

# Maundy Thursday

## April 2, 2026



*This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.*



**ZION**  
Ministries Under the Cross

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# Welcome to Zion!

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*“Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love...”*

(Joel 2:13)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we’re glad you’re here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God’s goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

## Get Connected at Zion

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The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

## Children in Worship

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Children are God’s gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

## Giving

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We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



## Livestreaming

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Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

# We Gather & Celebrate a Meal Together

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## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## APOSTOLIC GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

Let us pray together...**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 life in faith may speak again in 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.**

**READING** *(see insert)*

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

*The Reading Ends:*Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!****READING**

Matthew 26:17-19

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:

<sup>17</sup> On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup> He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" <sup>19</sup> So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!****MEAL PRAYER**

Let us pray together...**Lord, we thank you for bringing us together, for the food we are about to eat, and for those that prepared it. Thank you for nourishing both our bodies and our spirits. In our fellowship, make us your body. Nourish us to be your hands and feet in the world to feed the hungry, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

<b>WE SHARE THE MEAL</b>
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**READING** *(see insert)*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

*The Reading Ends:*Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

*As we sing the hymn, we will move into the nave for the Eucharist.*

**HYMN****"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"**

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

### **Chorus:**

**And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

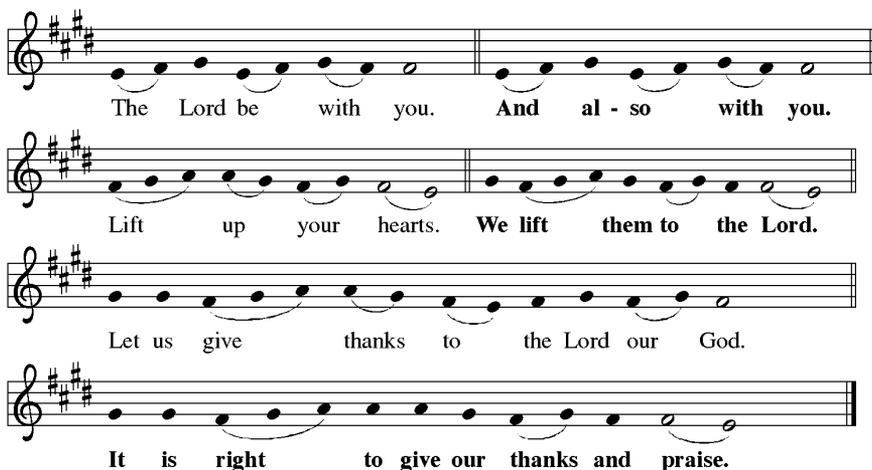
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son.  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

## **We Feast at the Lord's Table**

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### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

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:

5 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

9 Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of heav-en-ly hosts.

13 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

16 Ho-san - na! Ho-san - na! Ho-san-na in the high -

19 - est. Ho-san - na! Ho-san - na!

23 Bless-ed is he who comes! Bless-ed is he who comes!

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

## 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be your  
name, hal - low - ed be your name. Your king - dom come, your  
will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven, on earth as it is in hea - ven.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread and for - give us all our  
sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us, as we for - give those who sin a -  
gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al and de - li - ver us from  
e - vil, de - tiv - er us from - e - vil. For yours is the  
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver and e - ver, for  
e - ver and e - ver. A - men, a - men. A - men.

## SHARING THE MEAL

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

“How Beautiful”

## We Are Sent into the World

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## BLESSING FOR STRENGTH

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comfort, strengthen, and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together...**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.**

*Silence for Reflection*

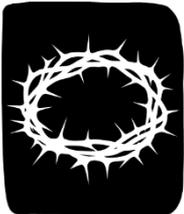
## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*“Stripping of the altar” symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. Leaving the altar bare anticipates the humiliation of Jesus, and act of humility, and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life.*

*There is no benediction. All leave the church in silence. The omission of the benedictions at the end of the liturgies of the Triduum; Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, indicate their continuity with each other, with the Vigil of Easter, and with the Easter Day Celebration.*

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### **Good Friday**

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **Easter Sunday**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.



# Today's Readings

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

## Prayer of the Day

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 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

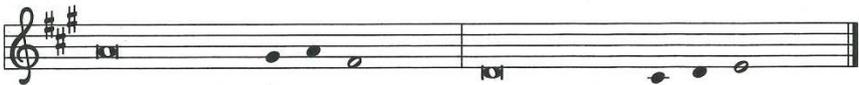
The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. <sup>4</sup>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. [<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. <sup>6</sup>You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. <sup>7</sup>They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it

raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. <sup>10</sup>You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire.] <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>"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."

## Psalm

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; tone 3



I love the LORD, who has <sup>1</sup> heard my voice,  
and listened to my <sup>1</sup> supplication,  
<sup>2</sup>for the LORD has given <sup>1</sup> ear to me  
whenev- <sup>1</sup> er I called.  
<sup>12</sup>How shall I re- <sup>1</sup> pay the LORD  
for all the good things  
God has <sup>1</sup> done for me?  
<sup>13</sup>I will lift the cup <sup>1</sup> of salvation  
and call on the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.

<sup>14</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup> all God's people.  
<sup>15</sup>Precious in your <sup>1</sup> sight, O LORD,  
is the death <sup>1</sup> of your servants.  
<sup>16</sup>O LORD, truly I <sup>1</sup> am your servant;  
I am your servant,  
the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me <sup>1</sup> from my bonds.

*continued*

<sup>17</sup>I will offer you  
the sacrifice <sup>1</sup> of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup>I will fulfill my vows <sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
in the presence of <sup>1</sup> all God's people,  
<sup>19</sup>in the courts of <sup>1</sup> the LORD's house,  
in the midst of you, <sup>1</sup> O Jerusalem.

## Second Reading

## 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, <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

## Gospel

## John 13:1-17, 31b-35

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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this

reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

<sup>31b</sup>"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.' <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."