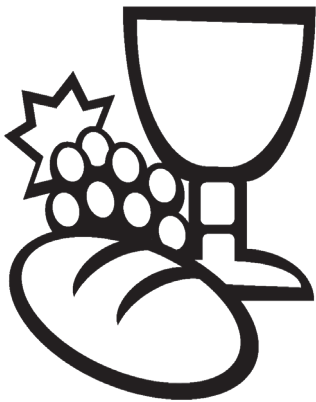


Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

Maundy Thursday

Today recalls Jesus’ last supper with his closest friends, during which he institutes what the church knows as the sacrament of Holy Communion. As a sign of his servant-love, Jesus washes his disciples’ feet and gives them a new commandment, that they should love one another as he has loved them. We see ourselves in the disciples, who will abandon their Lord in various ways as Jesus makes his way to the cross.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Mandatum Reading: John 13:1-35

Love One Another

Jesus’ new love commandment was demonstrated by the washing of the disciples’ feet. He commanded them to wash one another’s feet, as well — an act of humility and service signifying Jesus’ great love for all people.

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-11

The Passover of the Lord

The Israelites were given instructions to prepare for their flight from Egypt in the aftermath of God’s judgment upon Pharaoh, the massive loss of life among the Egyptians. Instructions included how to mark their dwellings to ensure that the Angel of Death would pass over their homes.

Psalm 116:12-19

Sacrifice of Praise

The psalmist sang praises to the Lord; he was grateful for all the Lord has given. A sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving served as a witness for all to see and repeat.

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-22

St. Paul recounted the words of Jesus at the Last Supper that bind the body of Christ together into one holy communion. All were invited to come to the table in true unity.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:17-30

The Lord’s Supper

Jesus instructed his friends on preparing for them a Passover meal. This would be their last supper together before he was arrested and crucified.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Purple or scarlet

- Use the Kyrie.
- Omit the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed.

Make sure to have anointing oil ready for individual blessings if you plan to do that during worship.

Have basins, towels, and pitchers prepared for the Mandatum. If your congregation has never done a footwashing before, ask a few people to come forward first so that others will be more apt to follow.

Have altar workers lined up to help with the stripping of the altar at the conclusion of the service.

Consider chanting Psalm 22 during the stripping of the altar.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Where Charity and Love Prevail	126	---	845	359	---	---
O Living Bread from Heaven	197	---	642	542	84	84
Let Us Break Bread Together	212	---	---	471	83	83
Abide With Me	272	---	878	629	62	62
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	198	---	621	490	80	80
Eat this Bread, Drink This Cup	---	706	638	492	---	---
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service	423	---	848	712	---	---
O Love, How Deep	88	---	544	322	---	---
Come, Let Us Eat	214	---	626	491	---	---
Ubi Caritas	---	665	---	653	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:
(There is) Love (CCLI# 5203347)
The Problem is Me (CCLI# 4797184)
All I Want (CCLI# 5900774)
Lift Your Head, Weary Sinner (CCLI# 7022191)
Lord, Have Mercy (CCLI# 2989578)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.