



Title: The Lord's Supper. Date: 1973. Artist: Jesus Mafa.

Maundy Thursday
First Communion
April 2, 2026, 7:00 pm



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina

MAUNDY THURSDAY

With nightfall and the beginning of this liturgy, our Lenten observance comes to its culmination. We gather with Christians around the world in celebrating the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Our remembering is more than a retracing of the last days of Jesus' life. Rather, 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.

Tonight we gather around the Lord's table to remember God's great sacrifice of love. 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 leave in silence, ready to continue the celebration of the Three Days on Good Friday.



*The congregation is invited to respond where words are in **Bold**.
Hymns are found by number in the red worship books located in each pew.*

PRELUDE

**‘Mein junges leben hat ein end’
Trombone Quartet**

J.P. Sweelinck

We rise and face the cross.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross †, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord’s call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

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
 veiled 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."

GREETING AND PRAYER

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.

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

Be seated.



READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A reading from 1st Corinthians, the 11th chapter.

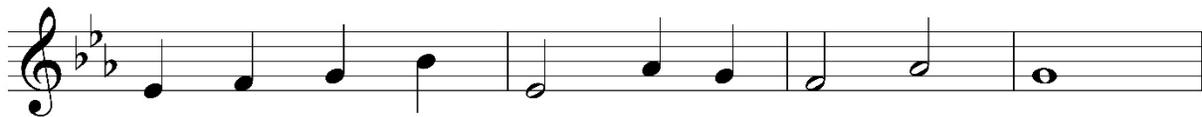
²³ For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We rise.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹ 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. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet

We rise.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, we confess our faith:

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

**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.**

**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. Amen.**

PRAYERS AND PEACE

Each petition concludes with the following:

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Share the 'peace' of Christ with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Be seated.

OFFERING AND SONG

**'Canzon Quinta à 4'
Trombone Quartet**

Claudio Merulo da Coreggio

We rise.

PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

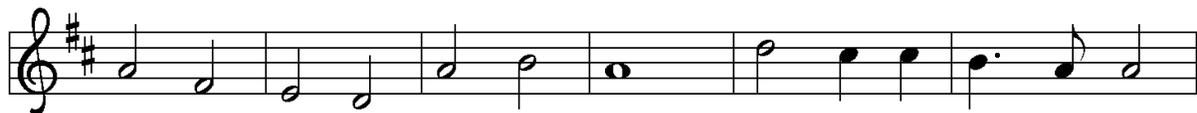
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. On this night he gathered with his disciples to share the Passover meal, gave them the bread and the cup as his body and blood, and commanded them to love one another as he has loved us. In this holy meal he gives us the promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of steadfast love. From the beginning you have desired to dwell with your people. You fed Israel in the wilderness, delivered them from bondage, and gathered them at your table of mercy and promise.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, who on this night knelt to wash the feet of his disciples; who on this night gave them a new commandment: to love one another as he has loved us; and who on this night—the night in which he was betrayed—took bread, 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.”

Remembering his command to love, his humble service, his suffering and death,
and the promise of his resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that we who share this meal may be united in Christ’s body, strengthened to love and serve our
neighbors, and faithful to the new commandment he has given.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

