

*St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Meyersville, Texas  
April 2, 2026*

*Maundy Thursday*

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

Psalm 116:13



**Psalm 116:13**

# *Maundy Thursday Service*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

361-277-8653

Pastor John Boor

**Maundy Thursday**

**April 2, 2026**

*Worship Service 7:00 p.m.*

**PRELUDE:**

*“The Beautiful Garden of Prayer”*

**J.H. Fillmore**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand as you are able*

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 **To God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P In the Upper Room, our Lord Jesus Christ gave a new command that His people are to love one another as He has loved us. When we look at our lives, we see clearly that we have not fulfilled that new command. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and realize that we have transgressed the Law of God in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves and have passed by countless opportunities to be of service in the name of the Lord. In His mercy, God has promised His forgiveness to those who repent and turn to Him, humbly asking for His grace in Christ Jesus. Let us then make our confession to our God.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **We confess that we are in bondage 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.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C Amen

**OPENING HYMN**

***“Go to Dark Gethsemane”***

**LBW#109**

**<sup>1</sup>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.**

**<sup>2</sup>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 suffering, shame, or loss; Learn from him to bear the cross.**

**<sup>3</sup>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.**

**<sup>4</sup>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.**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Amen.

*Sit*

**FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14**

**12** The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>“This month shall be for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they shall take every man a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household; <sup>4</sup>and if the household is too small for a lamb, then a man and his neighbor next to his house shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old; you shall take it from

the sheep or from the goats; <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs in the evening. <sup>7</sup>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 them. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled with water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning, anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and 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, upon the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall fall upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as an ordinance for ever.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32**

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

<sup>27</sup> Whoever, 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. <sup>28</sup> Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged. <sup>32</sup> But when we are judged by the Lord, we are chastened so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

*Stand as you are able*

## **GOSPEL VERSE**

**C Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

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

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

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

**13** Now 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. <sup>2</sup>And during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray

him, <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>rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter; and Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part in 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, "He who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but he is clean all over; and you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "You are not all clean."

<sup>12</sup>When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, 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 so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of man glorified, and in him God is glorified; <sup>32</sup>if God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## SERMON

**HYMN:**

*"Were You There"*

**LBW#92**

<sup>1</sup>Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

<sup>2</sup>Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

**<sup>3</sup>Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**<sup>4</sup>Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?**

*Stand as you are able*

## **NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith together through the Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who partake this day of Christ's holy body and blood, that in their eating and drinking they may receive the benefits of forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life and have a foretaste of the feast to come, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

**OFFERING:**

*“Garden of Gethsemane”*

**Robert J. Hughes**

**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 Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on our fallen humanity, revealing to us your holy will and sending your only Son to fulfill it in our stead. With repentant joy we receive the gracious salvation you provide through the sacrifice of his body and blood on the cross.

Strengthen us as we gather in remembrance of Jesus grant us to grow in faith and love; and gather us together with all the faithful to rejoice together around your throne in eternity. To you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever.

**C Amen**

P 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.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**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**

**COMMUNION**

P Come to his holy table with penitent hearts, seeking communion with our Lord.

## **THE DISTRIBUTION** *(Please follow directions of the ushers)*

### **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

**C** **Amen**

**P** Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

### **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

**Pastor:** After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours before our Lord was crucified. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. Christ's offered body and his shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in this holy Mystery.

**All:** **As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this holy Sacrament.**

*Communion vessels are removed.*

**Pastor:** The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven.

**All:** **When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"**

*The altar cross is removed.*

**Pastor:** The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God.

**All:** **As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard.**

*The missal stand and Altar Book are removed.*

**Pastor:** Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**All:** **The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world.**

*All candles are extinguished and removed.*

**Pastor:** Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending his Son, Jesus, in human form.

**All:** **As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.**

*The offerings are removed.*

**Pastor:** The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at his banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King.

**All:** **As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.**

*The altar cloths and paraments are removed.*

*After the Stripping of the Altar, the hymn is sung.*

**HYMN:**

***“It Happened on That Fateful Night”***

**LBW#127**

**<sup>1</sup>It happened on that fateful night When pow'rs of earth and hell arose  
Against the Son, our God's delight, And friends betrayed him to his foes.**

**<sup>2</sup>Before the bitter scene began, He took the bread, and blest and broke.  
What love through all his actions ran! What wondrous words of love he spoke!**

**<sup>3</sup>“My body, broken for your sin, Receive and eat as living food.”  
He took the cup and blest the wine: “Share this new testament, my blood.”**

**<sup>4</sup>“Do this,” he said, “till time shall end, Remembering your dying friend;  
Meet at my table and record The full obedience of your Lord.”**

**<sup>5</sup>O Lord, your feast we celebrate; We show your death; we sing your name  
Till you return, when we shall eat The marriage supper of the Lamb.**

***[The congregation leaves in silence.]***