbolism that engages all senses: the washing of dusty feet, the smell and taste of bread and cup, the gentle words of Jesus. In this service, which blends the traditional Maundy Thursday liturgy with multisensory reflection and prayer, we seek God's quiet joy together as we enter the Triduum, the Great Three Days preceding Jesus' resurrection.*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

## CONFESSION AND 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.

*A brief silence is kept for reflection.*

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 will live in your hearts through faith.

**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**

Let us pray.

**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. 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**

*Please be seated.*

#### **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

#### **FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 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>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.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

<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 re- | pay 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 READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

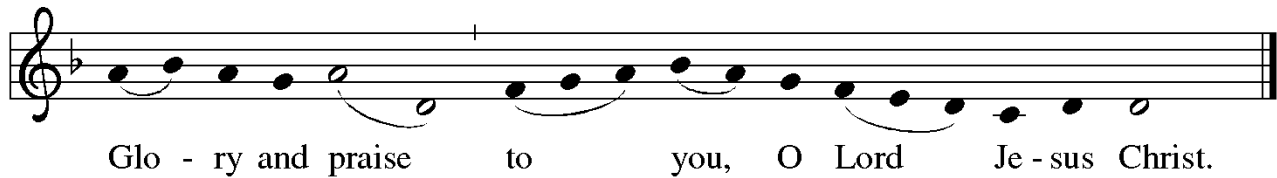
<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In the same 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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 God. 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 God 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 Godself 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 Judeans 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."

This is the good news of the Gospel.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

### **INVITATION TO PRAYER STATIONS**

*During this time, you are invited to reflect on the emotions, themes, and sensations of Jesus' last supper with his disciples in the upper room. Four prayer stations with simple reflection prompts are available for you to visit. You may visit any or all of them in any order or simply remain in your seat. Music is provided during this time; please feel free to sing along.*

#### **Station 1: Lord, Are You Going to Wash My Feet?**

**Location:** Stay in your seat

**Reflection Prompt:** When Jesus, Peter's rabbi and leader, knelt on the floor in front of Peter to wash his feet, Peter was initially shocked. As you sit in your pew, close your eyes and imagine what it must have been like for Peter. Feel the pew or chair under your legs and against your back. Feel your feet on the floor. Imagine someone you respect kneeling in front of you. Does it feel uncomfortable? Strange? Somehow familiar?

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me be receptive to gestures of grace and kindness from others. Open my heart to recognize the places all around me where you humble yourself in surprising situations. Teach me how to be humble, too. Amen.

#### **Station 2: Not My Feet Only But Also My Hands**

**Location:** Front right sanctuary entrance (bowl of water)

**Reflection Prompt:** When Jesus explained to Peter how important it was that Jesus wash the disciples' feet, a menial task often delegated to the household slave, Peter was amazed, and he asked Jesus to wash his hands and head, too. Use the pitcher to pour warm water over your hands gently. Smell the light fragrance of the bergamot oil. Dry your hands on the towel. As you symbolically wash your hands, imagine the loving tenderness with which Jesus washed his disciples' feet. What else do you imagine?

**Prayer:** Jesus, help me to give freely to others, but help me learn to receive others' care graciously, too. Show me the places all around me where you kneel in front of the poor and marginalized to wash their feet. Teach me to kneel there beside you. Amen.

#### **Station 3: Betrayed, He Took a Loaf of Bread**

**Location:** Front left sanctuary entrance (bread maker)

**Reflection Prompt:** When Jesus shared the last supper with the disciples, he had already been betrayed by one of them. He gave them bread – his body – anyway. Breathe in the generous aroma of the freshly baked bread, which we will soon share for communion. In the upper room, Jesus was generous and unconditional with his love. Where else do you find Jesus unconditionally loving others today?

**Prayer:** Jesus, teach me to respond to other people with love, even when it seems ridiculous or impossible. Surround this hurting world with love like the pervasive smell of fresh-baked bread. Amen.

#### **Station 4: I Give You a New Commandment**

**Location:** Narthex outside the rear of the sanctuary (chairs with soft shawls)

**Reflection Prompt:** Although the terrifying violence of Good Friday was about to begin, Jesus spent the last evening of his life teaching about love rather than about the coming horror. Perhaps he intended love to have a protective effect for his disciples, who would soon have to face fear and danger without Jesus by their side. Sit in the cushioned chair and wrap the shawl around your shoulders, like a hug. Consider: how has love helped you get through tough times before?

