

# The Three Days



**Faith Lutheran Church  
Clive, Iowa**

**March 28-30, 2024**

## ABOUT THE THREE DAYS

The Three Days is the church's annual experience of the heart of the Christian faith. Because there ought to be no immersion into suffering without the gift of the resurrection, and there ought to be no Easter without Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the three-part service known as The Three Days holds them all together in the mystery of Christ. Our remembering is more than a retracing of the last days of Jesus' life. Rather, throughout these Three Days—through word, sacrament, and ritual—we participate in the saving power of Jesus' Passover from death to life. As the Three Days begin, we are invited to glory in the cross of Christ: our salvation, our life, our resurrection. Some people know of this three-day worship in its Latin name, the Triduum.

### Maundy "Commandment" Thursday

Thursday, March 28 - 7:00 pm

Maundy Thursday receives its name from the Latin *Mandatum*, which means, "command." On this night we hear Jesus' new commandment to love one another. The great command was given by Jesus when he washed the feet of the disciples. "I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done to you."

As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example, living out our baptismal vocation with humility and care for one another, and especially for the poor and the unloved. Those who wish to have their feet washed this evening are invited to do so after receiving the bread and wine.

We gather around the Lord's table to remember the sacrifice of Jesus' life. His love was revealed in the emptying of his life for us. We share the holy meal, becoming what we eat and drink: the body of Christ, offering ourselves in love for the life of the world.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, the altar and chancel furnishings are removed, preparing the worship space for Good Friday. Through this stark ritual we recall that Jesus was abandoned by his followers, stripped of his dignity, and left to face the cross alone. We depart in silence, ready to continue the celebration of the Three Days on Good Friday.

### GATHER

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

#### PRELUDE

Suite I

G. F. Handel

#### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

#### SONG

**Great God, Your Love Has Called Us**

ELW #358

#### GREETING

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

## WORD

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

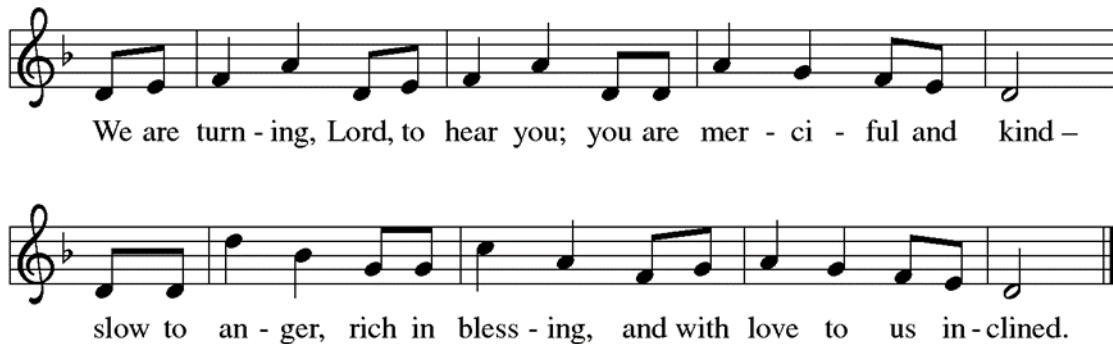
### FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

### SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

### SERMON

Pastor Megan Clausen

### SONG

**Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

ELW #708

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### PEACE

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Christ*

### OFFERING

Suite I

G. F. Handel

### OFFERING SONG

**Come to the Table**

ELW #481

### OFFERING PRAYER

*Refrain*

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.  
 OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”  
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

*Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father...even to giving his life.*

**Refrain**

*In the night in which he was betrayed...we proclaim the Lord's death, until he comes again.*

**Refrain**

*Therefore gracious Father...and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.*

**Refrain**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 AND FOOT WASHING**

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.

After you have received the bread and wine, you are welcome to stop at one of the foot washing stations located on either side of the chancel. You may be seated on the pew to remove your shoes and socks, then move to the station when it is available.

**COMMUNION SONG**

**Lamb of God**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Christ at Table with His Friends

Emma Lou Diemer

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

## **STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR**

Psalm 22

## **SONG**

Have You Forsaken Me?

The Brilliance

When the stripping of the altar is complete, you are invited to depart or remain in quiet meditation as long as you like.

## **DEPART IN SILENCE**

The service continues tomorrow with the second day of The Three Days (Paschal Triduum), Good Friday, at 7:00 pm. The service concludes on Saturday during the Easter Vigil beginning at 7:00 pm.

**Unless you want to use this bulletin as a devotional resource,  
please return this bulletin to be reused tomorrow night.**

# Good Friday

Friday, March 29 - 7:00 pm

Tonight, we gather for the second part of our holy three-day service which began yesterday with Maundy Thursday and concludes tomorrow with the Easter Vigil.

