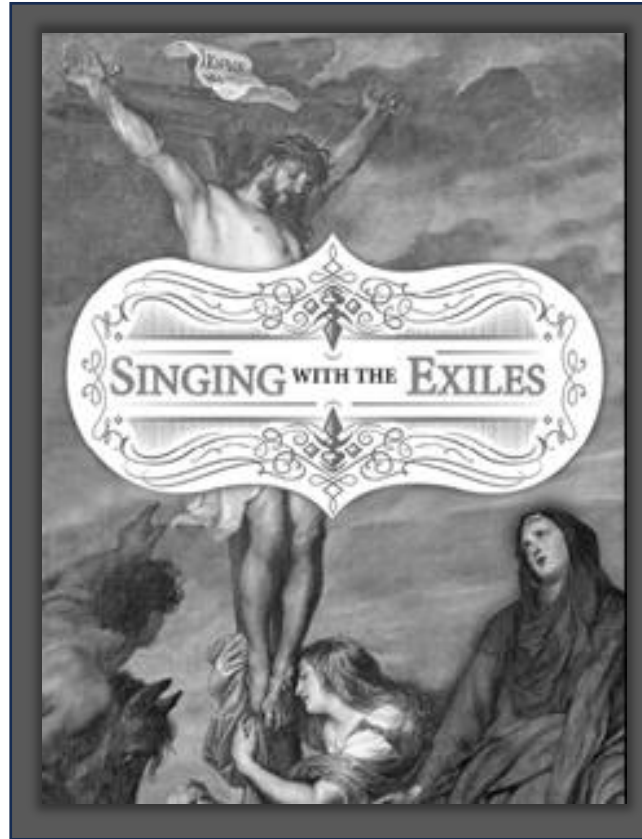


The Order of Worship for **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

“He Prepares A Table”

April 17, 2025



While the specific word *shepherd* does not appear in Isaiah 49:7–13, the words *graze*, *pasture*, *lead*, and *guide* make it clear that the Suffering Servant is a very good Shepherd. He leads His flock to find food on barren heights, and in the hottest of weather, He gives His sheep unlimited water. The Servant promises, “They shall not hunger or thirst” (Isaiah 49:10). Indeed, He prepares a table for us where we feast on His true body and true blood.

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

SINGING WITH THE EXILES

Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change? God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.

Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?

Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40–55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!

That's why we are "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home.

This Lent, Isaiah 40–55 will shape us through...

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Good Friday</i> | "All" | (Isaiah 52:13–53:12) |
| <i>Easter</i> | "We Are Going Home" | (Isaiah 55:6–13) |

This Lent, our Call to Worship/Confession and Absolution is drawn from the Seven Penitential Psalms, so named by Cassiodorus (c. AD 485–c. AD 585) in the sixth century AD. For centuries, Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 have served as a source of prayer and reflection during Lent. Their honest confessions invite us to turn to our Lord with the same candor and humility.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME, RINGING OF THE BELLS

INVOCATION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

C **Amen.**



OPENING HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621 sts. 1-3



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829-85, alt.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 143

P LORD, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in Your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.

C **Do not bring Your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before You.**

P The enemy pursues me, he crushes me to the ground; he makes me dwell in darkness like those long dead.

C **So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed.**

P I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all Your works and consider what Your hands have done.

C **I spread out my hands to You; my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.**

P Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails. Do not hide Your face from me or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

C **Let the morning bring me word of Your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in You. Show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul.**

P Our Father invites us to confess our sins, believe in Christ's cleansing mercy, and embrace the gift of His Holy Spirit. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for private confession of sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, in Your great love and faithfulness You prepared a feast for us in Your true body and Your true blood. Give us repentant and thankful hearts as we eat and drink at Your table, receiving forgiveness for all of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen**

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS HAVE AS THEIR THEME “THE LORD’S SUPPER”

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 49:7–13

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.” ⁸ Thus says the LORD: “In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, ⁹ saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’ to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’ They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; ¹⁰ they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. ¹¹ And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. ¹² Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene.” ¹³ Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 8:6–13

⁶ But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. ⁷ For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second.

