

## The TABLE of the LORD

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & Elementary School**  
**Our Mission: Learn God's Truth, Share Spirit's Healing, Follow Jesus' Ways.**

**THREE GREAT DAYS**  
**Maundy Thursday – the Upper Room**

April 17, 2025 7:00PM



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Congregation responses in **BOLD**

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*With nightfall 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. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.*

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Gathering Hymn **#600** **"Out of the Depths I Cry to You"**

### The BLESSING

The Christ of ✠ God is with you. **And also with you.**  
We give thanks to God for all that is good. **God's mercy is forever.**  
We bless the Lord our God who gives bread from the earth.  
Wine is like life to us and gladness to our souls.  
Eat, drink, and give thanks. **We give our thanks to God.**

### The BREAKING of BREAD

Let us rise and break bread with Christ.  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**  
Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right and good to give our thanks.**  
We give thanks to you, O God, at all times and in all places,  
and with your whole Church we bow before you and say:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.**  
**Everything everywhere is filled with your presence.**  
You remembered your promise and sent your Son into the world.  
**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
On the night of his great trial Jesus took bread and gave thanks.  
**Blessed are you, Creator of the world;**  
**from the earth you give us bread to eat.**  
He broke the bread and shared it with his friends, saying:  
Take and eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.  
**We remember your coming into the world,**  
**your life, your death, your rising,**  
**and the promise of your coming again.**

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Come, Holy Spirit, upon us and upon this bread.

**Fill us and surround us with your presence.**

As seed was scattered over the earth and gathered into this one bread:

**So gather your people from the ends of the, earth into one body.**

Broken and divided – in him we are united.

**Jesus Christ, our peace and our reconciliation.**

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.**

The peace of Christ is with you.

**The peace of Christ is with you.**

*As the above words are spoken, the bread is broken and passed.*

*Please hold onto it until all have received.*

Eat from the bread we have broken. Share in the unity of his body.

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever. He has promised:

I am coming soon. **Amen. Come, holy Jesus.**

### The TABLE TALK

**READING: Exodus 16:2-7, 13-31** *Contemporary English Version*

There in the desert the Israelites started complaining to Moses and Aaron, "We wish the LORD had killed us in Egypt. When we lived there, we could at least sit down and eat all the bread and meat we wanted. But you have brought us out here into this desert, where we are going to starve."

The LORD said to Moses, "I will send bread down from heaven like rain. Each day the people can go out and gather only enough for that day. That's how I will see if they obey me. But on the sixth day of each week they must gather and cook twice as much."

Moses and Aaron told the people, "This evening you will know that the LORD was the one who rescued you from Egypt. And in the morning you will see his glorious power, because he has heard your complaints against him. Why should you grumble to us? Who are we?"

The next morning dew covered the ground. After the dew had gone, the desert was covered with thin flakes that looked like frost. The people had never seen anything like this, and they started asking each other, "What is it?"

Moses answered, "This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. And he orders you to gather about two quarts for each person in your family—that should be more than enough."

They did as they were told. Some gathered more and some gathered less, according to their needs, and none was left over.

Moses told them not to keep any overnight. Some of them disobeyed, but the next morning what they kept was stinking and full of worms, and Moses was angry.

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Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and in the heat of the day the rest melted. However, on the sixth day of the week, everyone gathered enough to have four quarts, instead of two. When the leaders reported this to Moses, he told them that the LORD had said, "Tomorrow is the Sabbath, a sacred day of rest in honor of me. So gather all you want to bake or boil, and make sure you save enough for tomorrow."

The people obeyed, and the next morning the food smelled fine and had no worms. "You may eat the food," Moses said. "Today is the Sabbath in honor of the LORD, and there won't be any of this food on the ground today. You will find it there for the first six days of the week, but not on the Sabbath."

A few of the Israelites did go out to look for some, but there was none. Then the LORD said, "Moses, how long will you people keep disobeying my laws and teachings? Remember that I was the one who gave you the Sabbath. That's why on the sixth day I provide enough bread for two days. Everyone is to stay home and rest on the Sabbath." And so they rested on the Sabbath.

