

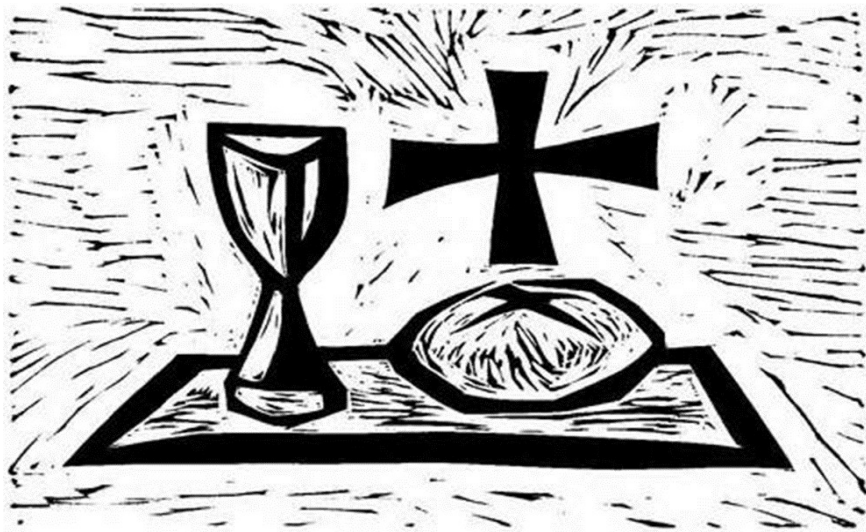
Holy Communion



Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026

St. John Lutheran Church

Powellsville
5600 Junior Furnace-Powellsville Road
Franklin Furnace, Ohio 45629-8937
740-574-8028 or email: stjohn1875@gmail.com



PRELUDE

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

READING: MARK 14:12-21

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

¹⁷When it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

PASSOVER SONG *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

#198



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way; as the Light of light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the
from the realms of end - less day, comes, the pow'rs of hell to
as with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



scend - ing comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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, now and forever. AMEN

CHOIR

Heart of God

READING: MARK 14:22-25

²²While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O living God,
for your glory revealed in Jesus Christ.
He is our Servant, who washes our feet with love.
He is our Lamb, whose blood takes away our sin.
He is our Host at this meal, offering us the cup of salvation.

C: Blessed be God forever!

C: Blessed be God forever!

P: Blessed are you, O living God,
for the gift of your loving Spirit.
Fill this meal with the life of your Son.
Make us servants of one another and of everyone in need.
Bring us with all your people to the joy of the resurrection.

C: Blessed be God forever!

C: Blessed be God forever!

P: In the night in which he was betray
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

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.

P: Amen, and amen.

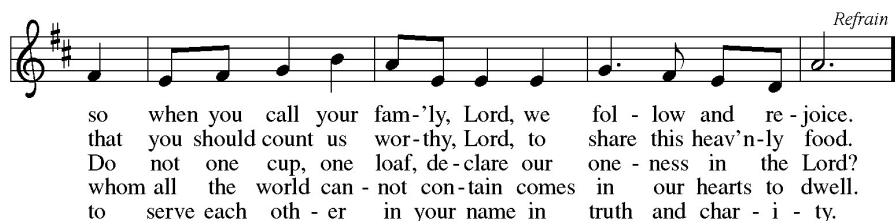
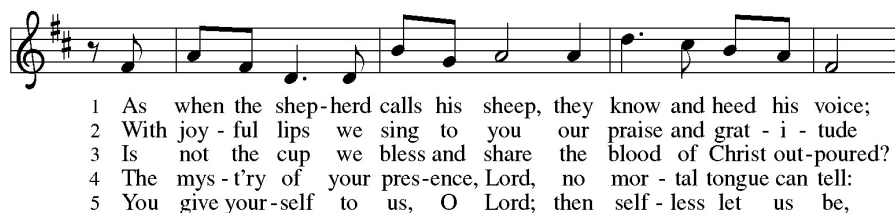
C: Amen, and amen.

P: Come to the table of the Lord. All are welcome.

COMMUNION SONG

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

#711



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

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(Please come forward during the singing and take your place at the altar rail.)

DISTRIBUTION

At St. John we practice open communion. All who seek the Lord Jesus are welcome to come forward and receive communion. If you would rather not participate in Holy Communion please come forward to receive a blessing. Grape juice is available. Please inform the communion assistant if you would like grape juice.

Following distribution

READING: MARK 14:26-31

²⁶When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.'

²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." ²⁹Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." ³⁰Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

POST COMMUNION SONG

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

#200

(Verses 1 & 4)

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n - ly board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;

for the words which you have spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855–1930, alt.

Music: OMNI DIE, *Gross Catolisch Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1631; arr. William Smith Rockstro, 1823–1895

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We want to live your abundant life, and we thank you that in this feast you have given us the strength for that journey. We want to live in your extravagant love, but we are afraid that the outcome won't be any different for us than it was for Jesus—ridicule, pain, distress. Give us courage to claim you when others betray, courage to follow you when others desert, courage to love even when we are not loved in return.

