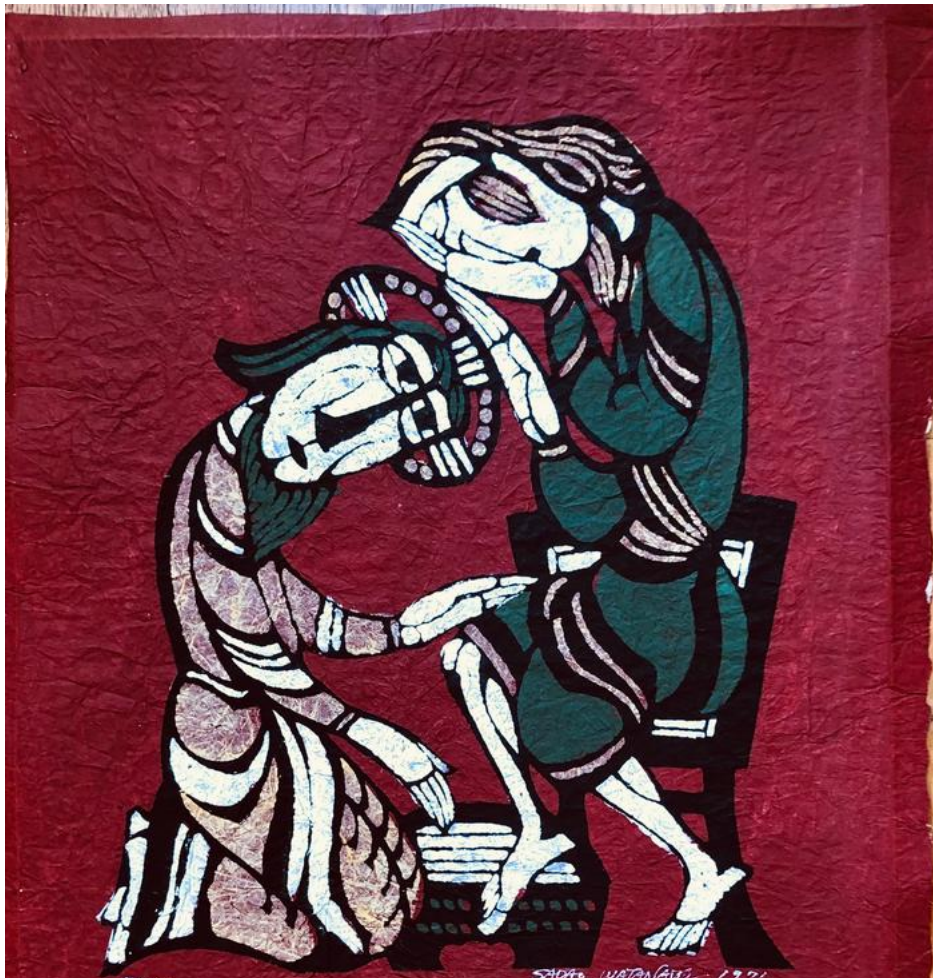




## Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024



900 Washington Crossing Road  
Newtown PA 18940  
215-497-0447  
[ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)

# WELCOME TO ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **Welcome!**

*Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or this has been your faith community for many years, we welcome you to worship.*

**Maundy Thursday** is named for Jesus' commandment (Latin: *mandatum*) to love one another as he loved us.

*Tonight, we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.*

## **A few notes on how we worship together:**

*During the Prayers of People, you are welcome to voice your prayers out loud or you may fill out the yellow prayer sheet found in your bulletin. The yellow prayer sheets will be collected by the usher after the sermon. Prayer requests will be voiced by the Pastor and added to the weekly prayer list circulated by email.*

*We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.*

**Cover Image:** Sadao Watanabe, "Christ Washing the Feet of Saint Peter"

This image hangs in our narthex donated by and in memory of Clark and Jane Shuster.

