



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church
of
St. Matthew

*A friendly
household of faith*

Chartered Dec 6, 1664

**361 years of
Gospel Ministry**

A congregation of
The Lutheran Church –
Missouri Synod.

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah
Pastor



"I give you
a new
commandment,
that you
**Love
One
another.**"
John 13:34



**MAUNDY
Thursday**

April 02, 2026

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to commemorate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Holy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Stand

The sign of the cross + is made in remembrance of our baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit C

Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God.

C **Unto God, who gives exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

P Friends, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our 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 committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of his Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example the Lord gave us on the night before his death.

It is, however, in the Holy Communion that the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's last supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and share the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of himself and participate in that new covenant which makes us one in him. The Eucharist is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

P Let us make confession to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve your punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them, and repent of them, and I pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the**

suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

P Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. Through his Holy Spirit he cleanses us and gives us his power to proclaim the mighty deeds of God who called us out of darkness into the splendor of his light. 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. C **Amen.**

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

(All share the peace of our Lord)

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

P Let us pray...O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C **Amen.**

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷“Then 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. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you

shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and 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 are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

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." *Exodus 12:1-14*

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 116:12-19

What shall I render | to the Lord* for all his bene- | fits to me?

**¹³I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the Lord,**

¹⁴I will pay my vows | to the Lord*
in the presence of all his | people.

**¹⁵Precious in the sight | of the Lord*
is the death | of his saints.**

¹⁶O Lord, I am your | servant;*
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have | loosed my bonds.

**¹⁷I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the Lord.**

¹⁸I will pay my vows | to the Lord*
in the presence of all his | people,

**¹⁹in the courts of the house | of the Lord,*
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the Lord!**

A reading from the Epistle to the Corinthians

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

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world. *1 Corinthians 11:23–32*

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now 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. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not 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, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one

another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." *John 13:1–17, 31b–35*

The Gospel of our Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

HYMN: 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

1 Thy body, giv'n for me, O Savior,
Thy blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever,
By them my hungry soul is fed. Refrain

Refrain: Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!

2 With Thee, Lord, I am now united;
I live in Thee and Thou in me.
No sorrow fills my soul, delighted
It finds its only joy in Thee. Refrain

3 Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise. Refrain

4 Though death may threaten with disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer;
For He who is of death the master
With aid and comfort e'er is near. Refrain

5 My heart has now become Thy dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally. Refrain

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray: Almighty God...

☩ **Creator and Redeemer of the world, we give you thanks that you have loved us and given us the bread of life, your Son, our Savior. With these gifts of bread and wine and our possessions, we dedicate ourselves to a life of love for the sake of him who gave himself in love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

JESUS' WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P With boldness and confidence, we pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us.

**C 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**

The Agnus Dei

**C 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, grant us peace.**

P Behold the Lamb of God. Behold Him who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are they who are invited to the supper of the Lamb.

**C Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Communion follows.

P Let us pray...Lord God, in a wonderful Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C **Amen.**

Hymn: 436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- 4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Text: Public domain

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping of the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the soldier's hands. As the linens, paraments, and ornaments are removed, Psalm 22 is said in unison.

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

⁷ All 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!"

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

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

¹¹ Do not be far from me, for trouble is
near and there is no one to help.

¹² Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

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

¹⁴ 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;

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

¹⁶ For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers
encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;

¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

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

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

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

²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

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

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!

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

²⁴ 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.

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

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

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

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

²⁹ 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.

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

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

- There is no benediction. .

- All depart in silence.

The service continues with the
Good Friday Liturgy tomorrow at 12:00 noon.

- Leave your offering at the door.

- **Easter Sunday, April 05**
Worship at 1:30 PM
In-person and on Zoom



Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew

178 Bennett Avenue, New York, NY 10040

Ph/Fax: 212-567-5948 Email: stmatthewnyc@aol.com Web: stmatthewnyc.org