READING: MARK 14:32-50

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?" ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand." ⁴³Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?" ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰All of them deserted him and fled.

HOMILY: DAYENU

P: Had God not done anything for us except send his Son to rescue us from our slavery to sin,

C: it would have been enough.

P: Had God brought us out of our deadness in sin through the sanctifying work of Jesus Christ, but not given us any other good gift,

P: it still would have been enough. Had God not ordained for us a day and a family and a job to do, C: Jesus still would have been enough.

P: Had God not brought us into places of safety and ease and blessing,

C: Jesus still would have been enough.

P: Had God not raised up the Church, and leaders in the Church, and servants in the Church, and a mission for the Church

C: Jesus still would have been enough.

P: Had God not given us the Bible, or revealed himself in the universe or in people or the Church fathers or in the Spirit or in the Eucharist,

C: Jesus still would have been enough.

P: Had God not given us anything else but Jesus – had he not given us joys or peace, health or safety, the very air we breathe,

C: Jesus still would have been enough.

P: So dayenu. Even if there is nothing else,

C: Jesus is enough.

SONG

Go to Dark Gethsemane

109

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in four columns, with each column corresponding to one of the four voices. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing harmonic support for the vocal lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 Go to dark Geth-se - 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 - rained;
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.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820–1901

PRAYER

P: Lord our God, pour out your rich blessing on us as we remember the suffering and death of your Son. Grant us pardon and comfort, so that we may be assured of our eternal salvation. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping the altar is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. After the Last Supper, less than 24 hours remained in our Lord's earthly life. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of comfort and life to symbolize His suffering and death.

PSALM 22

- ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- ²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer;
by night, but I find no rest.**
- ³Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- ⁴**Our ancestors put their trust in you,
they trusted, and you rescued them.**
- ⁵They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- ⁶**But as for me, I am a worm and not human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.**
- ⁷All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips; they shake their heads.
- ⁸**"Trust in the LORD; let the LORD deliver;
let God rescue him if God so delights in him."**
- ⁹Yet you are the one who drew me forth from the womb,
and kept me safe on my mother's breast.
- ¹⁰**I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.**
- ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.
- ¹²**Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.**
- ¹³They open wide their jaws at me,
like a slashing and roaring lion.
- ¹⁴**I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.**
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of death.

- ¹⁶**Packs of dogs close me in, a band of evildoers circles round me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**
- ¹⁷I can count all my bones
while they stare at me and gloat.
- ¹⁸**They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing, they cast lots.**
- ¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far away;
O my help, hasten to my aid.
- ²⁰**Deliver me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.**
- ²¹Save me from the lion's mouth!
From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- ²²**I will declare your name to my people;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
- ²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- ²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- ²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied.
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live
forever!**
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- ²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**
- ²⁹Indeed all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the
LORD.
- ³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**
- ³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

READING: MARK 14:66-72

⁶⁶While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one

of them; for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." ⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

A wooden cross is carried in procession through the church and placed before the congregation. The congregation stands and faces the cross as it is brought forward. The following dialogue is spoken:

P: Behold the life giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: O come let us worship him.

P: Behold the life giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: O come let us worship him.

P: Behold the life giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the whole world.

C: O come let us worship him.

On the cross Jesus carries our sin, all that would seek to separate us from God's love. It is true that we cannot save ourselves. Through his death on the cross Christ assures that we are saved by his grace.

READING: MARK 15:33-41

³³When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³⁵When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

SONG

Were You There

#92



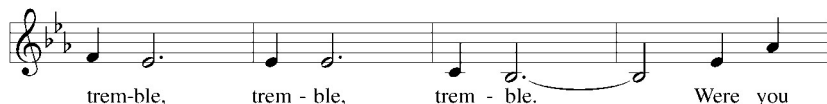
1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 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?



Oh! some-times it caus - es me to



trem-ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you



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

Text: African American spiritual, alt.

Music: WERE YOU THERE, African American spiritual

During the singing of Were You There, all are invited to come forward and place a lighted candle at the foot of the cross. The candles represent loved ones in need, or situations of struggle that you would like to place at the foot of the cross.

Following the hymn:

P: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

C: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

This night we enter the Great Three Days, during which our Lord Jesus suffered betrayal, humiliation, and blameless death for the sake of the whole world.

You are welcome to remain for meditation or depart respectfully in silence.

Mark 14:12-21

Sherry Mullins

Mark 14:22-25

Wendy Queen

Mark 14:26-31

Vivian Riffel

Mark 14:32-50

Kendra Hughes

Psalm 22

Sherry Mullins

Mark 14:66-72

Kendra Hughes

Mark 15:33-41

Vivian Riffel

Organist

Leigh Ann Henry