

Zion Lutheran Church

Oldwick, New Jersey



MAUNDY *Thursday*

April 2, 2026

WELCOME

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. As a Lutheran congregation, we are liturgical, which means we follow an order of worship which is found in the seasonal worship booklet. The weekly bulletin contains the lessons, gospel, and hymn numbers, and the hymns can be found in the red (ELW) and purple (ACS) hymnals. Children's activity bags are available in the narthex. Please let an usher know if you would like one. We hope you find our worship service meaningful.

Zion is a friendly, active, and generous congregation.

- We support each other ... meals, rides, visits and prayer.
- We support our community ... housing the homeless, feeding the hungry locally as well as around the world, and providing camp scholarships to needy children.
- We support the larger Lutheran church ... giving 11% of our budget to contribute toward the millions of dollars targeting world hunger, disaster relief, and the effort to end malaria. Through Lutheran Social Services, we touch 1 in every 50 Americans each year.

It is good to be gathered as God's people. If you would like more information about Zion or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Zion family, please talk to Pastor Kat.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

“Ubi Cantas”

arr. Callahan

WELCOME

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 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; never wearies of 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.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please be seated.

INDIVIDUAL ABSOLUTION

Worshippers may come forward for the laying on of hands.

In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ,
I forgive you all your sins.

*The person may respond: **Amen.***

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN

“Great God, Your Love Has Called Us”

ELW 358

- 1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.
- 2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.
- 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.
- 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

(continued on next page)

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

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

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.**

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-14

The 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 of it.

⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.

¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.

GOSPEL

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If 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. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”*

ELW 659

- 1 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.
- 5 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

APOSTLES' CREED

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; 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

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Anima Christi"

by Robert Powell

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, refresh me, refresh me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O Good Jesu, hear me; Within thy wounds, hide me;
Suffer me not to be separated from thee;
From the malicious enemy defend me;
In the hour of my death, call me, and bid me come to thee,
That with thy saints I may praise thee forever and ever.
Amen.