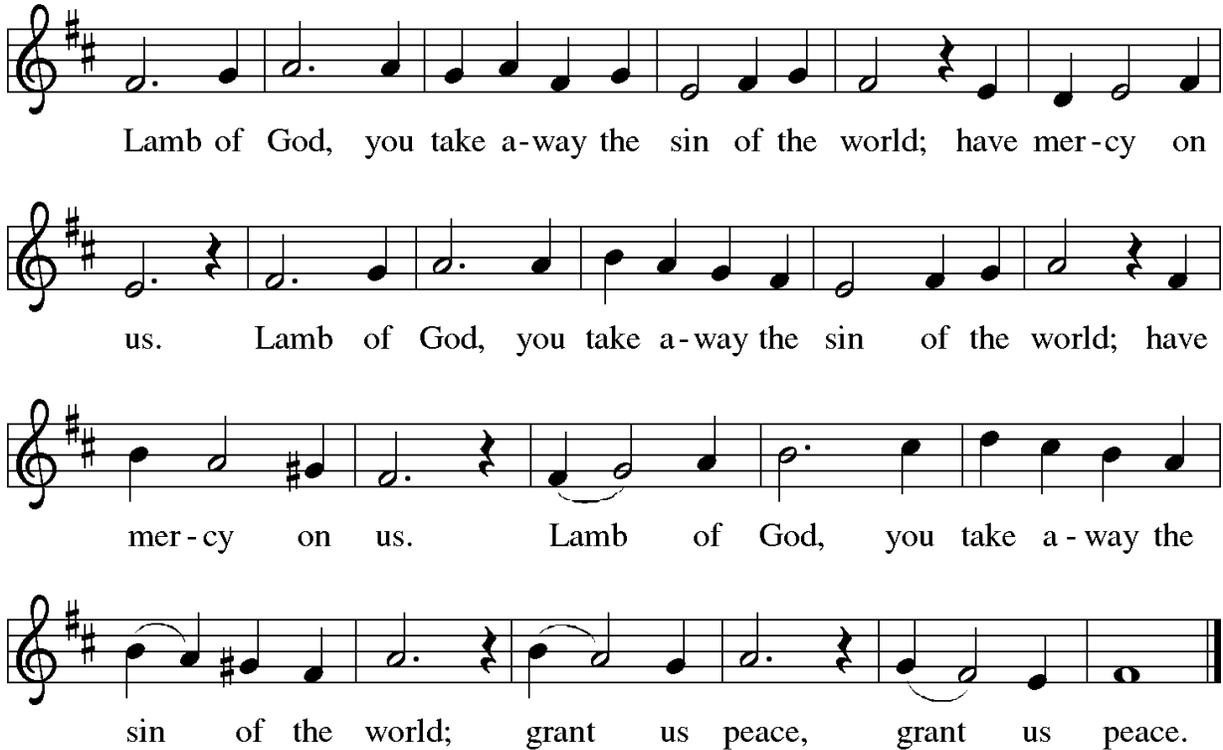
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy. **Thanks be to God.**

Be seated.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST COMMUNION *Our first communion students and their families will receive communion first at the altar. Students will receive while kneeling using self-designed chalices. Parents and siblings are invited forward to lay hands on their children as they receive first communion. Ushers will welcome you forward after students have communed. Please be in prayer with them as they come to Christ's table for their first communion. Those celebrating their first communion are Emma Grace Charest, Caroline Wrenn Cozart, Moses Milan DeNise, Dalton Penn Safrit, Payton Elizabeth Sumner, Maddox Lee Taylor, Deacon Tyler Triplett, Charleigh Mae Weisensel.*

COMMUNION HYMN



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion at the altar, following the usher's guidance. At the altar, bread is served (gluten-free by request), followed by wine (grape juice by request). Those not receiving Communion are invited forward to receive a blessing (crossing your arms across your chest as a sign to the pastor). If you need Communion brought to you, please signal the servers when they come down from the chancel.

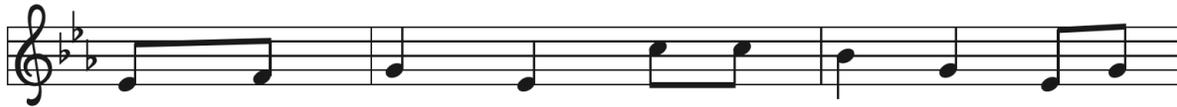
COMMUNION SONG

**'Christus factus est'
Trombone Quartet**

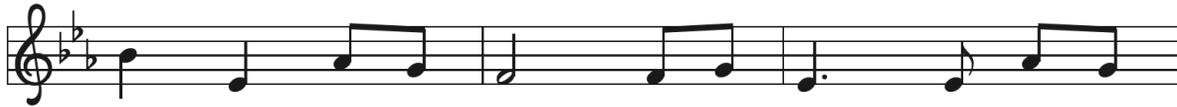
Anton Brucker

COMMUNION HYMN

‘Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken’
ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



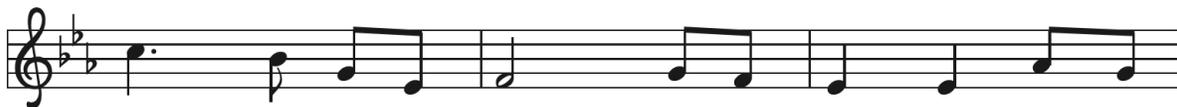
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

We rise.

COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

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.**



Be seated.

“Then Pilate’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s palace,
and the whole company gathered around him.
They stripped him of his clothes
... spat on him ...
... made fun of him ...
... then they led him out to crucify him.”

Mark 15:16-20

We leave in silence during the tolling of the bell.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Reader.....Caroline Cozart
Preacher.....Pastor Dan Joyner Miller
Presider.....Pastor James Demmel
Liturgist.....Pastor James Demmel

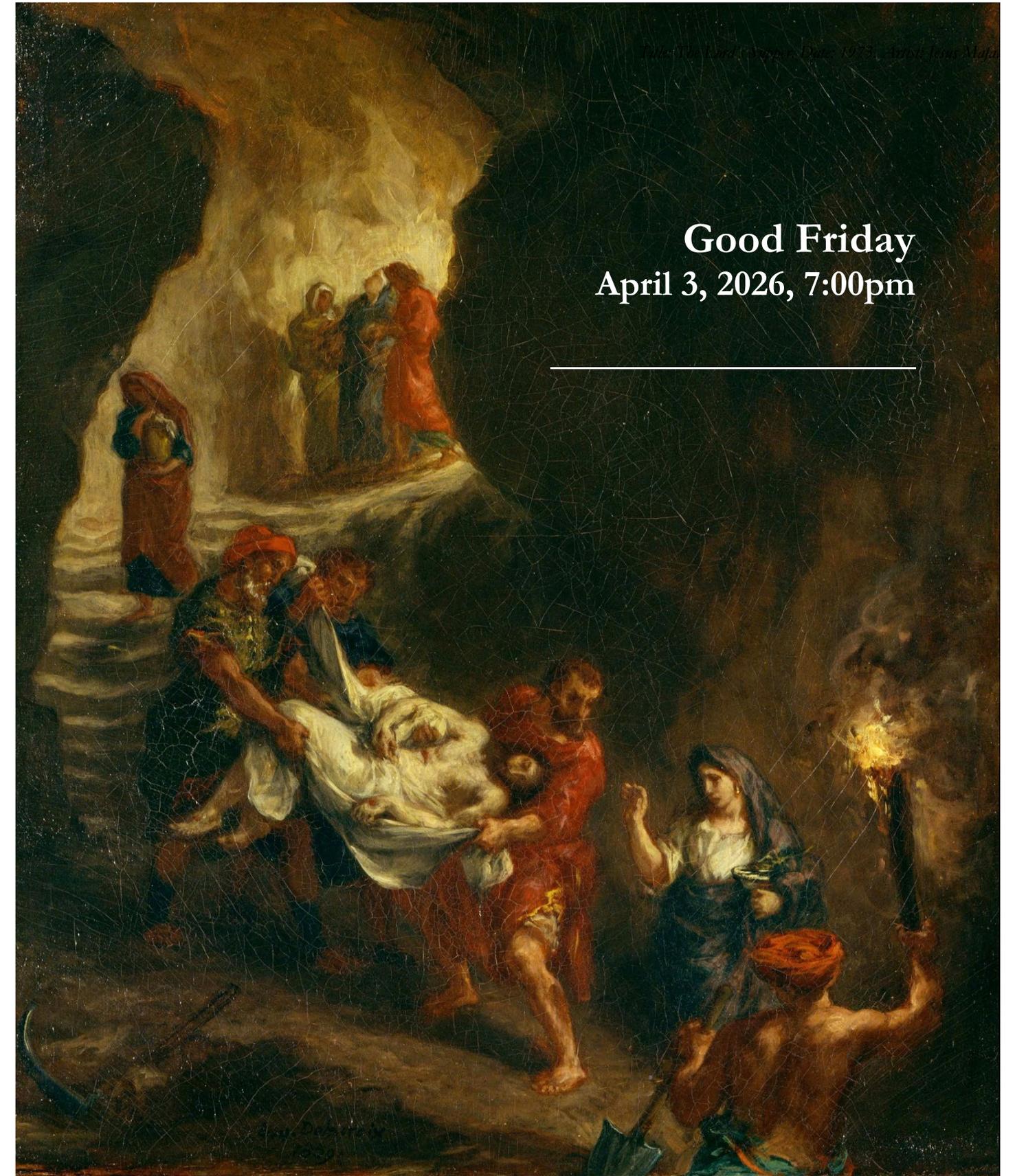
TROMBONE QUARTET

Charlie Fisher, Eric Henson, Nick Lewis, Aleksandr Witt

ORDER OF ST. JOHN’S

Acolytes.....Jackson Williams and Emily Rhyne
Crucifer.....Balian Witt
Banner Bearer.....Gabriel Shafer

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Good Friday
April 3, 2026, 7:00pm

Title: Christ Carried Down to the Tomb. Date: 1859. Artist: Delacroix, Eugène, 1798-1863.



St. John's Lutheran Church

Salisbury, North Carolina



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

The word Tenebrae is Latin for “darkness” — an ancient liturgical form from the eighth century reflecting the dramatic contrast between light and darkness.

Please enter in silence.

Before the prelude, a bell will chime as twelve candles are lit, a biblical number signifying completeness. There were twelve sons of Jacob, who became the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus was twelve years old when he first appeared in public. At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus chose twelve disciples, echoing the twelve tribes of Israel. Most dramatically, the Gospel of Mark tells us that at noon —the twelfth hour— soon after Jesus was nailed to the cross, darkness came over the whole land.

PRELUDE

We gather in silence.

We rise.

OPENING DIALOGUE

Genesis 1:1-4 and John 1:1-14

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Word was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

CENTERING PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Considered the oldest form of intercessory prayer, each extended petition concludes with:

