

**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
***Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways***  
**MAUNDY THURSDAY-Small Catechism Study, April 2, 2026, 7:00 pm.**

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**Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day**

Lord, ☩ have mercy. **Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.**

The Lamb of God is with you. **And also with you.** Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *A brief silence.* Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. **Amen**



**Opening Dialog - Holy Communion**

We bless the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

**God's mercy endures forever.**

We bless God, who gives us life and salvation.

**A gift we can never deserve or earn.**

Given for you, for me, for all for the forgiveness of sins

**in bread and wine, body and blood, words and presence.**

Given in grace, received by faith.

**Give us truly believing hearts, O God,  
so that we might receive this great gift.**

**Reading: Matthew 26:26-29**      *Contemporary English Version*

During the meal Jesus took some bread in his hands. He blessed the bread and broke it. Then he gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body."

Jesus picked up a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He then gave it to his disciples and said, "Take this and drink it. This is my blood, and with it God makes his agreement with you. It will be poured out, so that many people will have their sins forgiven. From now on I am not going to drink any wine, until I drink new wine with you in the realm of my Father."

This is the Good News of Christ's Victory.

**Questions for Reflection**

1 In the Small Catechism, Luther asks, *How can eating and drinking do such a great thing?* Eating and drinking certainly do not do it, but rather the words that are recorded: "given for you" & "shed for you for the forgiveness of sin." These words, when accompanied by the physical eating and drinking, are the essential thing in the sacrament, and whoever believes these very words has what they declare and state, namely, "forgiveness of sin." What does this personal address to you mean for you?

2 One of the Eucharistic prayers says, "Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all." This connects to the community of saints, that all are at the table. How does that communal aspect, with our loved ones here, give this meal meaning?

**HYMN:    #607    "Come, Ye Disconsolate"**

- 1 **Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish;  
come to the mercy-seat, fervently kneel.  
Here bring your wounded hearts,  
here tell your anguish;  
earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.**
- 2 **Joy of the desolate, light of the straying,  
hope of the penitent, fadeless and pure;  
here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,  
"Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure."**
- 3 **Here see the Bread of life; see waters flowing  
forth from the throne of God, pure from above.  
Come to the feast of love; come, ever knowing  
earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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 we confess our sin against God and neighbor, so we may enter the celebration of the Three Great Days reconciled with God and one another.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.  
For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For longing to have what is not ours,  
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For misuse of human relationships,  
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:  
**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For jealousies that divide families and nations,  
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,  
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

**Holy God, have mercy on us.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 7:36-50**      *Contemporary English Version*

A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him. So Jesus went to the Pharisee's home and got ready to eat.

When a sinful woman in that town found out that Jesus was there, she bought an expensive bottle of perfume. Then she came and stood behind Jesus. She cried and started washing his feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. The woman kissed his feet and poured the perfume on them. The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this and said to himself, "If this man really were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him! He would know that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to the Pharisee, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher, what is it?" Simon replied.

Jesus told him, "Two people were in debt to a moneylender. One of them owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. Since neither of them could pay him back, the moneylender said that they didn't have to pay him anything. Which one of them will like him more?"

Simon answered, "I suppose it would be the one who had owed more and didn't have to pay it back."

"You are right," Jesus said.

He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Have you noticed this woman? When I came into your home, you didn't give me any water so I could wash my feet. But she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You didn't even pour olive oil on my head, but she has poured expensive perfume on my feet. So I tell you

that all her sins are forgiven, and that is why she has shown great love. But anyone who has been forgiven for only a little will show only a little love.”

Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Some other guests started saying to one another, “Who is this who dares to forgive sins?”

But Jesus told the woman, “Because of your faith, you are now saved. May God give you peace!”

This is the Good News of Christ’s Victory.

**HYMN:     #360     “Love Consecrates the Humblest Act”**

- 1     **Love consecrates the humblest act  
and haloes mercy's deeds;  
it sheds a benediction sweet  
and hallows human needs.**
  
- 2     **When in the shadow of the cross  
Christ knelt and washed the feet  
of his disciples, he gave us  
a sign of love complete.**
  
- 3     **Love serves and willing stoops to serve;  
what Christ in love so true  
has freely done for one and all,  
let us now gladly do!**

**Washing Our Hands**

**Thanksgiving at the Table**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

**Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.**

You have filled all creation with light and life;

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:

**the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,**

**the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;**

and, at this end of all the ages,

**the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news**

**in word and deed and was obedient to your will,**

**even to giving his life.**

While his followers were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said,

Take, eat; this is my body. Do this to remember me.

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying,  
Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant,  
which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this to remember me.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
**we remember the life our Savior offered for us.**  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
**we await his coming in power to share with us  
the great and promised feast.**  
**Come, holy Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share  
in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory,  
**and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.**  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

We give all honor and glory to you, O God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your church on earth,  
and the church in heaven, now and forever. **Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

At the foot of the cross, we pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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**

### **Breaking the Bread, Passing the Peace, and Sharing the Meal**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**  
Because of your faith, you are now saved. May God give you peace!  
The peace of Christ is with you always. **And also with you.**

**Blessing** The body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen  
and preserve us for life now and for the promised life to come. **Amen**

### **Prayer for Mission**

Holy One, **hear our prayer.** *Pause.* 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 be seen in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**Evening Prayer**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, comfort the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen**

When they had sung the hymn, **they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

**HYMN:      #803      "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

- 1      **When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
  
- 2      **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
  
- 3      **See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
  
- 4      **Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

**Stripping of the Altar**

*Psalm 31 is chanted by the choir while the congregation departs in silence.*

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Worship on the Three Great Days continues with Good Friday worship at 7 pm., and at Easter Dawn Vigil when we celebrate the Service of Light, Word, and Meal. The 7am Vigil is when we hear the witness of the Scriptures to God's continuing grace to us through the Good News of Christ and his Resurrection.

Other events this weekend include our annual Easter Pancake Breakfast, [in the lower level lounge] starting at 7:45am. Our Easter Festival Communion services, celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord, are at 8:45am and 10:15am.