*Presiding Minister (P), Assisting Minister (AM), Congregation (C)*

## GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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.**

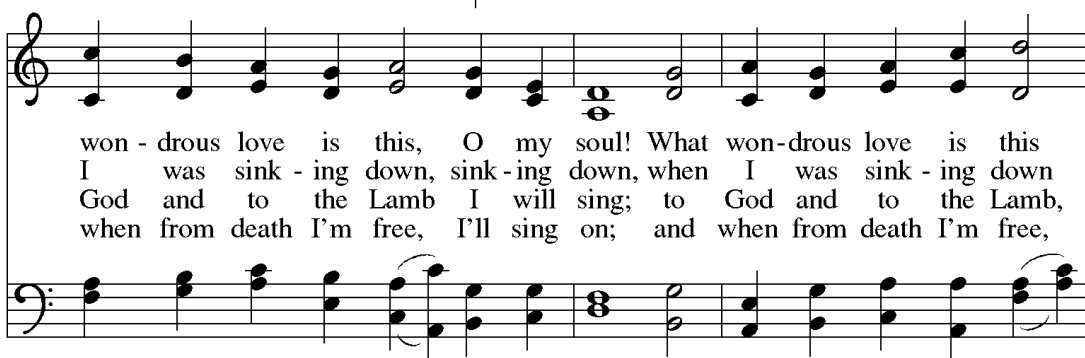
God, who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.  
**Amen.**

# HYMN OF THE DAY | WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS



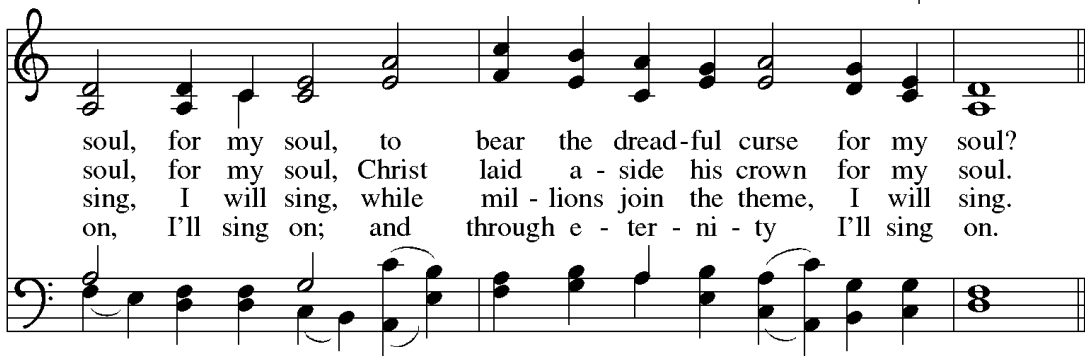
1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.  
 Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.  
 Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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.**

## KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)  
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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.**

# WORD

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

## **FIRST READING | EXODUS 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14**

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. 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. [Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 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. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ] 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. 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. 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.

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.

R The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM | PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19** *prayed responsively*

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
**for the LORD has given ear to me  
whenever I called.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



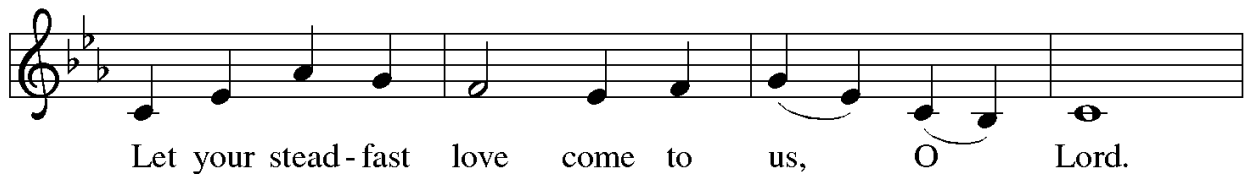
## SECOND READING | 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26

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, 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." 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." For 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



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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

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

“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 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.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By 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.**