**Pray:** Jesus, cover me with your love. Hold me close when I face danger, grief, or pain. Shelter people throughout the world who have no other protection from war, violence, or abuse. Amen.

## MUSIC DURING PRAYER STATIONS

### A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH (VERSES 1 AND 4)

ELW 340



1 A lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth to save a world of sin - ners.  
2 This lamb is Christ, our great - est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav - ior,  
3 Our Sav - ior an - swered from his heart that he would take the bur - den:  
4 Of death I am no more a - fraid; your dy - ing is my liv - ing.



He bears the bur - den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors.  
whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver.  
"My Fa - ther's will is my com - mand; I'll do as I am bid - den."  
You clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.



He goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -  
"Go down, my child," the Fa - ther said, "and free my chil - dren  
Oh, won - drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what mor - tals  
Your love is dress e - nough for me to wear through all e -



out com - plaint; his spot - less life he of - fers. He bears the shame,  
from their dread of death and con - dem - na - tion. The pain - ful stripes  
can - not right the Son was sent from heav - en. What love, O Love,  
ter - ni - ty be - fore the throne of heav - en, where we shall stand

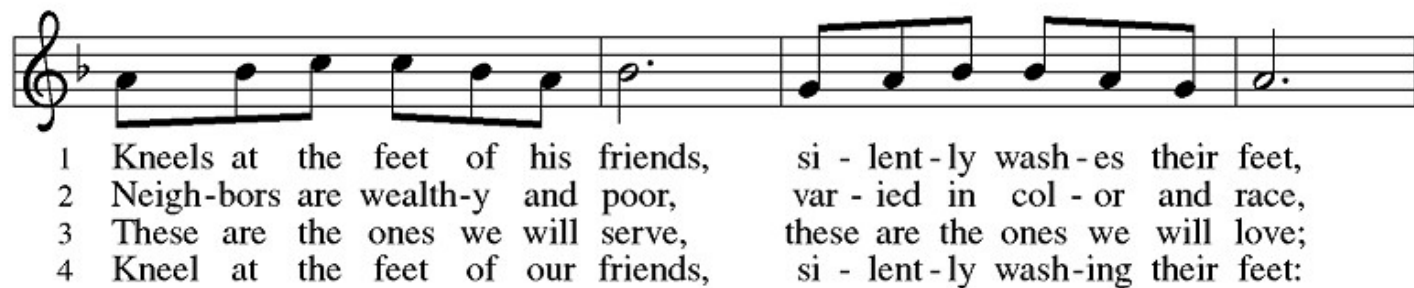
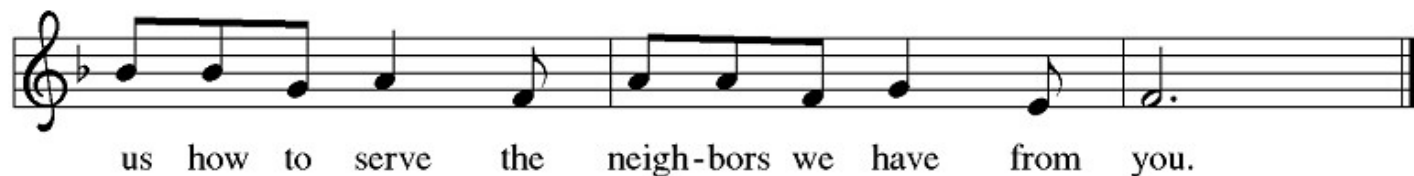


the stripes, the wrath; his an - guish, mock - er - y,  
are hard to bear, but by your death they all  
who came to save by lov - ing e - ven to  
close by your side, your church, the well - ap - point -



and death for us he glad - ly suf - fers.  
can share the joy of your sal - va - tion."  
the grave un - til the stone was riv - en.  
ed bride, when all the faith - ful gath - er.



