

**LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**



MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 2, 2026

6:00 P.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

MAUNDY THURSDAY

This evening 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.

THIS WORSHIP FOLDER contains all elements of the worship service. It is designed to encourage your participation. Please read the words in bold print and join in the singing of all hymns. Italicized words are instructions.

RESTROOMS are located to the left at the back of the sanctuary and down the short hallway.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

Parents, you are always welcome to bring your children to worship with you.

QUIET BAGS for use by children during worship are to the left as you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick one up and replace it on the hooks when you leave.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

As you enter the sanctuary and are seated, please remain silent.

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and all that keeps us from loving God and each other. 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.

Please sit or kneel as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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.**

The minister stands to announce God's forgiveness.

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.

Please stand as you are able.



1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
 2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
 3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you



feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
 vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
 ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in



life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
 is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
 praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts,
 the saving grace of † Jesus Christ,
 and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal and the washing of feet, your Son showed us the dignity of all people and established a new command of love for others as he has loved us.

**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.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

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

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

A reading from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please remain seated for the reading of the gospel.

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 21-26, 30-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As you listen to the gospel reading there will be a reenactment of Jesus washing the disciples feet.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION

Pastor Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" ELW 358:1,3,4,5



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © Oxford University Press. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.

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 bring relief to those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer especially those we name silently or aloud... 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.

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.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You may greet one another with a gesture of peace and then be seated.

WE SHARE THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The offering plate is passed. You may also give electronically using the QR code on the back cover.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Abba"

*Abba, Abba, like a whisper on the wind I hear my name.
In a sound so like a sigh, again it came.
Your disciples gathered with You do not hear,
Yet the whisper of my name has reached my ear.*

*I am here, my Son, here in the upper room.
I hear the water gently splash,
I see the Servant King attending to His friends.
Here I am, here in the upper room.
But as You serve the bread and wine,
The broken body and the blood are Yours alone.*

*Abba, Abba, like a whisper on the wind I hear my name.
In a sound so like a sigh, again it came.
With a whisper that is heard by God alone,
My only Son begins His painful journey home.*

*Text: Susan Bentall Boersma
Music: Craig Courtney*

"Abba" is an Aramaic word meaning "father." It conveys a sense of intimacy and affection, similar to "daddy."

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING 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.

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our privilege 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.

We bring our thanks and praise to you, Almighty God.
On the eve of your death,
you washed the feet of your disciples
and gave yourself as food and drink.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

Now, in this meal you have given to us,
your death we proclaim.
Your resurrection we declare.
Your coming we await.

Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray. Unite us, by
this bread and wine, with our Lord Jesus Christ and with each other.
Give us life at this sacred banquet and joy in humble service.

Empower us for service, that we may obey your commandment to love
and serve one another as you loved and served. Bring us to that day
when we shall feast with all your saints in heaven.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy. Amen.**

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.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
Apart from you, we are not worthy so much as to
gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, to come to your table
with the confidence that your cleansing love
and the gift of your own self makes us worthy
and nourishes us to be Christ's presence of love in the world
as he dwells in us and we in him.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO HANDWASHING AND COMMUNION

HANDWASHING

The ritual washing of hands represents the action of foot washing Jesus commanded his followers to do. We have heard in the gospel reading that Jesus taught by example, washing the feet of his own followers, even Judas who would betray him. We are servants to each other, and having our hands washed represents our recommitment to loving and serving as Jesus commanded.

All those wishing to receive handwashing may come forward at this time then continue to the altar to receive Communion, beginning with the choir.

Communion is served at the altar rail. You may kneel or stand.

*We use wheat bread, white grape juice and wine.
If you need a gluten free wafer please make that known to the pastor.*

For any who desire a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.*

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection.

**May this sacrament of your presence
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.**

Please be seated.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion.

Psalm 22 will be read during this time. Please remain seated until all is removed and the Psalm has ended.

Silent meditation.

WE DEPART IN SILENCE.

Credits/Acknowledgements

Intercessory Prayers from Sundays and Seasons by permission under Augsburg Liturgies License SAS103467

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23663.
New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All music and lyrics published in this worship service are printed by permission of the following licenses:

OneLicense #A-725570, Licensing #612800, CCLI #11242717, Augsburg Fortress #23663.

Thanksgiving at the Table from Reformed Worship 2008. Adapted.

“Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now”

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

Text © 1995 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Sara Ilderton	Presiding Minister
Debby Borrelli	Assisting Minister
Rev. Linda Hatcher	Assisting Minister
Don Huff	Minister of Music and Worship
Nancy Mersereau	Organist
VanSandt Family	Footwashing Reenactment

**Worship for the "Three Days" continues tomorrow with
Good Friday worship at 6:00 p.m.**

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter breakfast will be served from 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Gathering music begins at 10:00 a.m.

Easter Day worship begins at 10:30 a.m.

**Please bring flowers to contribute to
Easter flowering of the cross.**



LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

Living Saviour Lutheran Church
6817 Carmel Road
Charlotte, North Carolina 28226
(704) 542-3626

The Reverend Sara Ilderton, Pastor
Don Huff, Director of Music Ministry
Nancy Mersereau, Assistant Musician
Laura Schwab, Office Administrator
Susan Hall, Treasurer
Elsie Davis, LS Preschool Director

QR for donating online:



scan to
join us online

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, tap the link, and you'll be taken to LSLC's YouTube Channel

