



For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12



Holy (Maundy) Thursday - April 2, 2026

As We Gather

As the Lord Jesus had His disciples make preparations for the annual Passover meal, little did they know that this would be the very last official observance of the commanded remembrance of the exodus deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. For in the next three days (the Triduum), the fulfillment of that prophetic event would culminate in the deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin and death by means of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and deliverer. Tonight the “cup of blessing” (1 Corinthians 10:16) of the Passover meal is made to be the means of our participation in the very blood to be shed in atonement on the cross of Good Friday. Tonight this cup becomes the Sacrament of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to each individual believer from now on until the Lord returns on the Last Day. Tonight it is of utmost importance for all to hear and to believe in the very real presence of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus not just “spiritually” but “in, with, and under” the bread and wine we share, for the Lord Himself invites us to take and eat His body and to take and drink His blood, shed for us.

Welcome!

Bold face type – *read by congregation*

Opening Hymn - 575

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Please Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Opening Sentences Psalm 43:4; 124:8

I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Please be seated

Confessional Address

Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God’s wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said:

“Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you.” It is as if He said, “I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat.”

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” Again, it is as if He said, “I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink.”

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Please Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

Let it be done for you as you believe.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please Stand

Maundy Thursday Psalm

Psalm 116:1–4, 8; antiphon: v. 15

Precious in the sight of the Lord

is the death of his saints.

I love the Lord, because he has heard

my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Because he inclined his ear to me,

therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the
pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord:

“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”

For you have delivered my soul from death,

**my eyes from tears, my feet from
stumbling.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Precious in the sight of the Lord

is the death of his saints.

Hymn - 621

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence st. 1

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be Seated

Old Testament Reading Exodus 24:3–11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.” ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c,
15a; Psalm 111:9a

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,

thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–22

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)

¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the

first covenant was inaugurated without blood.

¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.”

²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

Verse

John 13:1b

Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:17–30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

Continued on page 6

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

²⁶Now 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.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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.”

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be Seated

Sermon Hymn - 617 - O Lord, We Praise Thee

Sermon

Please Stand

Nicene Creed

LSB 174

**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.

Prayer of the Church

Please be Seated

Offering

Please Stand - Offertory Prayer

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (Spoken) LSB 177

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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus LSB 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving LSB 178

The Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer LSB 179

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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 180

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180

G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
 sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be Seated

Distribution

Communion Hymn - 618

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

Please Stand

Post-Communion Collect LSB 183

Stripping of the Altar

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 in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Communion vessels are removed.

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.

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.

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.

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 altar cloths, paraments, and the rest of the furnishings in the chancel are removed as Psalm 22 is read.

All may exit silently.

Please join us for Sunday services at 10 am

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Pastor Josh - pastorjosh@stpaulslutheranpa.org

Website - **stpaulslutheranpa.org**

Sermons are posted here:

youtube.com/@StPaulsLutheranTunkhannock/streams

Offering - Monthly offering needs are \$10,888.75

March offering total \$15,621.50 (five weeks)

Those Who Serve

Date	Reader	Ushers	Acolyte
April 5	Donna W	Bill Y & Don S	Nate J
April 12	Karen M	Kevin D & Keith M	Kayla S
April 19	Bill Y	Jack W & Don S	Nate J
April 26	Diane T	Willy F & Bill Y	Nate J
May 3	Karen M	Jack P & Jack W	Kayla S
May 10	Nancy P	Willy F & Bill Y	Nate J
May 17	Bill Y	Kevin D & Will F	Nate J
May 24	Karen M	Bill Y & Keith M	Kayla S
May 31	Kevin D	Pete W & Keith M	Nate J

Prayer Concerns

Willy Forba - Continued recovery

Ashley Forba - Health issues

Mary Ellen Mills - Eye issues

Janet Finn - Mobility issues

Elaine Decker - Health issues

Vladimir and Marie Dutko -

Healing and well-being

Keith Mitchell's father - Kendall

**All those in the armed forces,
including Kyle Stackhouse**

Birthdays

April 1 William Yarasavage

April 2 Mallory Griggs

April 4 Linda Wozniak

April 14 Diane Olson

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Acknowledgments

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

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April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No Study	2 Maundy Thursday 7pm service	3 Good Friday 7 pm	4
5 Easter Communion	6	7	8 Bible Study 5 pm	9	10	11
12	13 Council Meeting 4 pm	14	15 Bible Study 5 pm	16	17	18
19 Communion	20	21	22 Bible Study 5 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Bible Study 5 pm	30		

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Communion	11 Council Meeting 4 pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Communion	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Communion						

