

Maundy Thursday Rite of First Communion



April 2, 2026
7pm

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
225 Jamestowne Boulevard
Knoxville, TN 37934

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SILENCE

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Lynn Rognsvog

HYMN *hymnal #485, stand*

I Am The Bread of Life

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the

come to me shall not the hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his

me - er, un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons,"
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."

Refrain
 "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
 and I will raise you up on the last day."

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, source of all love,
ALL: on the night before he died for us,
Jesus gave us a new commandment,
to love one another as he loves us.
Write this commandment on our hearts,
and give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all.
We pray in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: For forty days we have walked step by step with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross. On this day we come almost to our journey's end. All during Lent we have examined evil. On this day Jesus will demonstrate his love by his example of servanthood, by his gift of himself in Holy Communion and by his acceptance of betrayal which ushers in his suffering and death.

God's gracious gift in Christ is the love which forgives our sins and restores us to his family of faith. By his absolution we are confronted with God's forgiveness. As it binds us together in his Church, we learn to apply that forgiveness in our relationships with each other. Having received the gift of love in Christ, we are called to bear Christ's love to the world around us. Forgiven people are forgiving people. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, so we are sent into the world as his humble servants, heeding the call to love one another as Christ has loved us. That is why our mission is to love God, love others, serve.

Nowhere are the bonds of our fellowship made more clear than in the Last Supper of our Lord. On this day we do not merely remember a past event, but through the miracle of his love, we participate in the fellowship of his body and blood just as the disciples did long ago. Receiving the gift of himself, we are made one with him and with all who eat this bread and drink this cup. Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup dwells in Christ. For we are one body, even as we all eat of his body and drink of his blood.

Silence for confession. Kneel or stand.

Pastor: Let us make confession to God.

All: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith. In the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace sanctify you and keep your spirit, soul, and body sound and blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ †.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Henry Lee Halsey, Oliver Brian Halsey, Cora Ann Joy, Charlotte Lynn Lavoie, John Theodore Lavoie, Victoria Grace Lavoie, Eva Rose Patterson, Felix Anderson Roberts

CHILDREN'S TALK

Pastor Bob Stelter

WELCOME & PARISH NEWS

Pastor Bob Stelter

LITURGY OF THE WORD

THREE GOSPEL READINGS *pew Bible page 993 (sit)* Father Bruce Corrigan
John's gospel describes the foot washing event. Jesus' actions illustrate the meaning of his servant love and demonstrate what it means to love one another.

John 13:1-17, 31-35

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.

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.'

Luke's gospel describes Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion as a way to remember Him and experience His forgiveness.

Luke 22:14-20 *pew Bible page 962*

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

Mark's gospel describes Jesus' way to the garden, to betrayal, and to death.

Mark 14:43-50 *pew Bible page 928*

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

(silence for meditation)

SERMON *Is It I Lord?*

Pastor Bob Stelter

HYMN *hymnal #347, stand*

Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at his feet,
4 Ear-ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay:



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour:
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH *stand or kneel* Greg Bohlken, Assisting Minister
Assistant: On this holy night, let us pray for the church, the world and all who await
from the Lord great and abundant mercy.

A brief silence.

A: By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of your church. Where there is division,
grant healing. Where there is fracture, grant unity. Where there is indifference,
grant passion. Lord, in your mercy,

C:hear our prayer.

A: By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the creation. Put an end to destruction
and renew our commitment to the fullness of life you intend for every living thing.
Lord, in your mercy,

C:hear our prayer.

A: By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of the human family. Bring understanding
and a spirit of cooperation to nations and communities in conflict. Dissolve distrust
into understanding and transform disregard into profound care for one another.
Lord, in your mercy,

C:hear our prayer.

A: By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of those who suffer in mind, body
and spirit. Feed those who hunger, give shelter to those without a home,
heal the sick and grant rest to the dying. Lord, in your mercy,

C:hear our prayer.

A: By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness of this community. Help us seek
not so much to be served, but to serve; not to be loved, but to love; not to be
forgiven, but to forgive, for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C:hear our prayer.

A: By the cross of Christ, mend the brokenness within us. Cast out all fear of separation
from you, and join us to the communion of saints who celebrate at your eternal
banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

C:hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Pastor: Into the arms of your tender embrace, O God, we commend ourselves
and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who, on the cross,
opened his arms to all, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

OFFERING FOR MISSION & MINISTRY

OFFERING ANTHEM

Come Away, Death Roger Quilter

Collin Kasefang

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION FROM PASTOR STELTER

HOLY COMMUNION MUSIC

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Lynn Rognsvoog

COMMUNION BLESSING *stand*

Pastor: May the body and blood of Christ strengthen and uphold you.

All: Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR *sit*

The stripping of the altar is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the Roman soldiers.

VEILING OF THE CROSS

*All leave the church in silence, though this worship service is not concluded.
The Three Days (Triduum) are one complete service.
Worship continues tomorrow, Good Friday, and concludes on Easter Sunday.
Please return on these days to fully receive the blessings of our Lord's sacrifice for us.*

WORSHIP LEADERS	
Altar Guild	Nancy Dean
Assisting Minister	Greg Bohlken
Lector	Father Bruce Corrigan
Communion Ministers	Lisa Stelter, Laura Beardsley, Debbie Ragucci
Ushers	Steve Dean, Randy Stewart

Good Friday Worship
 April 3, 2026, 12 noon & 7pm



Easter Sunday Worship
 April 5, 2026
 9am, Traditional
 11:11am, Contemporary

((())) Faith Guest WiFi Password: bebblesed