HOMILY

Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood

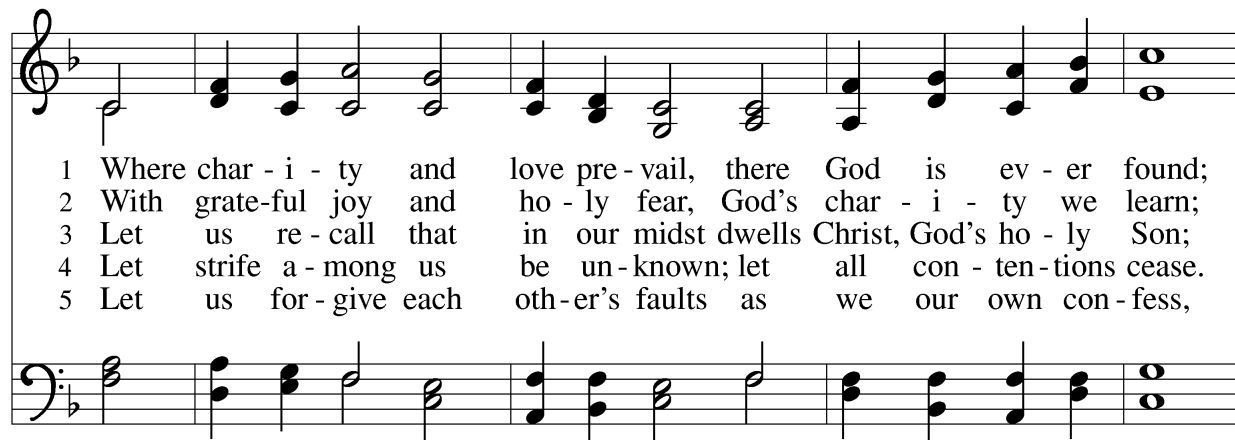
FOOTWASHING

*You may be seated.*

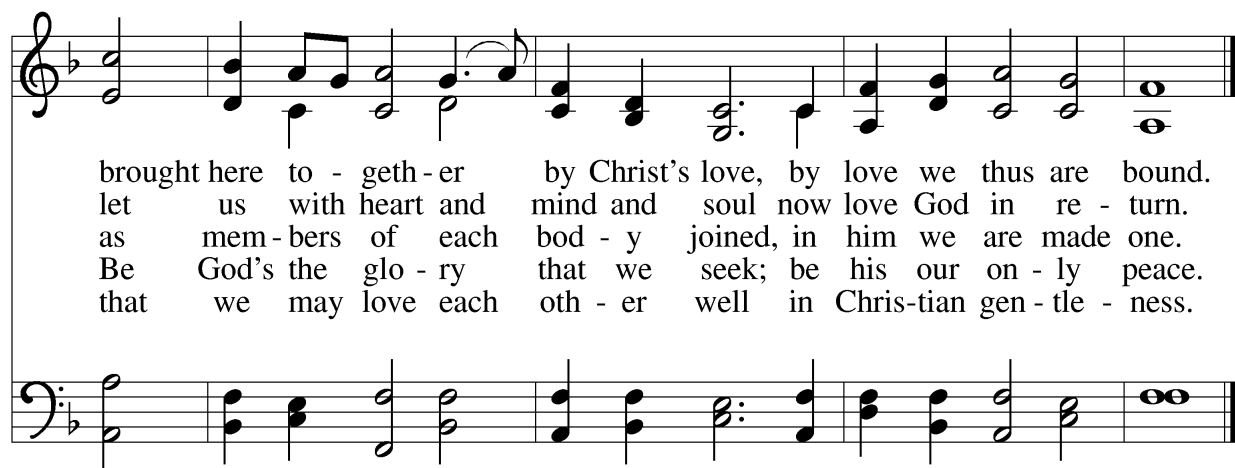
P On this night we have heard our Lord’s commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following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

*The ministers wash each other’s feet. All may come forward to have their feet washed by the ministers. The Hymn of the Day is sung during the footwashing.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY | WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

Text © 1960 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All Rights Reserved.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM Merciful God,

**C Receive our prayer.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## MEAL

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

ANTHEM | "I GIVE YOU A NEW COMMANDMENT" Peter Aston

### GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*A brass plate will be passed during the offertory for your tithes and offerings. You may also give online by visiting [ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/give). Thank you for your gifts.*

### OFFERING HYMN | CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



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.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## OFFERING PRAYER

AM 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.

**C Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.  
You gather your people around the tree of the cross,  
transforming death into life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O living God, sovereign of time and space.  
 You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine.  
 Your word leads us across the waters to freedom,  
 passing over with us from death to life.  
 Blessed be God forever!

**C Blessed be God forever!**

P Blessed are you, O living God, for your glory revealed in Jesus  
 Christ.  
 He is the Lamb, whose blood saves us from sin.  
 He is your Servant, who washes our feet with mercy.  
 He is himself our Food, the bread and cup of salvation.  
 Blessed be God forever!