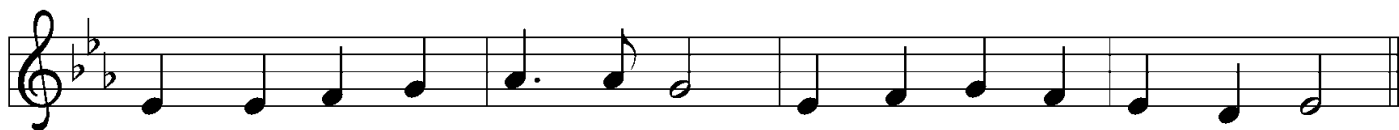




1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;  
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



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.

God is love. God is love; let us love one an -

oth-er as God first loved us. God is love.

God is love. God is love.

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

You make a new covenant with your people. Gather your church around word and table in love and promise as these three holy days enfold us. Open us to behold the mystery of our salvation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

You, our Savior and Teacher, stoop down to us in servant love. Inspire national and local leaders 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, **receive our prayer.**

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.

Merciful God, **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.**

#### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

#### **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

#### **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

*Offering plates are located by the entrances to the sanctuary. Your gifts support St. Mark, its mission, and its partnership with local, statewide and national partners.*

#### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace,  
**you give us so much:**  
 our days, our loved ones,  
 our passions and talents,  
 the food we eat, the homes we know,  
 a place to worship.  
 You pour out an abundance of goodness.  
 Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.  
 Bless them and bless us,  
 that we will give generously, love boldly, and share widely,  
 our offering reflecting your joyful gift.  
 Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Let us bless the bread  
that gives itself to us  
with its terrible weight,  
its infinite grace.

Let us bless the cup  
poured out for us  
with a love  
that makes us new.

**Let us gather  
around these gifts  
simply given  
and deeply blessed.**

**And then let us go  
bearing the bread,  
carrying the cup,  
laying the table  
within a hungry world.**

On 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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

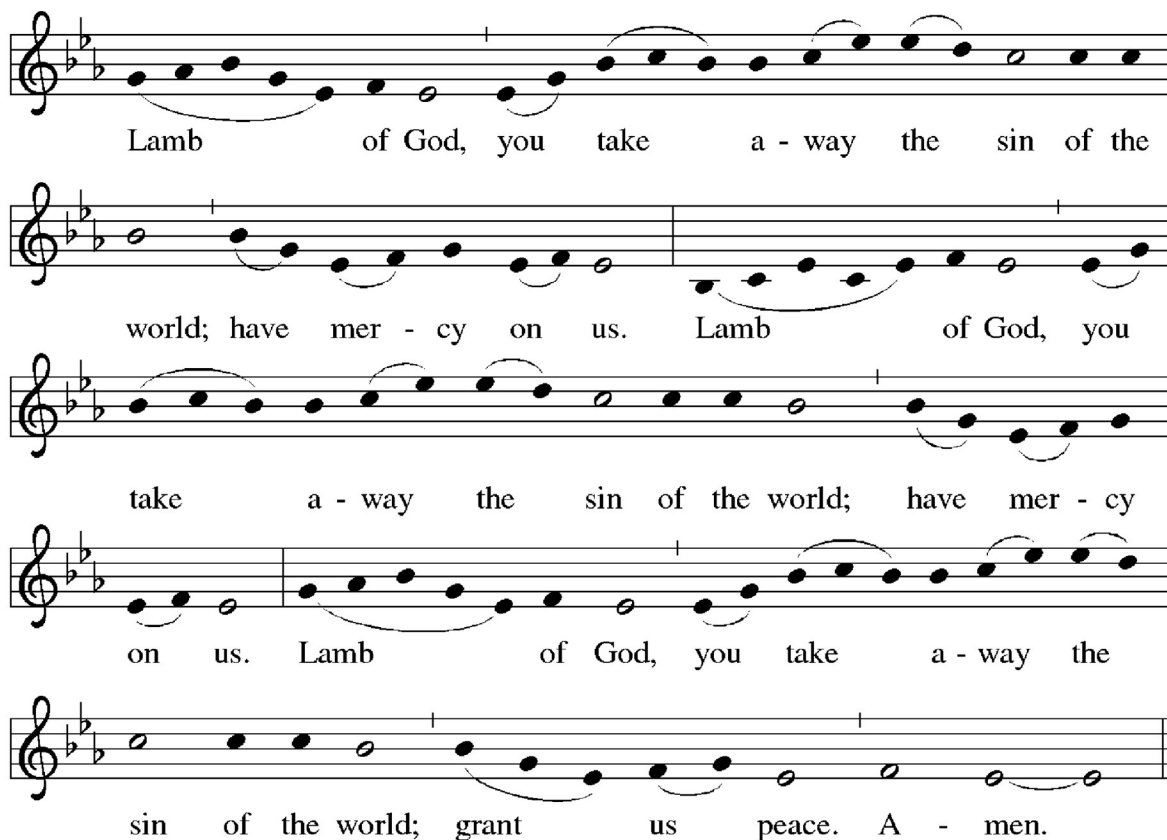
**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God, holy things for holy people.

