

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ, Rejoicing Spirits, and Handicap Friendly Congregation

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Thursday, March 28, 2024

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.
If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons or take along a copy of this week’s children’s bulletin.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

*With nightfall, our Lenten observance comes to an end,
and we gather with Christian's around the world
to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.*

*At the heart of the Maundy 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.*

GATHERING

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

Gathering Music

Love of Christ Poured Out For Us
Elizabeth Moessner and Vi Ballard, soloists

S443

The Congregation is welcome to sing the refrain.

Refrain

Love of Christ poured out for us, to serve a world in need.

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Responses

A meal,
a table,
a group of friends.

Water,
bread,
wine.

**So simple,
so powerful.**

A promise: life abundant.
A commandment: love one another.

**Let the feast of love commence!
Let us worship God!**

Call to Reconciliation

How will people recognize us as followers of Jesus?
Simply by how we treat one another.
Let us confess our failure to love as Christ loves.

Confession and Forgiveness

Creator and loving God, you kneel to wash our feet,
**yet we are reluctant for you to see the wounds and scrapes
of all the places we have run in our attempts to escape you.**

You would bathe us in the warm, living waters of your love,
yet we splash and play in the puddles of temptation.

We have received all the gifts you have to offer,
yet we are tempted to keep them all for ourselves rather than share them.

Forgive us, Holy One, and have mercy on us.

God, what can we give you for all your wonderful graciousness towards us:

**As you have broken your heart for us,
may we open ours to serve others.**

**As you have given your life for us,
may we offer ours to bring healing to the world.**

**As you have called us together around your table,
may we go forth to feed a world hungry, not only for food,
but for that Spirit which brings peace and reconciliation.**

**This we pray as servants of Jesus Christ,
who came to serve us in life,
in death and in resurrection hope.**

Silence for reflection.

On this holiest of nights, we have received the Good News:
God has come in Christ Jesus to fill us with hope and peace,
to bathe us in grace and mercy.

**In remembrance, we go forth:
To bring hope where despair has taken up residence.
To be servants to those who are broken.
To love as selflessly as we are loved by Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior.
Amen**

The assembly is seated.

Individual Absolution

People may come forward and kneel for Individual Absolution.

*The pastor addresses each person, saying:
“In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I forgive you all your sins.”*

*Each person responds: **Amen***

After all have returned to their seats, we pray the Prayer of the Day.

The assembly may remain seated.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious God, on this day
when power is transformed into service
and bread and wine turn into love,
we ask that you teach us
to humble ourselves,
to share the abundance of this table,
and to wash the feet of our enemies.
Come and dwell in our hearts –
feed us with your Word,
and teach us how to love.

Amen

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

1st Reading Exodus 12:1-2, 11-14

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Exodus.

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.

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. I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and 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.

Word of God, Word of Hope.
Thanks be to God!

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Translation: NRSV-UE

The Good News from John, the 13th chapter.
Open our hearts, 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 decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. 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 supper, 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 reclined again, 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, slaves 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.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "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."

This is the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Cindy Camp

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now

ACS Hymn #930

1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you

feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in

life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each petition:

Source of love and compassion,
receive our prayer.

Pastor's closing prayer:
Receive these prayers, loving God,
for the sake of the One who loved us to the end,
Jesus Christ, our redeemer.
Amen

Peace

Christ gave us a new commandment: to love one another.
Let us share this love with one another
and find the peace that comes from sharing Christ's blessing.

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

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Response to God's gifts

The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please place your offering in the offering plates on the tables in the rear of the worship center.

The table is set.

7:00 pm Musical Offering

Do This In Remembrance of Me
Adult Choir

Stewart/Nix

Please stand as you are able.

Holy Week Remembrance

The procession is in the past.
The hosannas have hushed and Jesus has retreated
to an upper room to quietly dine with his disciples.

We've been invited to the table to share in the mystery
of broken bread,
of a cup of wine,
and of feet humbly washed,
challenging us to eat, drink and remember together,
and to love and serve one another just as Jesus loves and serves us.

We've been invited to the table to see Judas get up from his seat
and walk out the door, challenging us to look into our hearts
and glimpse the signs of our own acts of betrayal.
So let's take our place at this table,
where we sense our brokenness and experience God's grace.