**C Blessed be God forever!**

P 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.

Blessed be God forever!

**C Blessed be God forever!**

P Blessed are you, O living God, for your Spirit of love.  
Feed us at this table with the body and blood of your Son.  
Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need.  
Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.  
Blessed be God forever!

**C Blessed be God forever!**

P Amen, amen.

**C Amen, amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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** Where charity and love abide, there is God.  
Rejoice in this holy communion. Come to the table.  
**C** **Amen.**

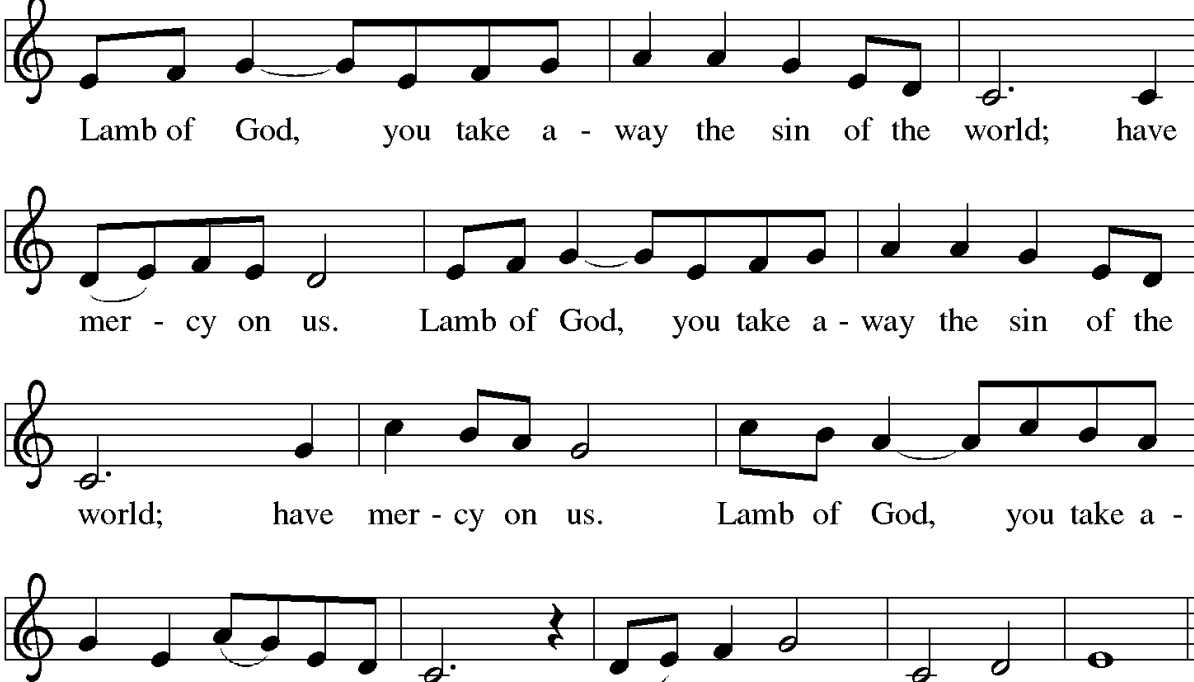
## COMMUNION

*The gifts of God belong to you, the people of God. We believe that the living Christ is present in Holy Communion and that this meal offers forgiveness and new life. We welcome all who seek these gifts.*

*Communion is celebrated by intinction. Extend your open palms to receive the bread, then dip the bread into either the red wine or white grape juice in the divided chalice. If you desire gluten-free bread, please tell the pastor. If you require Holy Communion brought to your seat, please inform an usher.*

*You may also come forward to the Table with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing from the pastor.*

## AGNUS DEI



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.

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION | EN PRIÈRE

Gabriel Faure (1845-1924)

Matthew Zimnoch, Soloist

If the voice of a child can reach up to you, O my Father,  
listen to this prayer from Jesus,  
kneeling before You!

If you have chosen me to teach your laws here on earth,  
I shall know how to serve You, mighty King of kings,  
O Light!

Place the salutary truth upon my lips, Lord  
so that he who doubts, may revere you  
with humility!