In Latin, tonight's service is referred to as a *Tenebrae* service. The word *Tenebrae* means "darkness." Throughout the service, as each Scripture is read, one candle is extinguished. The increasing darkness symbolizes the flight and denial of the disciples and friends of Jesus. The moment of darkness recalls the death of Christ.

In this darkness there is but one light—the eternal light of Christ. Even though darkness settles upon the earth, the light of God reminds us of the never-failing presence of God's forgiveness and grace. The ancient title for this day—The Triumph of the Cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life.

*The assembly gathers in silence from last night.*

## SONG

**Stay With Me**

ELW #348

## THE CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

## ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus  
*Chancel Choir*

arr. John Ferguson

## PRAYER

## SOLEMN REPROACHES

## SILENT REFLECTION

## READINGS FROM THE CROSS

### THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:20-25

## SONG

Go to Dark Gethsemane  
*verses 1 & 2*

ELW #347

### THE SHADOW OF AGONY OF SPIRIT

Matthew 26:36-50

## SONG

Go to Dark Gethsemane  
*verses 3 & 4*

ELW #347

## THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Matthew 26:69-75

### SONG

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
*verses 1 & 2*

ELW #351

## THE SHADOW OF ACCUSATION

Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29

### SONG

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded  
*verses 3 & 4*

ELW #351

## THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27:31-43

### SONG

Were You There  
*verses 1-3*

ELW #353

## THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Matthew 27:45-54

### SONG

Were You There  
*verses 4 & 5*

ELW #353

## THE SHADOW OF BURIAL

Matthew 27:57-60

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## DEPART IN SILENCE

The service continues tomorrow with the final day of The Three Days (Paschal Triduum), the Easter Vigil, at 7:00 pm.

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# Easter Vigil

**Saturday, March 30 - 7:00 pm**

This is the night! This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life. Tonight is the heart of our celebration of the Three Days and the pinnacle of the church's year. The resurrection of Christ is proclaimed in word and sign, and we gather around a pillar of fire, hear ancient stories of our faith, give thanks for baptism, and share the food and drink of the promised land. Raised with Christ, we go forth into the world, aflame with the good news of the resurrection.

*The lighting of a new fire takes place outside in the courtyard. An unlighted candle is given to each person.*

## WELCOME

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Siblings in Christ...Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE PASCHAL CANDLE IS LIT

The lit candle reminds us that Christ is our light, and this light will literally lead us tonight. So too, we remember that fire helps us recall the presence of God and the mystery of the divine. We may remember stories like Moses and the burning bush, the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites, and the tongues of fire on the disciples' head at Pentecost, to name a few.

### PROCESSION

*As the procession begins the assisting minister sings:*



*The procession continues. The individual candles are lit. Please tip the unlit candle toward the lit candle. When all the candles are lit, the assisting minister sings:*



*The procession continues. When the assembly is in place, the assisting minister sings:*

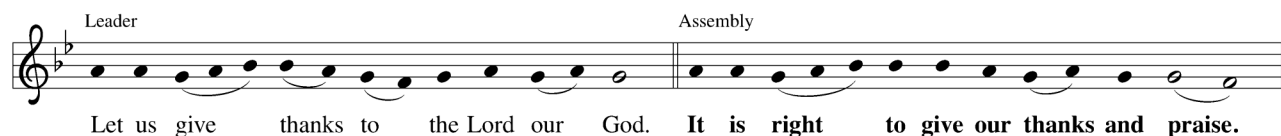
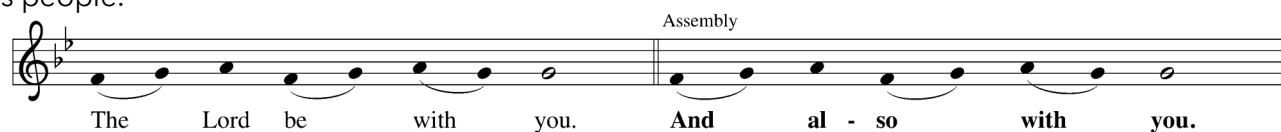


### EASTER PROCLAMATION

Just as the cross has symbolized for us the death of Christ, so now the paschal candle stands for the risen Christ, whose body, like the light from the candle, is given away without being lessened.



Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers...Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people.



It is indeed right...by whose blood the doorposts of the faithful are made holy.



in which, in ancient times, you delivered our forebears, the children of Israel, and led them, dry-shod, through the sea.



in which the darkness of sin has been purged away by the rising brightness.



in which all who believe in Christ are rescued from evil and the gloom of sin, are renewed in grace, and are restored to holiness.



in which, breaking the chains of death, Christ arises from hell in triumph. O night truly blessed which alone was worthy to know the time and hour in which Christ arose again from hell!



of which it is written...have made for the substance of this candle.



in which heaven and earth are joined...one God, now and forever.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*The assembly is seated. Hand-held candles may be extinguished.*

For years, people have gathered around a fire to tell their ancestral stories, and the Vigil of Easter is the chance for the church to do so. While twelve readings are appointed for this story time, tonight we will read five. Each reading offers a description of God, a metaphor of the resurrection, and a reference to baptism.