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask: **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.**

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD



INSTRUMENTAL

**'Jesus Wept'
Joyful Ringers**

arr. Lloyd Larson

READING I

Jesus prays in Gethsemane; the disciples sleep.

Matthew 26:36-46

Music

**'A Lenten Love Song'
Children's Choir**

by Helen Kemp

*Now Jesus went into the garden,
the garden of Gethsemane.
He went there sad and very weary
to be alone to pray.*

*Dear God, I am so sorrowful, is there no other way?
Dear God, if it is possible, let this cup pass away.*

*Now Jesus went into the garden,
The garden of Gethsemane.
The olive tree bent over him,
And heard him sadly pray.*

*Dear God, your Son is sorrowful, but knows your way is best.
Let love take hold of me! Help me to be bold and free to do your will, to do your will,*

To do your will and rest.

*Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas Deus ibi est.*

Music

'Go to Dark Gethsemane'
Verse 1-3

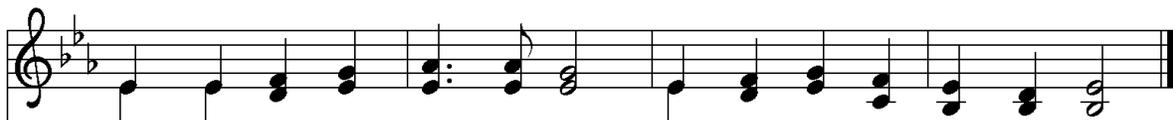
ELW 347



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.



Music

'Ah, Holy Jesus'
Stanzas 1-3

ELW 349

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Music

‘The Cross Has the Final Word’
Michael Brown, guitar; Ondria Witt, vocal
Rob Durocher, piano

by Cody Carnes

*The cross has the final word
Sorrow may come in the darkest night
But the cross has the final word*

*The cross has the final word
Evil may put up its strongest fight
But the cross has the final word*

*The cross has the final word
The Savior has come with the morning light
The cross has the final word*

*The cross has the final word
He traded death for eternal life
The cross has the final word*

*There's nothing stronger nothing higher
Nothing greater than the name of Jesus
All the honor all the power
All the glory to the name of Jesus*

ADORATION OF THE CROSS

*As the cross is being carried forward and placed, the pastor leads the following dialogue.
This year the cross will be carried by Derek and Gabriel Young.*

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.
Oh, come, let us worship him.

