

# Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elma



## Maundy Thursday Worship

Rev. Jamie Retallack  
716-848-9683

Maundy Thursday  
April 2, 2026

## The Prelude

The Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,  
and listened to my supplication,  
for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

How shall I repay the LORD  
for all the good things God has done for me?

I will lift the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.

Precious in your sight, O LORD,  
is the death of your servants.

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

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the LORD.

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,  
in the courts of the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

## The Invocation

## The Greeting

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

## The Evening Prayer

*Let us pray...* Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

“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.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**



The Reflection  
Pastor Jamie Retallack

*Come to the Table*

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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## 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

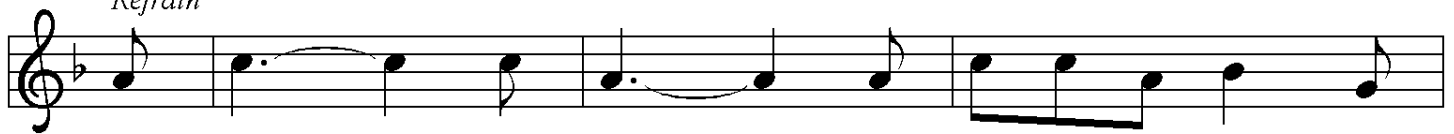


Hymn

WOV 765

## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

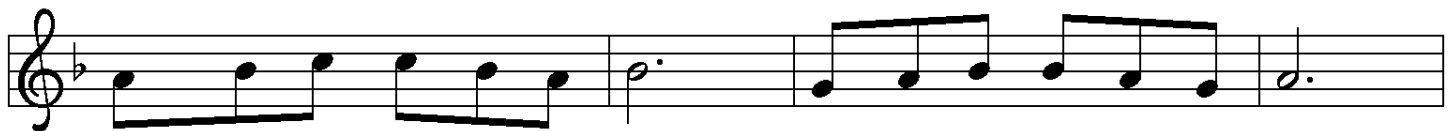
*Refrain*



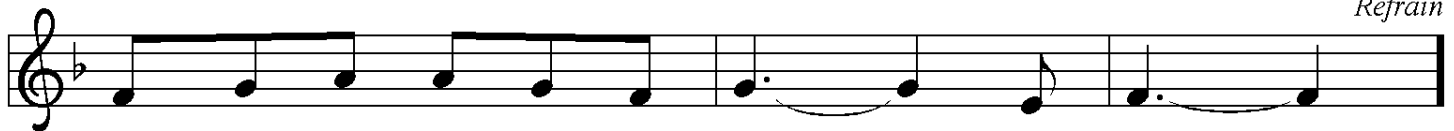
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

*Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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## Prayers of Intercession

On this night when Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Each petition ends with...*Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us.

We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace  
The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## The Offertory Hymn



- 1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.
- 2 The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown.They grew in your good plea - sure.
- 3 Our hopes and dreams,our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dail - y food be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

## The Offertory Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

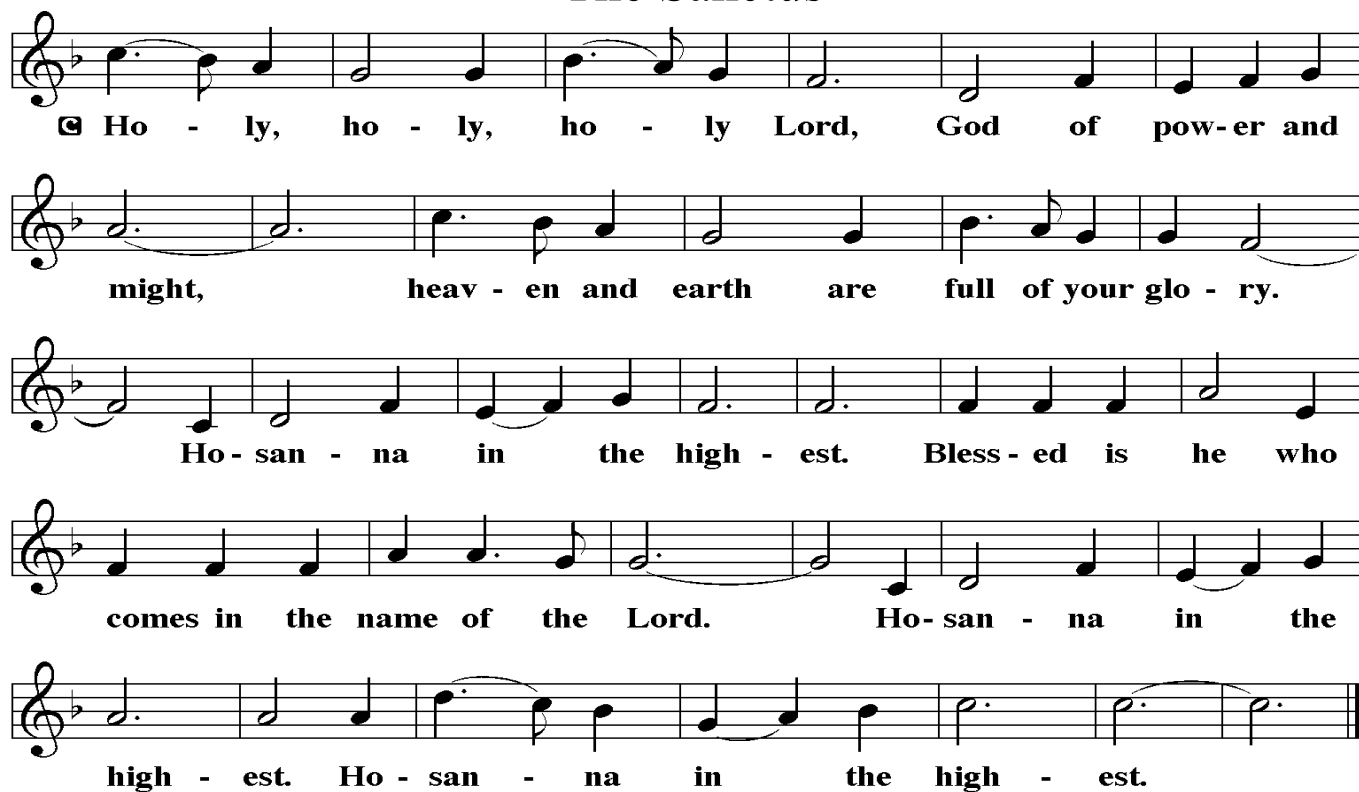
## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## The Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, whose suffering and death gave salvation to all. You gather your people around the tree of the cross, transforming death into life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.”