Please stand, as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

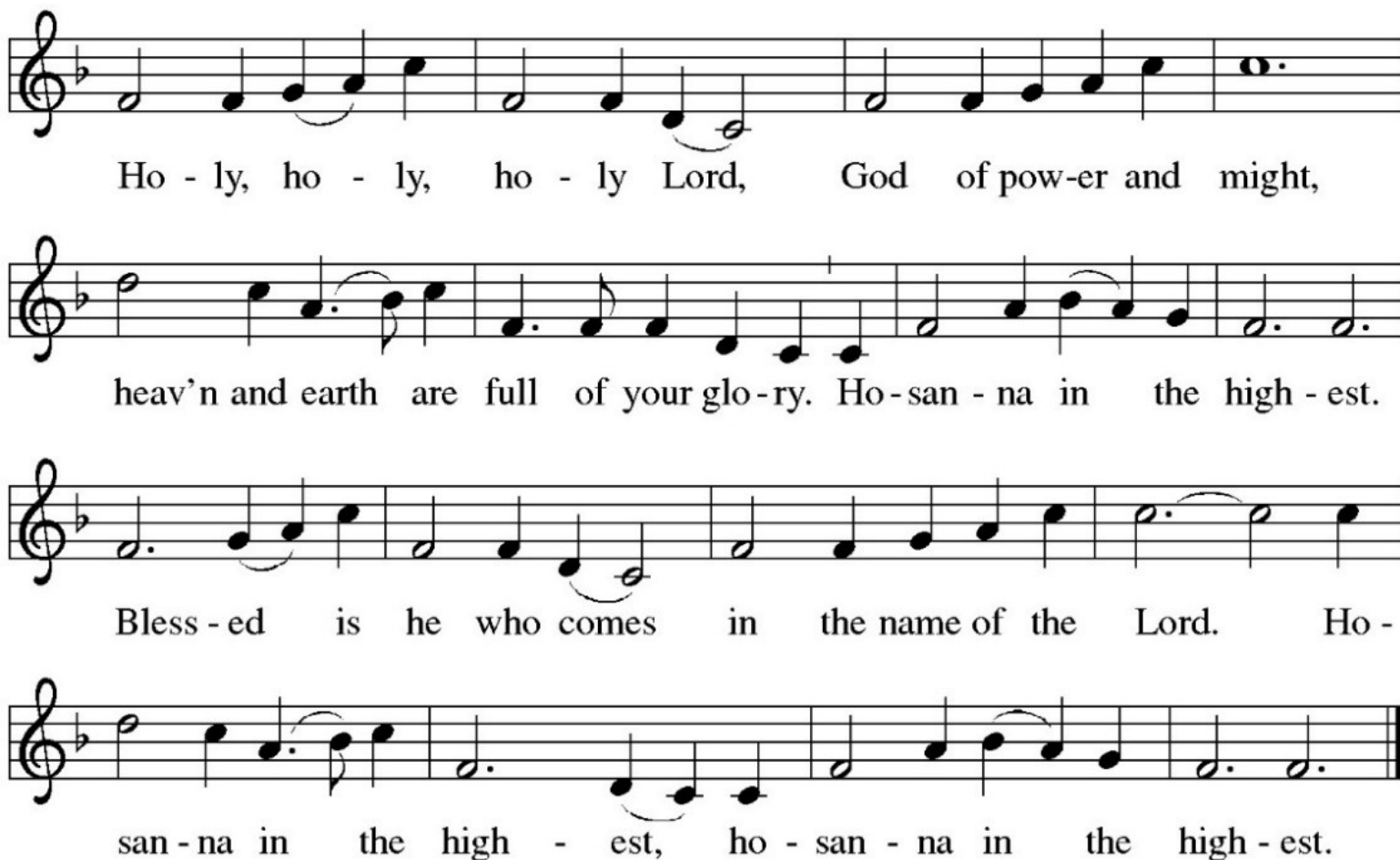
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Zion welcomes all who celebrate the presence of Christ to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward for communion. You will receive a piece of bread (wafer) in your hand and may take an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Please tell the pastor if you would like a gluten-free wafer. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to you in the pew.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *"Let Us Break Bread Together"* by Edna R. Currie

Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,

Oh Lord, have mercy on me.

Please stand, as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR *“My God, Oh My God”*
Colligan

Richard Bruxvoort-

My God, oh my God, why have you forgotten me?

My God, oh my God, how can you be silent now?

Spoken: The dogs are closing in, my mouth is dry; where is God in my despair, so far from my cries? Where is God?

My God, oh my God, why have you forgotten me?

My God, oh my God, how can you be silent now?

Spoken: Our ancestors put their trust in you and you delivered them. I've been yours since I was a baby. No, even before I was born, even before then.

My God, oh my God, why have you forgotten me?

My God, oh my God, how can you be silent now?

Spoken: I am poured out like water; my heart is melting. Please do not be distant from me, O God, my strength. Do you even hear me call for your help?

I will declare your name. The poor will eat and for once be satisfied.

Those who seek the Holy One shall lift their praises, lift their praises high.

My soul will live for God and all will stand in awe of God's love.

My children's children and their children will be in God's heart.

They will proclaim God's saving love, proclaim God's saving love.

All depart in silence.

*The benediction and dismissal are omitted,
so that we may see this day's connection to Good Friday.*

Good Friday worship will be held tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to this evening's worship assistants.

Assisting Minister: Jenny Heeman

Acolyte: Nate Brokaw

Greeters: Janet Hornich & Rebecca Melick

Ushers: Sandy Matsen & David Wintemute

Altar Guild: Jenny Heeman



Join Us for Worship on Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at the Sauerland Outdoor Center

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Communion Worship at Zion



Connecting People with God's Grace

Pastor

The Rev. Katherine Steinly

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Jaime VanNostrand