⁸ For he finds fault with them when he says: “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ⁹ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹¹ And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. ¹² For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.” ¹³ In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

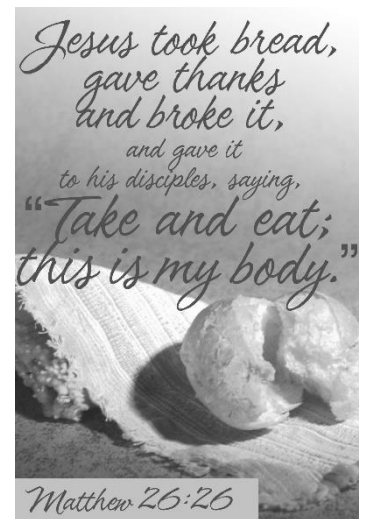
THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:26–29

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**





NICENE



CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's

wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of

lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain
Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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SERMON

“He Prepares a Table”

Pastor Menk

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Lord God, on this night we remember how You rescued Your people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. We are reminded of how You have rescued us from slavery to sin and are bringing us to Your heavenly kingdom. Nourish our faith and lead us to walk in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You made covenants with Your people throughout the centuries. Yet, in these last days, You have made a new covenant with us through Your Son. Make this covenant known among us and all peoples of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself and took on the role of a servant when You washed Your disciples' feet. You commanded them to love one another just as You loved them. Lead us to love others as You have first loved us. Stir us up to love and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, as we come to Your Table, forgive our sins through Your body and blood and wrap us in the robe of Your righteousness that covers all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; redeem us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

OFFERING

† SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION †

(Please stand)

PREPARATION

P The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

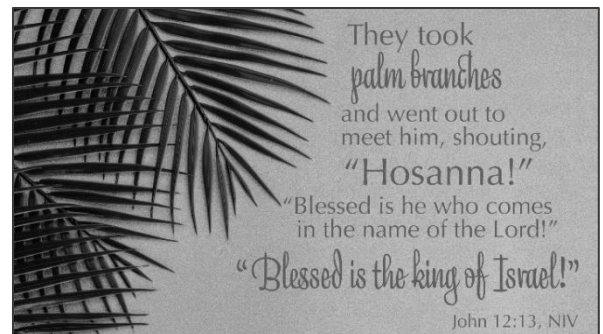
P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, our God, King of the universe, for You made a covenant with Your people, Israel, when You rescued them from Egypt. In these last days, You sent Your Son to be the mediator of a new covenant, sealing it with His precious blood, which is given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

(Sung to the tune of Dearest Jesus, We Are Here - LSB 592)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Heav'n and earth proclaim the story
Of Your majesty adored
Of Your kingdom, pow'r and glory
With hosannas now we meet You
With our palms and praises greet You

Hail! Hosanna! Blest is He
Who in God's own name draws near us!
Hail! Hosanna! Blest are we
Since we have God's love to cheer us:
Blood outpoured and body broken,
Of eternal love the token.



THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*Mathew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

(Sung to the tune of O Sacred Head, Now Wounded - LSB 449)

O Lamb of God, once lifted upon the cursed tree,
O Lamb of God, once offered in sacrifice for me,
O Lamb of God, my Savior in my place crucified,
Your peace and mercy grant me. My Savior will provide.

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist distribute the body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins. **Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Your Table I Approach

LSB 628

1. Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.
2. Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.
3. Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.
4. Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.
5. O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
6. Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.



Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

LSB 637

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
2. He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
3. Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.



Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Text: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

LSB 619



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which
2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in
3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is
4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not
5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and
Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my
nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and
rob me of my cheer; For He who is of
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for forgiving our transgressions, covering our sins, and no longer counting our iniquities against us. Nourish us with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus, and lead us to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as we see the Day drawing near; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

- P After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane; betrayal by Judas; arrest, mock trial, painful beating; the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the bread and wine in the sacred mystery that is the Sacrament. As He was removed from us into the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Communion vessels are removed.

- P The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven. When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed from the altar area.

The cross is removed.

- P The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book.

The missal stand and altar book are removed.

- P Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). The events at Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the light of the world. As creation was dark while He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

All candles are extinguished and removed.

P Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The offerings are removed.

P The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and Meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

The altar cloths and paraments are removed.

All may exit silently.

SILENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Your true body and true blood announces that Your mercy plus nothing equals absolutely everything. Thank You, *forever*. Amen.



Acknowledgments

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For Good Friday, read Isaiah 52:12–53:13 and answer these questions:

1. In the Book of Isaiah, only the LORD and the Suffering Servant are described as “high and lifted up” (Isaiah 52:13; cf., e.g., 6:1; 57:15). What does this tell you about the nature of the Servant?
2. Throughout Isaiah 52:12–53:13, the Suffering Servant is passive. What does His humility mean for you? How can you demonstrate this kind of humility in your service to others?
3. What events in this reading remind you of Good Friday?

