

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JOHN 13: 34-35



*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.*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH HELLERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

April 2, 2026

7:00pm

~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

Maundy Thursday

Organ Prelude

Steve Wysocki

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Hymn: *Let Us Break Bread Together* **ELW #471**

Prayer of the Day:

O God, in mystery and silence you are present in our lives, bringing hope out of despair, courage out of weakness, peace out of turmoil. We thank you for not leaving us alone, but walking with us. Help us to pay attention to the gentle guidance of your Spirit that we may know the joy you give your people. Amen.

Kyrie:

Lord, Have Mercy

ELW #157

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Cheryl Lawler

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴If 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. ¹¹This 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴This 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.

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

¹²How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

Gospel Acclamation: *Thy Word*

Thy word, thy word is a lamp unto my feet.

Thy word, oh, thy word is a lamp unto my feet;

And a light unto my path, and a light unto my path. (Repeat)

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 34-35

¹Now 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. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."
¹²After 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Message

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious Spirit, you indeed are the breath upon the waters and the wind beneath our wings. Yet, how often we think that because we cannot see you, you are not really there. We begin to trust our own strength, make our own decisions, enjoy our own triumphs, succeed by our own hard work. And we cross an invisible line and turn from your invisible presence. May we be challenged to seek you with all our heart, mind and soul. May we be challenged to the labors of prayer and the work of silence. May we be challenged to commit to the fellowship of faith and the searching of your holy word. Gracious Spirit, forgive our blind eyes which do not see your hovering presence. Let us feel once again the breath of life which flows from your constant care. Renew us and all creation. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Tiffany Wilten

After each petition: **Challenge us, to be your servant leaders.**

Matthew Martin, Deanna Benner, Ferd Piccurro,
Monica & Brad Wagner, Mel Jones, Bill Bold, Lorita & Herb,
Colonel Martin O'Donnell, Joe Meier, Michael Colavita,
Tiffany Weddle, Bill Bergstresser, Dawn Ward, Sheila, Chris Kline,
Leona, Richard, Ashley Viegas, Mary Ann Kolumber, Michel Daage,
George Suarez, Meghan, Bill Tone, Kyle

Finally, and together: **We lift our prayers to you, O God,
trusting in your steadfast love,
through Jesus, whom we love and follow.
Amen.**

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

ELCA Good Gifts
\$5,000 Match Available

Offering Hymn: *You Are Mine* **ELW #581**

Offering Response: *As the Grains of Wheat* **ELW #465**

Communion *based on Paul's letter to the Corinthians* **1 Corinthians 11:23-25**

Paul said, "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."

We gather at this table and remember how on the night when Jesus was handed over, he gathered with his disciples in the upper room and together they shared in an ordinary meal that had extraordinary implications.

For at this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who betrayed him.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who denied him.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with those who fled from him in his time of need.

At this table,

Jesus broke bread and shared wine with people from all walks of life.

And so whenever we gather at this table to share the bread and the cup in this community of faith, we proclaim Jesus' life, which affirms there is a place at the table for all people, for the love of God transcends every power that tries to contain it.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Preparation Hymn: *Eat This Bread*

ELW #472

~ ALL ARE WELCOME ~
Come to the banquet where no one is turned away,
and there is always enough for everyone.

Distribution Hymn: *Lamb of God*

ELW #336

Communion Prayer

Gracious God, as we received this bread and wine,
we receive the presence and life of Christ within us
so that the spirit of Christ might work through us. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

- ¹ **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?**
- ² **O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**
- ³ **Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**
- ⁴ **In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**
- ⁵ **To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**
- ⁶ **But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.**
- ⁷ **All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**
- ⁸ **"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"**
- ⁹ **Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.**
- ¹⁰ **On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**
- ¹¹ **Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**

**12 Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my
heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;
15 my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my
jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
16 For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.
My hands and feet have shriveled;
17 I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
18 they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they
cast lots.
19 But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to
my aid!
20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen
you have rescued me.
22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of
the congregation I will praise you:
23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob,
glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did
not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will
pay before those who fear him.
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise
the LORD. May your hearts live forever!
27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and
all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
28 For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before
him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for
him.
30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the
Lord,
31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he
has done it.**

depart in silence