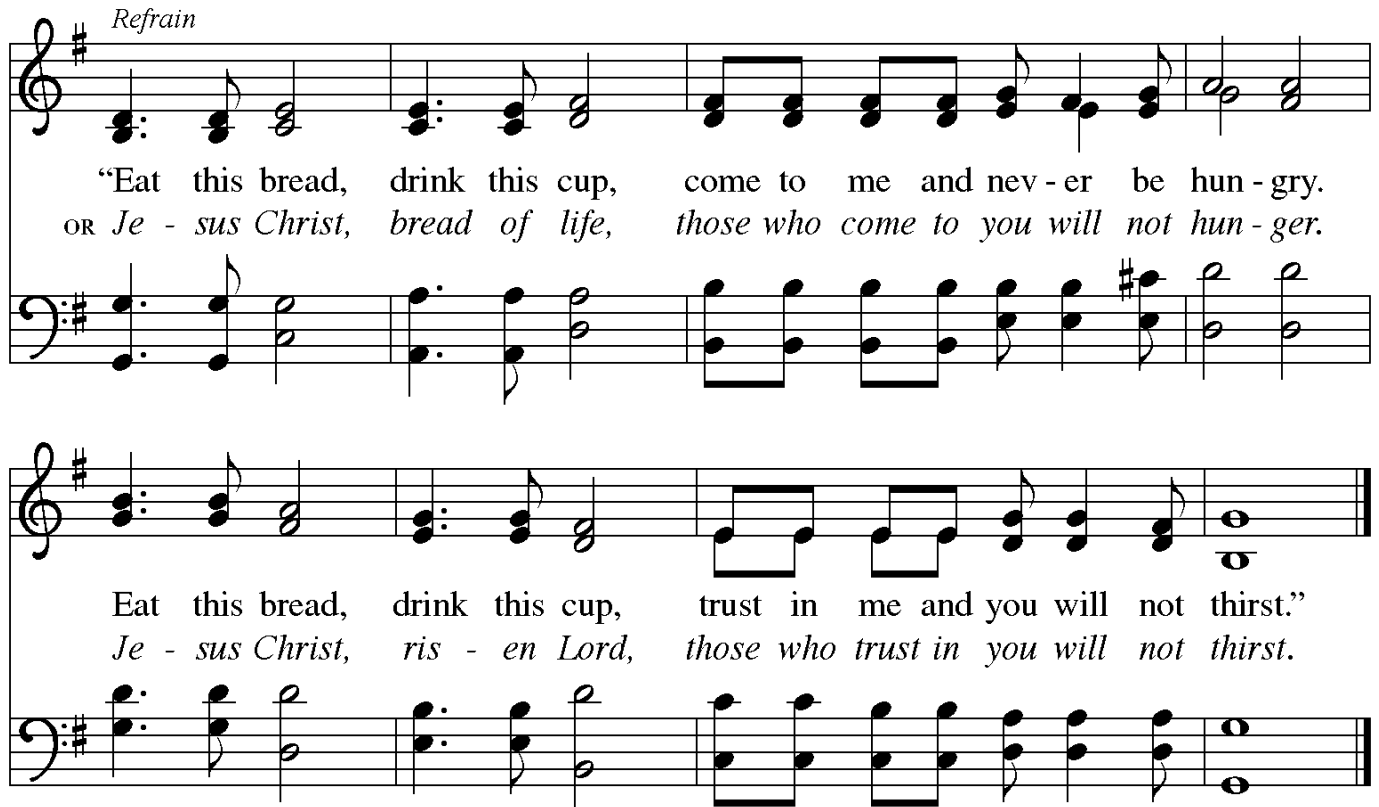
*This evening, we share communion with gluten-free bread and with red wine and red grape juice. Everyone is welcome to receive communion, regardless of age, religious background, or life experience.*