For Easter, read Isaiah 55:6–13 and answer these questions:

1. From what you have learned this Lent about Isaiah 40–55, how would you compare God’s ways with the ways of people?
2. Isaiah 40–55 begins with a stunning statement about God’s Word (Isaiah 40:8) and it closes with an equally powerful description (Isaiah 55:10–11). How has God’s Word impacted your life?
3. Isaiah 55:12 describes leaving exile and returning to God. How is this an apt description of your Lenten journey?

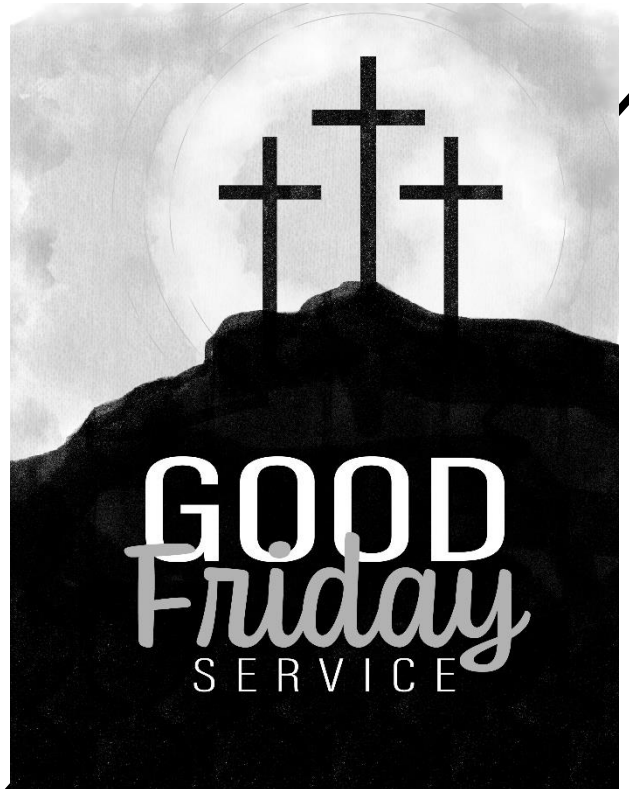
It is finished!

April 18th

Service Times:

1:00pm

7:00pm



He Is

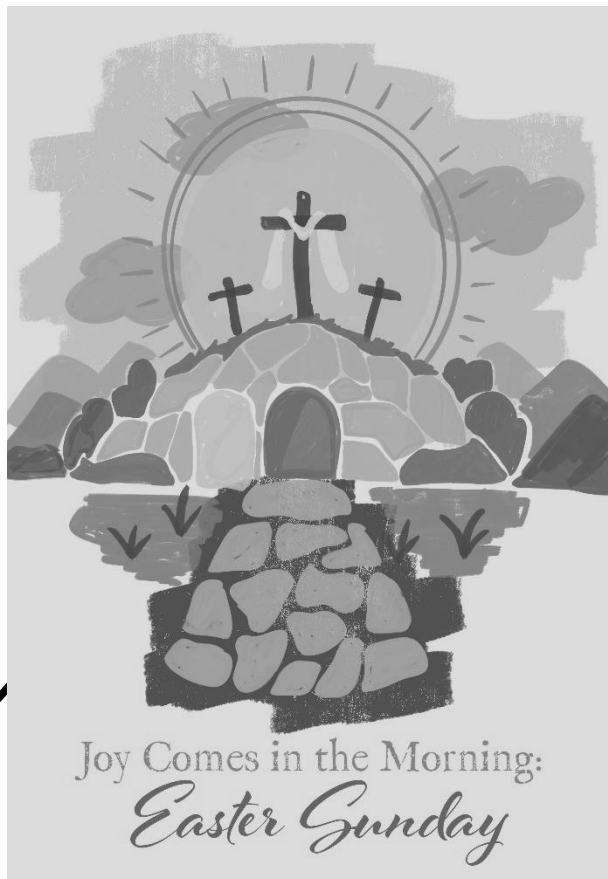
April 20th

Service Times:

7:15am

9:00am

10:30am



Maundy Thursday



“Unless I wash you,
you have no part with me.”

J O H N 1 3 : 8 , N I V