Maundy Thursday
April 2, 2026

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in* ***bold.***

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

Prelude – St Christopher setting David Cherwien

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**:

P: 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.

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.**

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.**

(Those who wish to receive individual absolution are invited to come forward to kneel at the rail)
Hymn: no. 642 "Ubi caritas et amor"

*__Apostolic Greeting__: 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.**

*__Prayer of the Day:__ The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. **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.**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus: Exodus 12:1-14, page 64 OT pew Bible
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 *the psalm will be sung by whole verse*

1I love the Lord, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
2for the Lord has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called.
12How shall I re- | pay the Lord
for all the good things God has | done for me?
13I 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.
15Precious 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.
17I 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,
19in the courts of | the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, | O Jerusalem.

A Reading from First Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, page 181 NT pew bible
Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation: Jesus said, **"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you."**

***The Holy Gospel:** John 13:1-17, 31b-35, page 111 NT pew Bible
A Reading of the Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn:** ACS 966 (see insert) "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

Handwashing: *those who wish are invited to come forward to have your hands washed*
Hymn sung during handwashing - (see insert) "A New Commandment"

***Prayers of Intercession:**
AM: 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. *At the conclusion of each petition*: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
AM: 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.**

Offering – "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Steve Kidder

***Offertory Prayer:**
AM: 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.

***The Great Thanksgiving & Preface –**
P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you**
P: Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***"Holy, Holy, Holy"**- ACS Setting 12

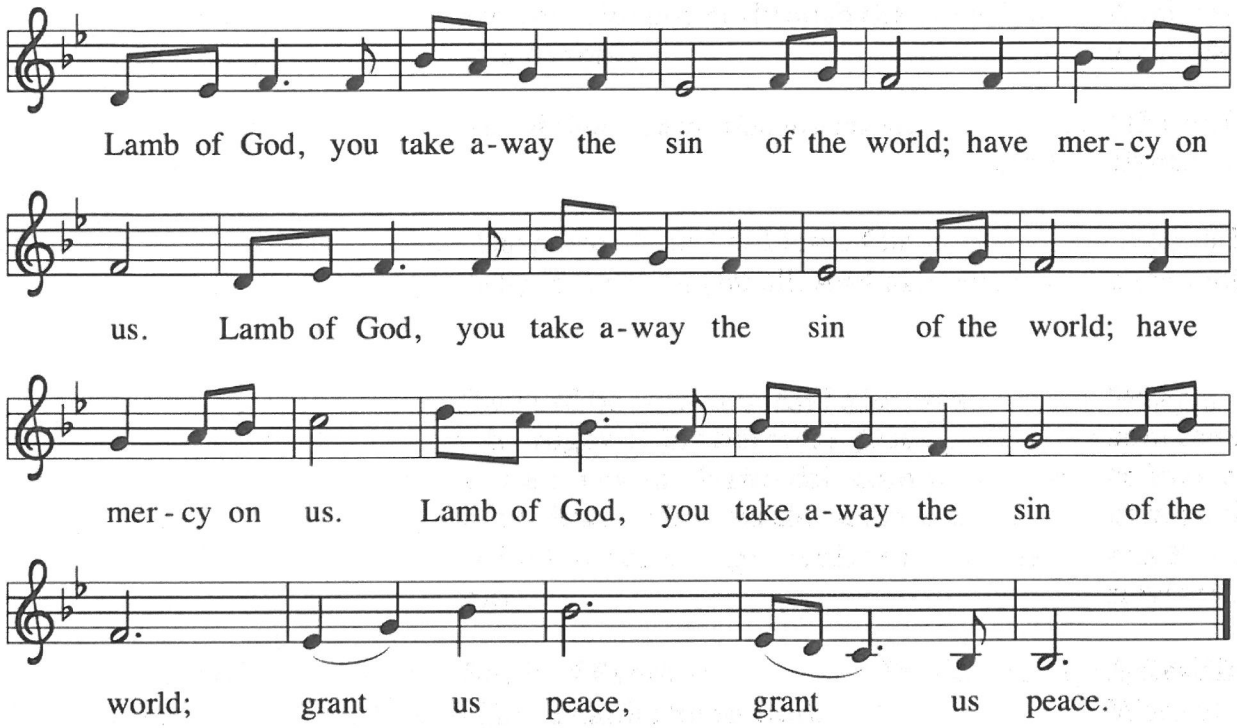
***Words of Institution and The Lord's Prayer**

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

***Invitation to the Table**

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution of Holy Communion – *We will serve communion at the rail tonight*
"Lamb of God" – ACS Setting 12



Hymn – WOV 667 "Stay Here"

***Prayer After Communion**

P: 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.**

Extinguishing the Candles (in silence)

Stripping of the Altar

The altar is stripped, as we close our service tonight, to remind us of how Jesus was stripped of his dignity as he went to the cross. This is a solemn time. You are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for reflection and personal prayer. When you are ready to depart, please leave the church in silence.