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might be servants of others,
even as Jesus was a servant to his disciples and to those in need.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the life and love of Christ;
and that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by your gracious love.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to the world.

Amen

Lord's Prayer

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

**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 the table

Love has prepared a feast for us –
for us to enjoy and be nourished
and receive Love's gifts,
even if we think we are not worthy.

Love is inviting us, so come. The table is ready.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion


The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

Communion Duet

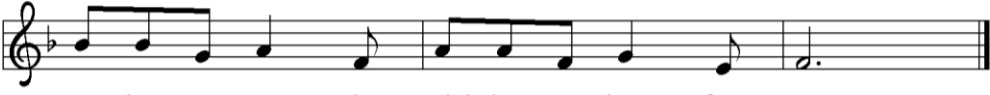
Lamb of God
Elizabeth Moessner and Vi Ballard

Delibus

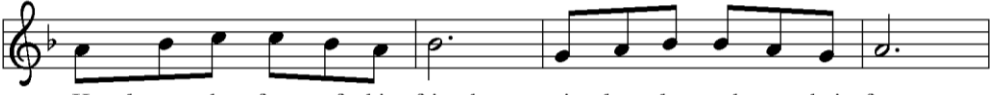
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show




us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,



2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,



3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;



4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

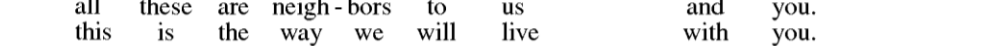


Refrain


mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.



neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.



all these are neigh - bors to us and you.



this is the way we will live with you.

The assembly may remain seated.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.

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.

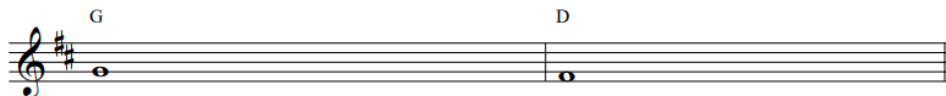
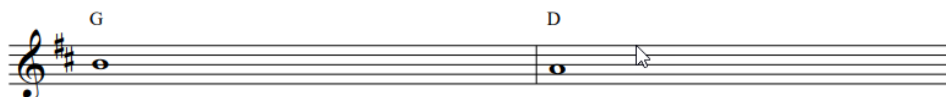
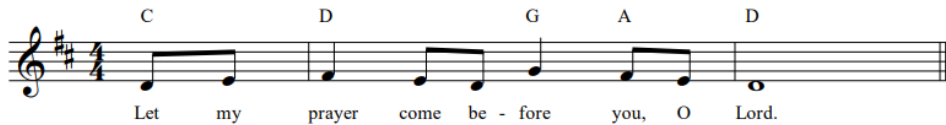
Amen

All depart in silence. (12:00 only)

Stripping of the Altar (7:00 pm only)

Psalm 88

Let My Prayer Come Before You, O Lord



The assembly remains in prayer reflecting on Christ's upcoming death.

What is the symbolism behind stripping the altar?

Congregations incorporate this act of humility into their Maundy Thursday services. After the Eucharist is celebrated it is customary to “strip the altar,” which symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.

The blessing and dismissal are omitted to keep our vigil during the Great Three Days, the Triduum, (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday), until Easter Day.

All depart in silence.

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Use your credit or debit card at the Giving Kiosk;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lhsemmaus.org.

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Psalm 88: Simple Liturgy Music



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor
Sharon B. MacCabe, Director of Music
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Ministers

Noon – Carole Wetherhold
7:00 pm – JoEllen Rooney

Readers

Noon – Ava Killingsworth
7:00 pm – Timothy Vink

Communion Assistants

Noon – Vi Ballard
7:00 pm – Rob and Sue Smith

Greeters

Noon – Dean Black
7:00 pm – Mary Vink

Ushers

Noon – Dean Black
7:00 pm – Tim Vink

Production/Technology Team

Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Tom Moessner,
Bob Neitz, Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Jennifer Wetzel, Nancy Pfeffer, Julie Timmcke, Linda Letts, Deb Stevens, Lynn Snyder,
Barb Roba, Cindy Clark, Carol Osenbach, Terri Hinderliter, Robbie Flynn