Do not abandon me, give me the gentleness needed  
to lessen pains, to relieve suffering  
and misery!

Reveal Yourself to me, O Lord in whom I believe and I hope:  
For You I wish to suffer and to die upon the cross  
at Calvary!

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** **Amen.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**AM** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

### STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*All are seated. The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, and paraments  
are removed from the worship space. Psalm 88 is sung by the cantor. Lights  
will dim as the worship space is stripped.*

Psalm 88

Cantor: Peter de Mets

- <sup>1</sup>O LORD, my | God, my Savior,  
by day and night I | cry to you.
- <sup>2</sup>Let my prayer enter in- | to your presence;  
incline your ear to my | lamentation.
- <sup>3</sup>For I am | full of trouble;  
my life is at the brink | of the grave.
- <sup>4</sup>I am counted among those who go down | to the pit;  
I have become like one who | has no strength;
- <sup>5</sup>lost among the dead, like the slain who lie | in the grave,  
whom you remember no more, for they are cut off | from your  
hand.
- <sup>6</sup>You have laid me in the depths | of the pit,  
in dark places, and in | the abyss.
- <sup>7</sup>Your anger weighs up- | on me heavily,  
and all your great waves | overwhelm me.
- <sup>8</sup>You have put my friends far from me; you have made me to be  
ab- | horred by them;  
I am in prison and can- | not get free.
- <sup>9</sup>My sight has failed me be- | cause of trouble;  
LORD, I have called upon you daily; I have stretched out my |  
hands to you.
- <sup>10</sup>Do you work wonders | for the dead?  
Will those who have died stand up and | give you thanks?
- <sup>11</sup>Will your lovingkindness be declared | in the grave,  
your faithfulness in the land | of destruction?
- <sup>12</sup>Will your wonders be known | in the dark  
or your righteousness in the country where all | is forgotten?
- <sup>13</sup>But as for me, O LORD, I cry to | you for help;  
in the morning my prayer | comes before you.
- <sup>14</sup>LORD, why have you re- | jected me?  
Why have you hidden your | face from me?
- <sup>15</sup>Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the | point of

death;  
I have borne your terrors | and am helpless.  
<sup>16</sup>Your blazing anger has swept | over me;  
your terrors | have destroyed me;  
<sup>17</sup>they surround me all day long | like a flood;  
they encompass me on | every side.  
<sup>18</sup>My friend and my neighbor you have put a- | way from me,  
and darkness is my on- | ly companion.

*All depart in silence. The worship service continues tomorrow, 29 March 2024, at 12PM (Family Service: Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Good Friday) and 7PM.*

Thanksgiving at the Table From *Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table* by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

## Thank you to our volunteers:

Assisting Minister .....Jillian Rauh  
Reader .....Sheryl White  
Altar Service.....Amy Loux  
Usher ..... Tony Eith  
Tech .....John Carducci

To give online please scan the QR Code below.



## Connect with US

The best way to stay informed of church activities is to subscribe to our Constant Contact email listserv. You will receive the weekly worship link, the bi-monthly newsletter, and occasional event reminders and updates. To sign up, visit [ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org/contactus),

## **HOLY WEEK AT ASCENSION**

March 29 <sup>th</sup> 12noon	Family Service - Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Good Friday
March 29 <sup>th</sup> 7pm	Good Friday Service
March 31 <sup>st</sup> 9:30am	Easter Egg Hunt
March 31 <sup>st</sup> 10am	Easter Sunday Worship



Rev. Kayla J. Hopgood, *Pastor* | [pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.kayla.alc@gmail.com)  
Peter de Mets, *Director of Music* | [pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com](mailto:pdm@peterdemetsmusic.com)  
Ginny Kraft, *Church Administrator* | [officealc900@gmail.com](mailto:officealc900@gmail.com)  
Beth Peroni, *Bookkeeper* | [bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com](mailto:bookkeeperalc900@gmail.com)

The Church Office is open Wednesdays from  
9AM - 1PM and Thursdays from 12-4PM.  
Pastor Kayla is available by appointment Tuesday through Thursday.

Learn more about our community at [ascensionlutheranchurch.org](http://ascensionlutheranchurch.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown](https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranNewtown)  
Instagram: AscensionLutheranNewtown