## 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. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

*Refrain*



“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

#### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,

**At this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

#### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*Psalm 22 is chanted as the altar is stripped. The stripping of the altar is a ritual removal of all objects and decorations that recalls the betrayal of Jesus and foreshadows the preparation of his body for burial.*



## PSALM 22

- <sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?  
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words | of my groaning?
- <sup>2</sup>My God, I cry out by day, but you | do not answer;  
by night, but I | find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup>Yet you are the | Holy One,  
enthroned on the prais- | es of Israel.
- <sup>4</sup>Our ancestors put their | trust in you,  
they trusted, and you | rescued them.
- <sup>5</sup>They cried out to you and | were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not | put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup>But as for me, I am a worm | and not human,  
scorned by all and despised | by the people.
- <sup>7</sup>All who see me laugh | me to scorn;  
they curl their lips; they | shake their heads.
- <sup>8</sup>“Trust in the LORD; let the | LORD deliver;  
let God rescue him if God so de- | lights in him.”
- <sup>9</sup>Yet you are the one who drew me forth | from the womb,  
and kept me safe on my | mother’s breast.
- <sup>10</sup>I have been entrusted to you ever since | I was born;  
you were my God when I was still in my | mother’s womb.
- <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trou- | ble is near,  
and there is no | one to help.
- <sup>12</sup>Many young bulls en- | circle me;  
strong bulls of Ba- | shan surround me.
- <sup>13</sup>They open wide their | jaws at me,  
like a slashing and | roaring lion.
- <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water; all my bones are | out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is | melting wax.
- <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof | of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the | dust of death.
- <sup>16</sup>Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers | circles round me;  
they pierce my hands | and my feet.
- <sup>17</sup>I can count | all my bones  
while they stare at | me and gloat.
- <sup>18</sup>They divide my gar- | ments among them;  
for my clothing, | they cast lots.
- <sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, be not | far away;  
O my help, hasten | to my aid.
- <sup>20</sup>Deliver me | from the sword,  
my life from the power | of the dog.
- <sup>21</sup>Save me from the | lion’s mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.

- <sup>22</sup>I will declare your name | to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you.
- <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.
- <sup>24</sup>For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's  
face hid- | den from them;  
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.
- <sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.
- <sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat | and be satisfied.  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!
- <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- <sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.
- <sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore the LORD.
- <sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.
- <sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people | yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The | LORD has acted!"

#### **SENDING WORDS: BLESSINGS FOR STAYING AWAKE**

Even in slumber,  
even in dreaming,  
even in sorrow,  
even in pain:

**awake, awake,  
awake my soul  
to the One who keeps vigil  
at all times for you.**

*You are invited to remain and pray in the bare sanctuary or to depart in silence.*

*The liturgy of the Great Three Days continues with Hearts Broken Open, our Good Friday tenebrae service,  
tomorrow evening at 7:30 pm.*

***Thank you to this evening's worship leaders!***  
**Lector and Communion Assistant:** Karen Breninghouse  
**Usher:** Michaela Arzt  
**Livestream Operator:** Judy Oiler  
**Altar Guild:** Bobbie Huffman and Dolores McKillip  
**Church Administrator:** Robin Harris  
**Minister of Music:** John Kling  
**Pastor:** Rev. Linnéa Clark  
**Ministers:** People of St. Mark

### **Worship with Us**

*We gather for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am (a full-length, more formal service)  
and on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm (a shorter, more informal service). You are always welcome.*

*We host Peace of Mindfulness, a mindfulness meditation class, on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.  
Beginners and advanced practitioners alike are welcome.*

*This week is Holy Week, so our worship schedule is different.  
You're welcome to join us for the following Holy Week worship services:*

*Good Friday, March 29 at 7:30 pm  
Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 am*

### **Serve with Us**

*We welcome volunteers every Sunday after worship to help with Lunches with Love, which prepares lunches  
for clients of HomeFront. Recently, we shared our 13,000<sup>th</sup> lunch! Contact Karen Breninghouse  
(kbreninghouse@gmail.com) for more information.*

### **Contact Us**

*You can reach our office at [admin@stmarkhamilton.org](mailto:admin@stmarkhamilton.org) and at (609) 585-7087.*

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