Schedule for Holy Week:

Good Friday-April 3- 7:00pm service
Easter Vigil- April 4- 7:00pm service
Easter Sunday- April 5- continental breakfast at 9:00am; worship at 10:00am

Acknowledgments

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Worship Assistants

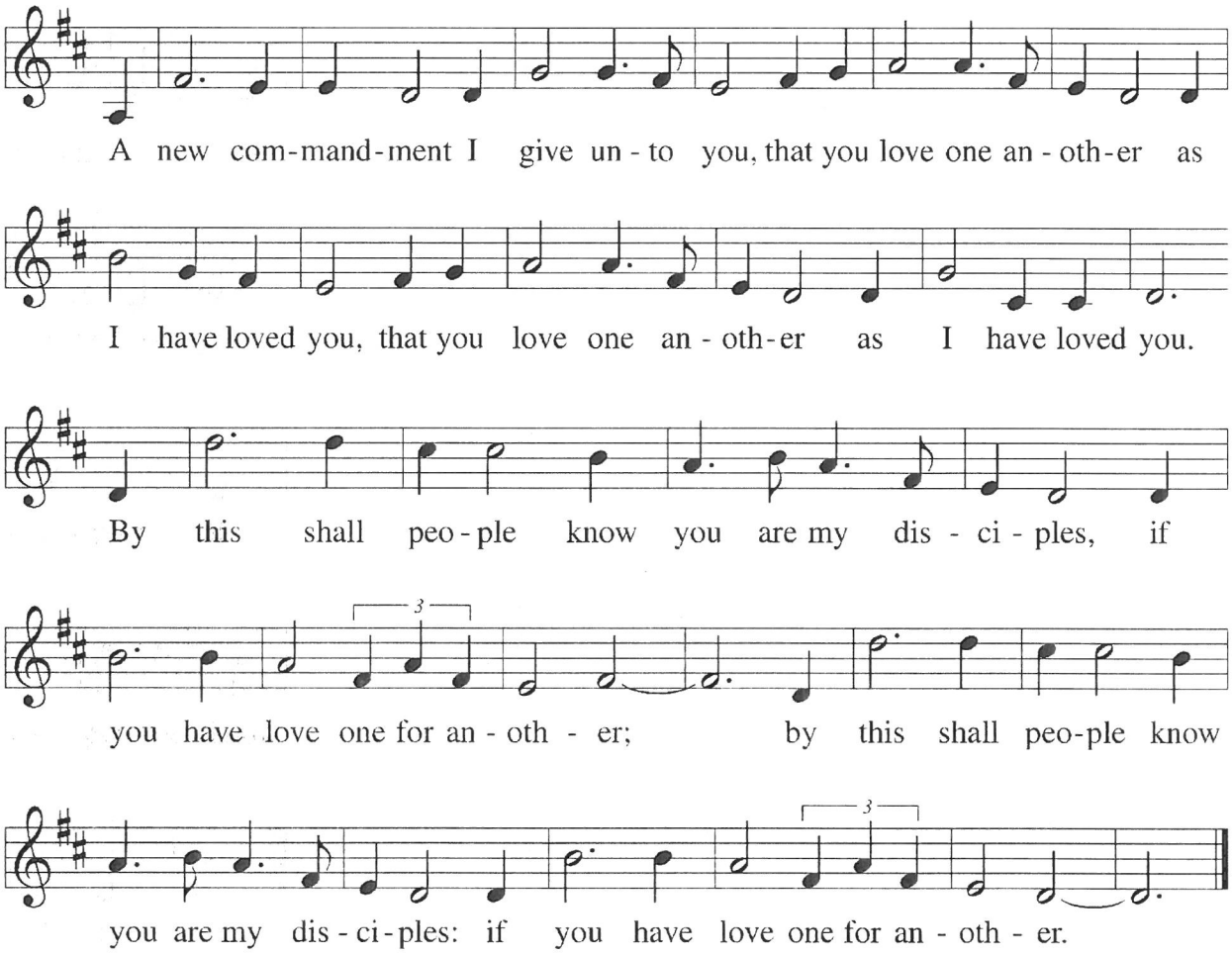
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Organist:Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson
AssistantMinister: John Bipes
Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson
Flute: Becca Carpenter
Vocalist: Sophia Culuris
Guitar and soloist: Steve Kidder

Communion Preparers:
Communion Servers: Cheryl & Bill Kautt
Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

A New Commandment



Text: John 13:34–35
Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous