

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 N. Main St., Lewistown, PA 17044-1719

Main Office: 717-248-8780 M, T, TH 8:00AM-4:00 PM F 8-Noon

stjohnslewisstown@gmail.com

Interim Pastor: Rev. Allen Hulslander 570-220-4402 (cell)

Office Hours: Tues. 9am-Noon and Thurs. 9am-Noon *please call ahead.

Director of Music/Organist: Mrs. Patricia O. Loudenslager

<http://www.stjohnslewisstown.com>

www.facebook.com/St.John'sLutheranChurch,LewistownPA



Maundy Thursday

April 2nd, 2026

7:00pm

REVEREND: ALLEN HULSLANDER

Lay Lector: Jim Rosenberry

Ushers: Scott Welham, Melissa Rosenberry, Jim Rosenberry

Communion Assistants: Scott Price, Ed Deamer, Janet Deamer

Acolytes: Geneva Kelly, Ava Kelly

INTRODUCTION

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.

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.

WELCOME to worship at St. John's, whether virtually or in person. We are delighted to share this time together. St. John's focus is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, strengthen believers and care for those in Need.

HOLY COMMUNION is served by a 2-line procession down the center aisle. We will celebrate with bread, wine, or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

Prelude 7:00 p.m. "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" Ghana folk song, Adapted by Tom Colvin, Arr. Joel Raney, 2008 Hope pub. Co.

Jerry Stone - Flute

Please stand as you are able.

Confession and 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. We have shared this discipline of Lent with new brothers and sisters in Christ who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil.

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.

The song is sung twice.

Stay with Me

The musical score for 'Stay with Me' is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on a G chord.

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.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Special Music

“For the Bread Which You Have Broken” Lloyd Larson. 2006 The Lorenze Corporation
Chancel Choir with Jerry Stone - Flute

WORD

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.

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 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.

After the reading ...

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 *read responsively.*

L: ¹I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,

C: and listened to my supplication,

L: ²for the LORD has given ear to me

C: whenever I called.

L: ¹²How shall I re-pay the LORD

C: for all the good things God has done for me?

L: ¹³I will lift the cup of salvation

C: and call on the name of the LORD.

L: ¹⁴I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

C: in the presence of all God's people.

L: ¹⁵Precious in your sight, O LORD,

C: is the death of your servants.

L: ¹⁶O LORD, truly I am your servant;

C: I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me freed me from my bonds.

L: ¹⁷I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

C: and call upon the name of the LORD.

L: ¹⁸I will fulfill my vows to the LORD

C: in the presence of all God's people,

L: ¹⁹in the courts of the LORD's house,

C: in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

²³For 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, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

After the reading ...

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation:

The song is sung twice.

Veni Sancte Spiritus
Holy Spirit, Come to Us

Ostinato (repeated continuously)

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is an ostinato, consisting of a sequence of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. This sequence is repeated continuously. The lyrics are written below the notes, with the first line of lyrics aligned with the first measure of the melody.

Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus. Ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.
Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us. Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 13th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

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

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one other.

¹ 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. ² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ 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. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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

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

After the reading ...

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Allen

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn #359

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

The Apostles' Creed

Please stand as you are able.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;**

Keep In Prayer: Deb Montgomery, Larry Niemond, Peter Marsh, Gail Ingram, Linda Goss, Nellie Wilson, Joanne Troutman, Toby Sweigart, Freda Hook, and the Call Committee.

*To have someone added to the Prayer Guide-with their permission-please contact the church office.

he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The petitions end: "Hear us, O God".
And the Congregational response is:
"your mercy is great."

SHARING of GOD'S PEACE

Share the Peace in a safe manner.
Simply say the words. *"Peace be with You."*
"And also with you."

Offertory Response "Create in Me" (Please see back of bulletin pg.11)

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.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue:
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the lord.
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

COMMUNION PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we....
and join their unending hymn (sung):

C: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The presiding minister continues:

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

P: And we pray the prayer our Savior taught us to pray:

**C: 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

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Communion Music

Jerry Stone – Flute

'How Beautiful" Twila Paris, Arr. Joel Raney 2008 Mountain Spring Music/Aroise Music

"Lamb of God" Twila Paris, Arr. Joel Raney 2003 Straightway Music

After all commune, please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Acolytes Extinguish Candles.

Stripping of the Altar.

After the Blessing, the service will conclude with the stripping of the altar by the Altar Guild.

The assembly sits.

The sacramental elements and vessels, linens, paraments, banners, books, and candles are removed from the worship space.

The following song is sung during the stripping of the altar.

Sending Hymn #351

“Oh Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

The congregation will leave in silence.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License 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. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Create in Me a Clean Heart". It consists of five staves of music in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The second staff continues: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The third staff: "pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -". The fourth staff: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The fifth staff: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it." The score ends with a double bar line.