



Maundy Thursday

with Westminster United Methodist Church

April 2, 2026

6:00 p.m.



For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to

Connect with God and one another,

Grow in faith and understanding, and

Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson

Welcome to this joint service on Maundy Thursday.

Tonight we begin the Great Three Days – the journey from the supper table to the cross, and from the cross to Easter morning. This is the night when Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room, gave himself into the hands of those who would betray him, and left us this holy feast of bread and cup as a sign of his undying love. This is the night when he took a towel and washed his disciples' feet, showing us how to honor and serve one another. This is the night when he prayed that all his followers may be one. This is a night for watching and prayer.

Prelude

“Jesu Kreuz, Leiden und Pein”
(Jesus, I Will Ponder Now)

by Paul Manz

✠ Processional Hymn “I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord”

Hymnal #304

1 I come with joy to meet my Lord, for -
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to
3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each
4 And thus with joy we meet our Lord. His
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, we'll

1 giv - en, loved, and free, in awe and won - der
2 find, as all are fed, the new com - mu - ni -
3 proud di - vi - sion ends. That love that made us
4 pres - ence, al - ways near, is in such friend - ship
5 go our dif - ferent ways, and as his peo - ple

1 to re - call his life laid down for me.
2 ty of love in Christ's com - mun - ion bread.
3 makes us one, and stran - gers now are friends.
4 bet - ter known: we see and praise him here.
5 in the world we'll live and speak his praise.

Opening Acclamation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. **His mercy endures for ever.**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8,9*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People: **Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

"Kyrie #10"

J. Berthier

Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -
Chri - ste, Chri - ste, e - le - i - son; Chris -
Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son; Ky - ri -
5 e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.
te, Chris - te, e - le - i - son.
e, Ky - ri - e, e - le - i - son.

The Collect

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of

remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

Psalm 116: 1, 10-17

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

10 How shall I repay the LORD *
for all the good things he has done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the LORD *
is the death of his servants.

14 O LORD, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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, 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." 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." 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.**

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The Holy Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord-- and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Meditation

A period of silence is kept.

The Foot Washing

Fellow servants of our Lord Jesus Christ: On the night before his death, Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. He taught that strength and growth in the life of the Kingdom of God come not by power, authority, or even by miracle, but by such lowly service.

Therefore, I invite you who share in the royal priesthood of Christ to come forward, that we may recall whose servant we are by following the example of our Master. Come remembering his admonition that what will be done for us is also to be done by us to others, for "a servant is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."

You are invited to sing or be prayerfully silent, as the Spirit directs. Those desiring to have their feet washed are invited to come forward to one of the stations for the foot washing. Please hold your feet, one at a time over the basin, so that clean water may be poured over them, then patted dry. Those desiring to wash the feet of others are asked to touch the shoulder of someone who is washing feet and take his or her place at the basin.

Hymns

"Servant Song"

by Richard Gillard

1. Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are travelers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ light for you
In the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
'Till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

6. Won't you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.

"Jesu, Jesu"

Hymnal #602

Refrain:

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
Show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them. *(Refrain)*

2. Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are nearby and far away. *(Refrain)*

3. These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love.
All are neighbors to us and you. *(Refrain)*

4. Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves;
this is the way we should live with you. *(Refrain)*

Words: John 13:1-17; adapt. Tom Colvin

Music: *Ghana Folk Song*; adapt Tom Colvin

✠ **The Prayers of the People:** *Adapted from the Anglican Church of Australia*

Celebrant: On this holy night in which Jesus was betrayed, let us pray to the Lord.

Intercessor: Merciful God, on this night your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet. As we commit ourselves to following his example of love and service, teach us humility. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one. As we grieve for the divisions in the church, unite us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus prayed for those who would come to believe through the disciples' message. As we take up the mission of the church, renew our zeal. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus commanded his friends to love, but he suffered rejection himself. As we open our hearts to the rejected and the unloved, fill us with your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus reminded his people that, if the world hated them, it had hated him first. As we face our own fears, we pray for those who are persecuted for their faith; give us your peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

On this night, Jesus loved his friends to the very end. As we open our hearts to all who face darkness tonight, we pray for the sick, those who mourn, those trapped by violence, addiction, or pain: give healing and hope. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Faithful God, you have heard the prayers of your people. Keep us this night in your mercy, that sustained by the body and blood of your Son, we may follow him through darkness into light, and through death into life everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

✠ **The Peace:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And with your spirit.**

Announcements

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

To make an online offering, please scan the QR code:



Offertory

"In Remembrance"

Buryl Red

✠ **Presentation Hymn**

"The Doxology"