The Israelites called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and delicious as wafers made with honey.

This is holy Wisdom, holy Word.

### **HOLY GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31-35**

*Common English Bible*

Before the Festival of Passover, Jesus knew that his time had come to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them fully.

Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. The devil had already provoked Judas, Simon Iscariot's son, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew the Father had given everything into his hands and that he had come from God and was returning to God. So he got up from the table and took off his robes. Picking up a linen towel, he tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a wash basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he was wearing. When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I'm doing now, but you will understand later."

"No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't have a place with me."

Simon Peter said, "Lord, not only my feet but also my hands and my head!"

Jesus responded, "Those who have bathed need only to have their feet washed, because they are completely clean. You disciples are clean, but not every one of you." He knew who would betray him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you is clean."

After he washed the disciples' feet, he put on his robes and returned to his place at the table. He said to them, "Do you know what I've done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet.

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I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who sent them. Since you know these things, you will be happy if you do them."

When Judas was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Mortal One has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify the Mortal One in himself and will glorify him immediately. Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now, 'Where I'm going, you can't come.'

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

This is the Good News of Christ's victory!

Hymn of the Day      **#332**      **"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"**

Message      ***Servant for Life***

### WASHING

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

*We will be taking turns in washing the hand of our neighbor in the circle.*

Hymn      **#359**      **"Where Charity and Love Prevail"**

### THE PRAYERS

Holy God, we come to you in prayer for the church, your good creation, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Heal the wounds of your church, O God. As we remember your commandment to love one another, guide us toward reconciliation within the body of Christ. Bless all who gather around the world and in this community for these holy three days. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew the life of your creation. Restore lands suffering from chronic drought or flood, and protect fragile habitats from destruction. Encourage all who strive to build more sustainable systems for life and thriving. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Bring peace and justice among your people. Where there is oppression or fear, bring liberation and hope. Instill wisdom and humility in local and national

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leaders, and guide them to serve their communities in the way of Jesus.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Console all who suffer. We pray especially for all who are lonely and yearning for community. Assure them of your loving presence. Come alongside all who cry out to you in any need as we name them in our hearts before you.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In the bread and cup we share, you show us the way of love poured out for the whole world. Nourish all who hunger in body or in spirit, that they experience the abundant life that flows from you. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We remember the saints who rest in you. We give thanks for all our beloved dead. Confident of your steadfast love, we commend them to your eternal care.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen**

## **The CUP of BLESSING**

Let us rise and share the cup of blessing.

Most will serve the best wine first, but the Lord saves the best for last.

**We thank you, Father, for the true vine, and this fruit of the vine.**

The vine of the root of David was cut down & trampled outside the city wall:

**And the fruit of the vine was the blood of the Lord.**

Jesus took the cup after supper and gave thanks to his Father.

**Blessed are you, Ruler of the universe,**

**Creator of the fruit of the vine.**

He shared it with his friends, saying: Drink from it, all of you.

This is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you

and for many for the forgiveness of sin.

Our Father in heaven:

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

Drink from the cup of blessing; share his death and life. He is coming soon.

**Amen. Come, holy Jesus.**

Christ go with you. **And Christ go with you.**

*The wine will be shared in turn.*

## **SENDING**

May the blessing of Christ remain with us, **and with the whole Church.**

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### **STRIPPING of the ALTAR**

*Please remove an article from the altar area as it is handed to you.*

Hymn      **#616**      **"Jesus, Remember Me"**

*All depart in silence.*

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*Please join us tomorrow for Good Friday worship at 7 pm.*

### **Easter Worship**

*Sunrise at 6:30 am. (cemetery)*

*Traditional at 8:45 am.*

*Contemporary at 10:15 am.*

*A pancake breakfast is planned for Easter Sunday at 7 am. in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join in fellowship and celebration!*

**REMINDER: The church office and SPES will be closed April 17<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>, reopening on Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.**