

# *Holy Thursday*



**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

**March 28, 2024**

## Welcome

Thanks for joining us! We pray that you will find the warmth of Christian hospitality, the abiding truth of God's Word and the quiet assurance of peace in Christ. If we can assist you in any way, please ask. Come worship with us again!



**This Worship Service** – On this night more than 2,000 years ago, Jesus had a beautifully intimate meeting with his disciples in a private room. After humbly washing their feet Jesus told them, “*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another*” (Jn. 13:34). For

many years, this evening was well known by its Latin name: “Dies Mandati,” meaning the “Day of the Commandment.” It is widely believed that the word we’ve come to associate with this evening, “Maundy”, is derived from that ancient Latin phrase.

On that same intimate evening with his disciples, Jesus also gave them the wonderful blessing of Holy Communion for the first time. For more than 2,000 years believers in Jesus have enjoyed this “new covenant” of his real body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This precious Sacrament (a sacred or holy act) was and is given for the full forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the bonding together of those who participate in it.

Tonight, more than 2,000 years after Jesus gave his new command and beautiful blessing, Jesus is again holding a beautifully intimate meeting with his disciples – you and me. Our hearts are filled with love for him who first loved us. We have come in sincere repentance, longing for his complete forgiveness. We have come believing in his real presence to wash away our sins. We have come united in faith. We have come to remember his life and his death. We have come to thank him for his undeserved love.

*And we will leave tonight with a deeper desire to love and serve both him and one another – he promises it!*

## ~ Prepare Your Heart for Communion ~

To members of our fellowship (*WELS & ELS*) who will be receiving Holy Communion tonight, there is a wonderfully helpful set of questions printed below for your personal preparation for the Lord's Supper.

If you're visiting tonight, we're honored that you've chosen to worship with us - thank you for being our guest! Please refrain from receiving the meal tonight, but if you'd like to know more about Communion, its blessings, or the future possibility of communing here at Immanuel, please feel free to visit with our Pastor.

*May the Holy Spirit bless our worship tonight!*

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### PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

**Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.**

# Maundy Thursday Worship

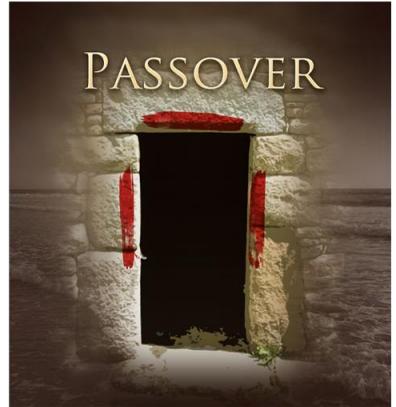
**Opening Song – “The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord”**

(CW 677:1-2)

## **The Lengths of God’s Love – Exodus 12:1-14**

*The LORD showed the lengths to which his love will move him when he spared the lives of the Israelites through the blood of an innocent lamb. In the Passover, the LORD gave a foreshadowing of the FULL extent of his love when he himself would lay down his life for the world.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup> “This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. <sup>4</sup> If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. <sup>5</sup> The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. <sup>6</sup> Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. <sup>7</sup> Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs...



<sup>11</sup> This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD’s Passover. <sup>12</sup> On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. <sup>14</sup> This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.”

**Song of Trust – “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”**

(CW 663:4)

## Message from God's Word – Matthew 26:17-20, 26-30

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup> He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. <sup>20</sup> When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve...<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup> Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." <sup>30</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

*Things I'd like to remember this week...*

***Jesus Gives Me Fast Food for the Soul***

## Song of Trust – “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

(CW 663:5,7)

## Offerings of Thanks

*“I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name,  
O LORD, for it is good.” - Psalm 54:6*



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## Our Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

*Following Our Prayer we join to pray:*

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

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## Holy Communion – The Lord’s Supper

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### We Are Unworthy Sinners

Holy AND merciful God, tonight we admit our sins to you – our crimes of thought against your holy, perfect will, the careless words we’ve chosen to wield, and the treasonous actions we’ve committed.

**We have failed to share our faiths boldly, to use our time faithfully, and to love each other as you so perfectly love us.**



### Song of Confession – “Wondrous Are Your Ways, O God” (CW93 307:1)

Lord, we are not only confessing our sins – but we also acknowledge that we deserve to be punished for them. It’s only your promise to us in Jesus that allows us to humbly and confidently turn to you tonight. Forgive us by your undeserved grace and mercy—the same grace and mercy you displayed at the cross and have given us through your Word and Sacraments. We are eager for your Sacrament, Lord, your new covenant that cleanses us from all our sins and guilt.

**Dear Savior, you promise that you eagerly desire to share your holy meal with us. We cannot fathom the depths of your love! Amen!!!**

### Song of Confession – “Wondrous Are Your Ways, O God” (CW93 307:2)

### God Declares Us Worthy!

God’s love for you is immeasurable. His promise is this: **In Jesus**, he has forgiven you completely. **In Jesus**, you are cherished by God instead of punished by him. **In Jesus**, you are clothed in his perfection and promised an eternal home at your Savior’s side. **In Jesus**, YOU ARE WORTHY of all these blessings! Live your lives in this forgiveness of which God has made you certain through his Word, through your Baptism, and through his Supper.

**In Jesus we CAN say, “Amen!”**

## Song of Thanks – “Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness”

(CW 573:3-4)

### Jesus’ Words Instituting His Supper

*Words of Institution:* Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” – Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**God’s Word speaks of the spiritual blessings of this Sacrament (Mt. 26:28) and warns against the spiritual danger of being unprepared for this holy meal (1 Cor. 11:27-29). Because we deeply care about you and don’t want to see anyone’s faith harmed, we ask that if you have not studied or spoken with our pastors first, that you refrain from joining in the Sacrament today. We are not judging your love for Jesus but rather displaying loving caution for all involved. Please feel free to ask our pastors if you have questions. We are eager to listen and share over an open Bible.**

**The Distribution** – *as communion is shared, the congregation is invited to sing:*

**“Behold the Lamb”** (soloist vs 1&2; **cong vs 2 refrain and following**)

**“When You Woke that Thurs Morning”** (tune: ‘Hark the Voice; **words below**)

*(sung)* **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.**

**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 creatures,  
One last paschal meal to eat,  
One last lesson as their teacher,  
Washing your disciples' feet.**

**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."**

**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.**

**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 lest  
Meet in joyous, blest communion  
In your never-ending feast.**

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## The Lengths of God's Love – John 13:1-15, 34

*Jesus proved that there are NO LIMITS to his love for us.*

<sup>1</sup> It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a



towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." <sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. <sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

<sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you... <sup>34</sup> A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

## God's Blessing

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...

**To Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus, throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen!** (Eph. 2:20-21)

## Closing Song – “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

(CW 396:1,7)

## Silent Prayer – *feel free to use this silent prayer of thanks*

Dear Savior, it was self-sacrificing love that moved you to assume the role of a servant and stoop to wash your disciples' feet in the upper room. It was that same love that led you to sacrifice what I have received this evening. Let this heavenly feast assure me of your forgiveness, my new life, and my eternity with you. In your name I pray, Amen.

*Other personal prayers may be found on pages 255-258 in the front of your blue Hymnal.*



**Musician:** Andrea Dolan

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Matt Zimpelmann

**Flowers:**

***We hope you can join us for any of these powerful services this weekend!***



**GOOD  
FRIDAY**

***Fri, March 29  
1 & 6:30 PM***



***Sun, March 31***

***6:30 AM***

***8:00 AM***

***10:30 AM***

*Join us for breakfast Easter Morning anytime between 7:30 – 10:00 am*