<b>FIRST READING</b>	Creation	Genesis 1:1–2:4a
<b>SECOND READING</b>	Valley of the Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37:1-14
<b>THIRD READING</b>	The Story of Jonah	Jonah 1-4
<b>FOURTH READING</b>	Clothed in the Garments of Salvation	Isaiah 61:1-4, 9-11
<b>FIFTH READING</b>	Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3:1-29

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*The assembly processes by light to the font.*

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God? **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism....and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**GOSPEL**

John 20:1-18

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition:* Risen Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**PEACE**

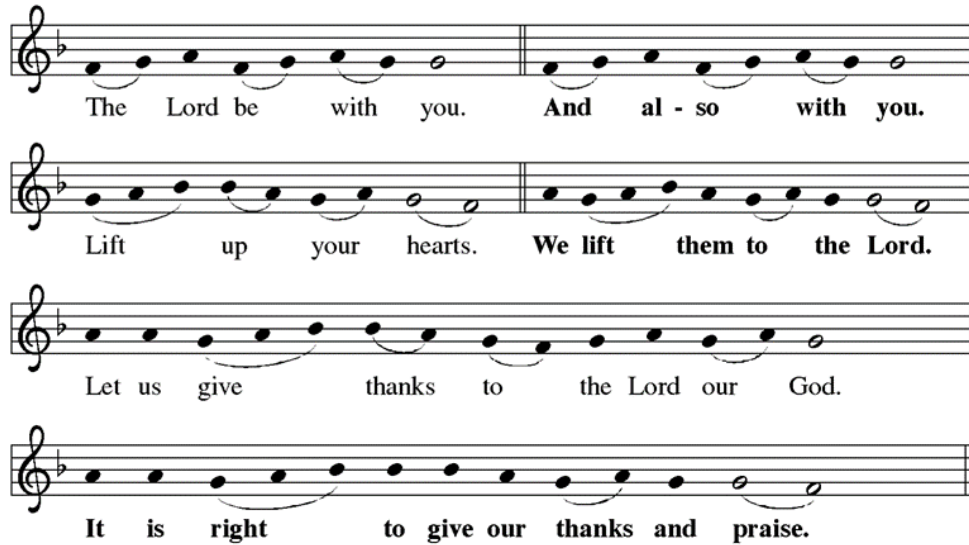
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

Voluntary VI

John Stanley

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

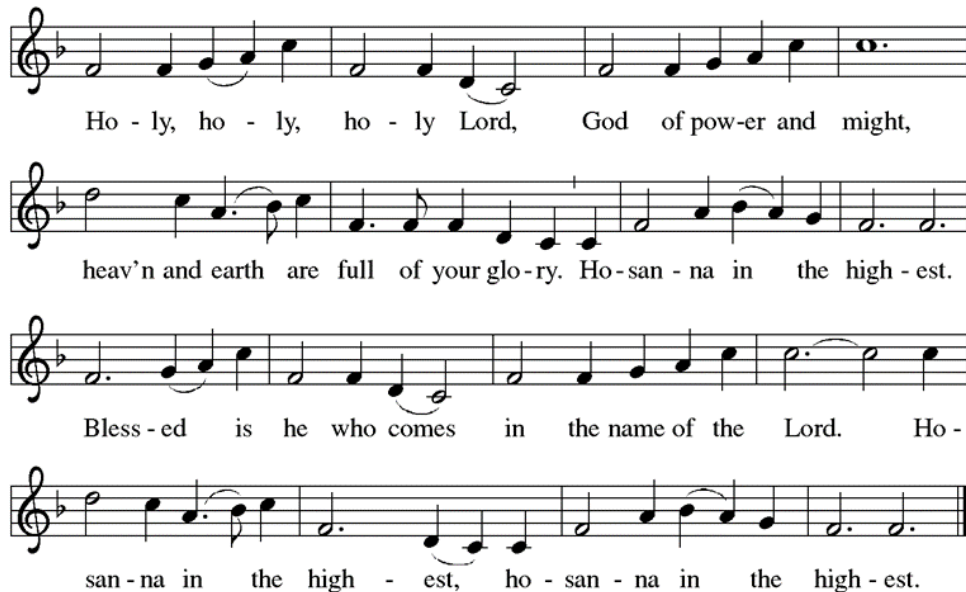
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*After receiving the bread and wine, the assembly may be seated.*

### COMMUNION MUSIC

Voluntary VI

John Stanley

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### BLESSING

### SENDING SONG

**Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain**

ELW #363

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

A Sunset Song

Mabel Lee Hatch