The Lord's Prayer  
*Lord remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray...*

**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.**

The Invitation

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The Lamb of God



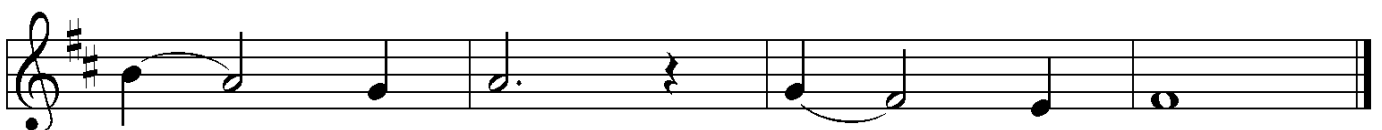
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;**



**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## The Distribution of the Bread & Wine

### The Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### Prayer after Communion

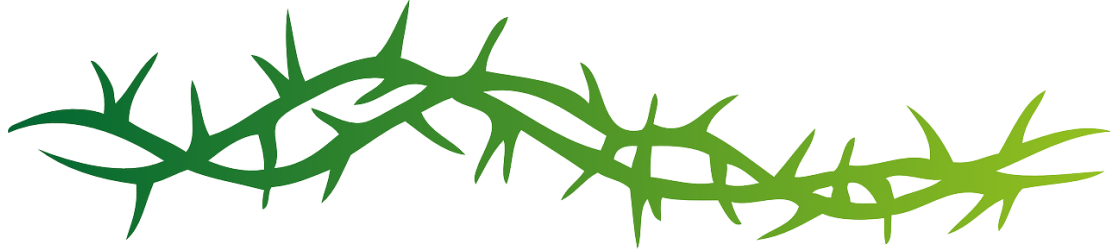
Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### The Stripping of the Altar

After the Last Supper, less than 24 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. As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

*Music as altar is stripped.*

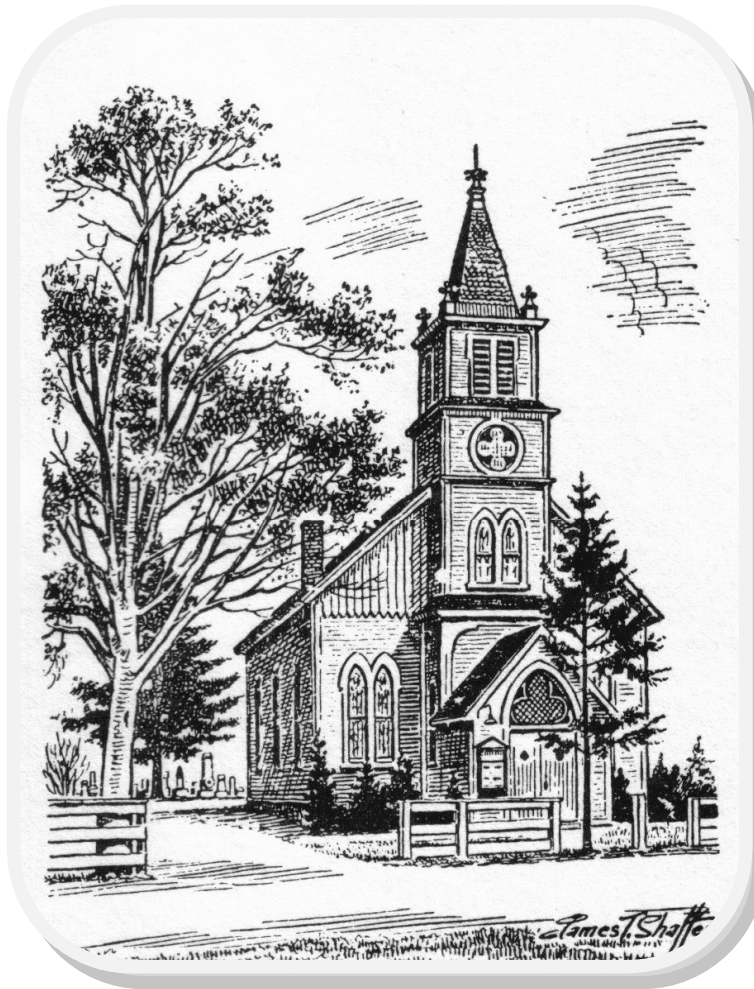
*The congregation leaves in silence.*



## Holy Days Worship Schedule

Good Friday	4/3	7:00pm	Worship Service @ Lancaster
Saturday Vigil	4/4	5:30pm	Worship Service @ Lancaster
Easter Sunday	4/5	8:45am	Worship Service @ Elma
Easter Sunday	4/5	10:00am	In-Person/Streamed Worship Service @ Lancaster





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