



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 PM

OUR VISION: FULLY ENGAGED, BIBLICALLY PASSIONATE, DRIVEN TO SERVE



churchoffice@elcsmail.org



www.emmanuellutheran.info

(828) 252-1795

AS WE GATHER

We have been reflecting a great deal on the phrase “for us.” Tonight, though, we will hear about the phrase “for many” as Jesus gives His own body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26–28). Jesus and the disciples are celebrating the Passover, but Jesus does something new. We hear echoes of how Moses and the elders saw God (Exodus 24:3–11), recognizing that the sacrifices of old will not satisfy (Hebrews 9:11–22). When Jesus says the phrase “for many,” He is clearly pointing the disciples to the fact that His death was not only for them alone but for the sins of the world. Because you are a part of the many, “for us” still holds true.

CALL TO WORSHIP

“We Remember”

Featuring Rachel Kelm on Flute

By Joseph Martin and Michael E. Showalter © 2017 by Hal Leonard LLC and
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HYMN

LSB 445 “When You Woke That Thursday Morning”

1 When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

2 Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples’ feet.

3 What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?

“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”

4 One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev’ry place and time.

5 One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

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INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, He entered once for all into the holy places,
C **by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**
- P** Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
C **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Beloved in the Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ, said, "Take, eat, this is My body; take, drink, this is My blood, given for you." Whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life. We are all one bread and one Body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word but in deed and in truth. Let us therefore implore the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, to grant us forgiveness.
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal 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.**
- P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- R** Amen.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, in this Sacrament, You graciously come to us as both host and Meal.
- C** **Grant that we hear Your words "for many" as meaning "for you," for each of us gathered at Your Table this day;**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will You have us prepare for You to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.’” ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. ²⁰When it was evening, He reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, He said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵Judas, who would betray Him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” ²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is My body.” ²⁷And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

LSB 629 "What Is This Bread"

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| <p>1 What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
 This bread we break,
 This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.</p> <p>2 What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.</p> <p>3 So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
 Under the rod</p> | <p>My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.</p> <p>4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
 In mouth and soul
 He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.</p> <p>5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
 I do believe
 That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.</p> |
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SERMON

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey E. Skopak

APOSTLES' CREED

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERIES HYMN

LSB 544:1-3 "O Love, How Deep"

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| <p>1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!</p> <p>2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,</p> | <p>But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.</p> <p>3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew
For us the tempter overthrew.</p> |
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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P As brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus, let us go to our heavenly Father in confident prayer.

Almighty God, You have called Your church to witness that, in Christ, You have reconciled us to Yourself.

C **Grant that, by Your Holy Spirit, we be emboldened to proclaim the Good News of our Savior so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

P O Lord God, in Holy Baptism You have granted us the remission of sins.

C **Make us ready to receive the holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins and grant us grateful hearts so that we may give thanks to You now and forever.**

P Lord, keep all nations under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land and around the world so that we may be at peace and a blessing to one another.

C **Grant that we choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation.**

P O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon all who are ill, alone, imprisoned, or in personal distress, [*especially . . .*]. Hear their prayers.

C **For Jesus' sake, restore, surround, free, and give comfort to them.**

P Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commit all for whom we pray for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SERIES HYMN

LSB 544:4-5 "O Love, How Deep"

4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 626 "Come, Let Us Eat"

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| <p>1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
Our Lord's body let us take together.</p> <p>2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.</p> | <p>3 In His presence now we meet and rest.
In His presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
In the presence of our Lord we gather.</p> <p>4 Rise, then, to spread abroad
God's mighty word,
Rise, then, to spread abroad
God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom</p> |
|--|--|

LSB 446 "Jesus, Greatest at the Table"

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| <p>1 Jesus, greatest at the table,
The almighty Son of Man,
Laid aside His outer clothing,
Poured some water in a pan;
As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,
He the servant's task began.</p> <p>2 Marvel how their Lord and teacher
Gently taught them not to vie
As He humbly knelt before them,
Dusty feet to wash and dry,
By His tender touch expressing
True compassion from on high.</p> <p>3 Jesus took the role of servant
When upon that gruesome span,
For all human sin He suffered</p> | <p>As a vile and loathsome man;
On the cross poured out like water
To fulfill the Father's plan.</p> <p>4 Can we fathom such deep mercy?
Do we see what God has done?
Who can grasp this great reversal:
Love that gives His only Son?
Christ, the sinless for the sinners,
For the many dies the One.</p> <p>5 Jesus gave to His disciples
A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another,
Do as I have done for you;
All the world will know you love Me
As you love each other too."</p> |
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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please observe silence while departing. Worship continues tomorrow with a service of Tenebrae.