

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 17, 2025



# Bethlehem

---

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring*

## WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
shows Christ's love through acts of service  
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.*

*Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.*

*Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!*

## **HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION**

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?  
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)

Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?  
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)

Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?  
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)

Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?  
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

# + *PREPARE* +

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## WELCOME

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## HYMN

LSB #439 (sts. 1-5)

### O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken  
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;  
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?  
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!  
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?  
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;  
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;  
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;  
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -  
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -  
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -  
The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants  
Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?  
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy Thee.  
her - it, This I do mer - it.  
owe Him, Who would not know Him.  
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**Congregation I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;**

Pastor I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**Congregation Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us confess our transgressions and sins to the Lord, our God, in the presence of one another.

**Congregation When we look into the mirror of Your perfect law, we are reminded that we are no better than our ancestors. We rebel against You like the Israelites on the way to the Promised Land. We are like King David, committing sins we think no one will know about. You know us. You know our transgressions and sins against You and one another. We humbly come to You seeking forgiveness. Sprinkle our hearts and make them clean. Forgive our sins by the blood of Jesus that was given and shed for us. Renew a right spirit within us for Jesus' sake.**

Pastor Blessed people of God, you have confessed your transgressions to the Lord. He forgives your iniquity and will remember your sin no more. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

## *+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor                      The Lord be with you.

**Congregation            And also with you.**

Pastor                      Let us pray. 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.

**Congregation            Amen.**

*(Sit)*

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>31</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup>not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:15-25

<sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, <sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” <sup>17</sup>then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” <sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

LSB #439 (verses 6-9)

## O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN



6 There was no spot in me by sin un - taint - ed;  
 7 O won - drous love, whose depth no heart hath sound - ed,  
 8 O might - y King, no time can dim Thy glo - ry!  
 9 For vain - ly doth our hu - man wis - dom pon - der—



Sick with sin's poi - son, all my heart had faint - ed;  
 That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves sur - round - ed!  
 How shall I spread a - broad Thy won - drous sto - ry?  
 Thy woes, Thy mer - cy, still tran - scend our won - der.



My heav - y guilt to hell had well - nigh  
 All world - ly plea - sures, heed - less, I was  
 How shall I find some wor - thy gifts to  
 Oh, how should I do aught that could de -



brought me, Such woe it wrought me.  
 try - ing While Thou wert dy - ing.  
 prof - fer? What dare I of - fer?  
 light Thee! Can I re - quite Thee?

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

**GOSPEL**

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

<sup>1</sup>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>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 back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist.

<sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand 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 share with 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, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. 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, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup>When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand 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 just 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 a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

<sup>31b</sup>"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <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 just as I said to the Jews, so now I also 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: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation        Thanks be to God.**



(Sit)

## HYMN

LSB #439 (verses 10-12)

### O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN



10 Yet un - re - quit - ed, Lord, I would not leave Thee;  
11 But since my strength will nev - er - more suf - fice me  
12 I'll think up - on Thy mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,



I will re - nounce what - e'er doth vex or grieve Thee  
To cru - ci - fy de - sires that still en - tice me,  
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;



And quench with thoughts of Thee and prayers most  
To all good deeds O Thy Spir - it  
To do Thy will shall be my sole en -



low - ly All fires un - ho - ly.  
win me And reign with - in me!  
deav - or Hence - forth for - ev - er.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

*“Our Servant King”*

## NICENE CREED

(Sit)

## OFFERING / FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

# HYMN

LSB #439 (verses 13-15)

## O DEAREST JESUS, WHAT LAW HAST THOU BROKEN



13 What - e'er of earth - ly good this life may grant me,  
 14 But worth - less is my sac - ri - fice, I own it;  
 15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en



I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.  
 Yet, Lord, for love's sake Thou wilt not dis - own it;  
 To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



I shall not fear what foes can do to  
 Thou wilt ac - cept my gift in Thy great  
 Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er



harm me Nor death a - larm me.  
 meek - ness Nor shame my weak - ness.  
 raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

### PREFACE

LSB pg. 208

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And also with you.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

**Congregation We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### PROPER PREFACE

### SANCTUS

LSB #208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### LORD'S PRAYER

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 209

Pastor

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation

Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*(Sit)*

**DISTRIBUTION**

**PRAYERFUL MEDITATION**

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(The PowerPoint screens are turned off.)

(Sit)

# † STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR †

Pastor After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane; betrayal by Judas; arrest, mock trial, painful beating; the trudge to Golgotha and execution. Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in the sacred mystery that is the Sacrament. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this 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. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed from the altar area.

*(The cross is removed.)*

Pastor The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book.

*(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" (John 8:12). The events at Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the light of the world. As creation was dark while He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

*(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 the sending of His Son, Jesus, in human form. 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. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

*(The altar cloths and paraments are removed.)*

**PSALM 22** (*Pastor reads aloud*)

*(The congregation leaves the church in silence. The omission of the benediction today indicates that our worship is not complete until joined with the celebration of Easter.)*

## MINISTRY TEAM

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 302 Cell ..... (989) 907-9481

Email ..... [pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com](mailto:pastorben@bethlehemlcms.com)

### **Rhonda Cheng, Office Manager**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 300 Email ..... [bethfw@yahoo.com](mailto:bethfw@yahoo.com)

### **Sharon Shediack, Accounting Manager**

Office ..... 744-3228 ext. 307 Email ..... [bethfwfin@gmail.com](mailto:bethfwfin@gmail.com)

### **Kasey Needham Hapner, Music Director**

Email ..... [kaseyneedham92@gmail.com](mailto:kaseyneedham92@gmail.com).

### **Janelle Deal, Organist**

Email ..... [janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – Evans Branigan**

**Secretary – John Stafford**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## At Large Members:

**Dan Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

**Blake Sebring**

## SCHOOLS

**Lutheran South Unity School.....**[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....**744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School.....**[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....**483-1102**

## COUNSELING NEEDS

**Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.**

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

### ***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.