Hymnal #380, v. 3

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise him a-bove ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer for Maundy Thursday *(UMC Adapted)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For our sins he was lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw the whole world to himself; and, by his suffering and death, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who put their trust in him. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

Hymnal #S130

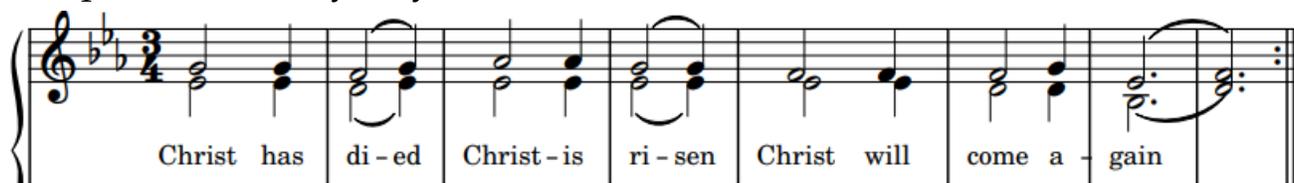
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,
10 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Hea - ven and
18 Bless - ed is
earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
he who comes in the name of the Lord.
27 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When we turned aside from your way and abused your gifts, you gave us in him your crowning gift. Emptying himself that our joy might be full, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, ate with scorned and forgotten, washed his disciples' feet, and gave a holy meal as a pledge of his abiding presence. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



The Lord's Prayer

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Fraction Anthem

Agnus Dei - "Jesus, Lamb of God"

Hymnal #S164



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People

All are welcome to the Table of the Lord. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion in front of the altar. Gluten-free communion wafers are available; just ask when you come to the altar rail. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest. To receive the wine you can either drink from the common cup or dip your host held by the second Eucharist minister on both sides of the priest.

Communion Music

“The Table”

1. I will feast at the table of the Lord
I will feast at the table of the Lord
I won't hunger anymore at His table

3. There is healing at the table of the Lord
There is healing at the table of the Lord
Oh and I won't suffer anymore at His table

2. There is peace at the table of the Lord
There is peace at the table of the Lord
I won't worry anymore at His table

4. I'm invited to the table of the Lord
I'm invited to the table of the Lord
He says come just as you are to His table

Chorus:

Come all you weary come and find. His yoke is easy His burden is light.
He is able. He will restore. At the table of the Lord

CCLI Song # 7028956 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | Wayne Jolley | © 2014 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | sixsteps Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) | Terebinth Music (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. | All rights reserved. www.ccli.com | CCLI License # 259427

“One Bread, One Body”

Fr. John Foley

Chorus: One bread, one body, one Lord of all

One cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth.
We are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free
Woman or man, no more.
Chorus

2. Many the gifts, many the
works. One in the Lord, Of all.
Chorus

3. Grain for the fields, scattered
and grown. Gathered to one, for
all. *Chorus*

✠ The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Stripping of the Altar

The lights will be dimmed.

The altar is stripped of all its adornments – the cloths, candles, flowers, and other symbols of celebration that have graced this holy table. This ancient rite is not merely ceremonial housekeeping. It is a profound act of liturgical prayer. As each object is removed, we witness the progressive abandonment and humiliation of our Lord – stripped of his garments, left alone in the darkness of Gethsemane, betrayed by a friend.

The bare altar is then washed – a gesture that carries a double meaning. It recalls the washing of Jesus' body before burial, a final act of love offered to the dead. It also echoes the foot washing we have just shared, reminding us that humble service and sacrificial love are at the very heart of this night. The one whose feet were washed at supper will himself be washed in death.

The altar now stands bare and silent. It will remain so until the Great Vigil of Easter, when light and song return.

“My Peace I Leave You”

J. Berthier

My peace I leave you, my peace I give you: trou-ble not your hearts. My
 peace I leave you, my peace I give you: be not af - faid. My

“O Lord Hear My Prayer”

J. Berthier

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O
 Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me. O

5 Em G/D Am/C D Em B7 Em Last Time

“Stay With Me”

J. Berthier

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
 pray watch and pray.

The altar party kneels in silent prayer, then departs.

The congregation is invited to leave in silence, carrying this holy darkness within them until the light of Easter comes.

Participants:

Clergy

The Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson
Rev. Dr. Malcolm Stranathan

Musicians

Mary Butler
Kyler Brengle
Peggy Brengle, CAGO

The Choirs of Church of the Ascension & Westminster United Methodist Church

Acolyte

Ellen Anderson

Lector

Roberta Gore

Chalicians

Helen Lang, Kim Tompkins, Sandy White, Melissa Leahy

Ushers

2 needed