Once the cross is placed in its stand, the dialogue concludes.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Music

'Crucified'
St. John's Chancel Choir

by Craig Courtney

*Crucified on a tree of his own making,
Crucified by the ones he came to save.
Crucified while his mother's heart was breaking,
Jesus Christ, the son of God, was crucified.*

*In a world that he created,
to his people lost in sin,
Jesus came, a tiny baby
born to die, our souls to win.*

*It was planned from the beginning:
Jesus Christ, the great I AM,
would himself die to redeem us,
the Good Shepherd is the Lamb.*

*To the cross our sins he carried,
there alone to bleed and die.
As his friends looked on in silence,
"It is finished" was his cry.*

*He has purchased our redemption.
Satan's power he has defied.
Son of God and son of Mary crucified.*

*Crucified while his mother's heart was breaking,
Jesus Christ, the son of God was crucified.*

Music

'O Sacred, Wondrous Love'
St. John's Women's Ensemble

arr. Heather Sorenson

*O sacred head, now wounded,
 with grief and shame weighed down,
 now scornfully surrounded
 with thorns thine only crown.*

*How pale thou art with anguish,
 with sore abuse and scorn!
 How does that visage languish
 which once was bright as morn!*

*What thou, my Lord, has suffered
 was all for sinners' gain.
 Mine, mine was the transgression,
 but thine the deadly pain.*

*Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
 'Tis I deserve thy place.
 Look on me with thy favor.
 Vouchsafe to me thy grace.*

*What language shall I borrow
 to thank thee, dearest friend,
 for this, thy dying sorrow,
 thy pity without end?*

*O make me thine forever;
 and should I fainting be,
 Lord, let me never, never
 outlive my love for thee!*

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?

—

Silence for prayer and meditation as the Christ candle is removed.

'Were You There?
All Stanzas

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you there?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

READING VII

The suffering servant.

Isaiah 52:13-15, 53:1-9, 12

Music

'Christ, We Do All Adore Thee'
from the Seven Last Words of Christ

Theodore Dubois

*Christ, we do all adore thee,
and we do praise thee forever;
Christ, we do all adore thee,
and we do praise thee forever.
For on the holy cross
thou hast the world from sin redeemed.
Christ, we do all adore thee,
and we do praise thee forever.*

SENDING



*Following the prayer, you are invited to place your nail at the foot of the cross.
We leave in silence at the tolling of the bell.*

The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunrise

6:30am (Bell Tower Green)
Bring your own chair and coffee.

Easter Breakfast

8:30am – 11:00am (Ritchie Hall)

Worship Services

9:27am (Faith Center), 11:00am (Sanctuary)

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

200 West Innes Street, Salisbury, North Carolina 28144 | 704.636.3431
stjohns-salisbury.org | To contact a staff member: *first-name*@stjohns-salisbury.org

Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....Dan Joyner Miller...ext. 2060
Pastor for Congregational CareLori Carter...ext. 2050
Pastor for Youth and OutreachJames Demmel...ext. 2040

Worship and Music Ministry

Pastor for Worship and the Arts.....Spence Robertson...ext. 2080
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins...ext. 2190
Associate Parish Musician.....Janie Rollins
Contemporary Worship Leaders.....Michael Board and Ondria Witt
Director of Music *emeritus*.....Karl Kinard, Jr., *deacon*

Program Ministry

Children.....Stacey Shafer...ext. 2020
St. John's Kindergarten (4 & 5 year olds), Director.....Bonita Rowland...ext. 2120
Child Development Center, Executive Director.....Lea Anne Thomas...ext. 3212

Administrative Team

Church Administrator.....Deborah Cross...ext. 2030
Office Manager.....Vivian Connor...ext. 2000
Bookkeeper.....Mark Bias...ext. 2170
Communication Specialist.....Stephanie Mesimer...ext. 2220
Ministry Program Coordinator.....Mary Wymbs...ext. 2180
Facility Manager.....David Ellenburg...ext. 2070
Custodian.....Steven Elliott



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*