

ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
606 W 15TH STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS | WWW.SAINTMARTINS.ORG

MARCH 28, 2024

7:00 PM



MAUNDY THURSDAY

LOVE, SHARE, & SERVE BOLDLY.

No matter where you find yourself on your faith journey—join us!

Here you have found a church home where believers congregate to encourage each other and grow spiritually in an abundant relationship with the Lord. At St. Martin's, we promote and value an inclusive fellowship. Whether you are young, old, gay, straight, single, married, partnered—from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures—we welcome you!

Good evening and welcome to our Maundy Thursday Service. As we gather at the table for a meal as Jesus did with his disciples, we remember that Jesus invited his friends into a new understanding of service, love, and faith. From that meal, they entered the Garden where Jesus prayed

Tonight we will have time for conversation, worship, confession, absolution, prayer and silence. During the meal, you are invited to talk with your neighbors using prompts provided in the bulletin. When our meal is finished, we will walk together in silence into the sanctuary for a time of confession and forgiveness followed by private and communal prayer. We end the evening with the stripping of the Altar.

*Notes in italics offer directions about the service. **The people's responses are in bold.***

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Please stand as you are able.

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

Let us pray together.

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.

WORD

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

GOSPEL

JOHN 13:1-17, 31B-35

¹Now 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.

HAND WASHING

Before he was betrayed, arrested, and killed, Jesus spent time with his closest friends and washed their feet. Jesus humbled himself and offered care to his disciples through this action. Tonight, we too are invited to humble ourselves and offer care through the practice of washing each other's hands.

You are invited to come forward to have your hands washed and dried at the hand washing station nearest your table. Place your hands over the bowl. Your neighbor will slowly and gently pour water over your hands. As your hands are washed, you are invited to remember your baptism and the ritual Jesus did with his friends before he was betrayed. Your hands will be dried by the person who washed them. As the person who washed your hands returns to their seat, you will take up the pitcher and wash the hands of the person who follows you.

Please consider reflecting together at your table:

After he washes his disciples' feet, Jesus offers an important teaching: "You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

How did it feel to wash the hands of another person or have your hands washed by someone else?

How might Jesus be calling you to serve others through vulnerability and care?

What are other teachings and examples of Jesus that you use to guide your life of faith?

Jesus makes a bold proclamation: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

When in your life have you felt the love of Jesus?

What does it mean/look like to love one another and our neighbors today?

A bell will be rung to call us together to continue with our meal.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Tonight, we share a meal together as Jesus did with his disciples that last evening. As the meal began, he blessed the bread and shared it around the table. We begin our meal with the traditional greeting and the Great Thanksgiving prayer we hear each Sunday.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
whose suffering and death gave salvation to all.

You gather your people around the tree of the cross,
transforming death into life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

AGNUS DEI

As a community, we proclaim the power of Jesus' passion.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

We pass the bread around the table as each of us offers communion with the words "The Body of Christ given for you" to our neighbor, who responds, "Amen".

After all have received, we continue with our meal of soup and bread. The soup will be brought to you. You are welcome to begin your conversation as you wait for your meal.

As you share your meal at the table, consider the following:

Share a rose (favorite thing or high), bud (something that is coming up or in development), and thorn (negative thing or a low) from this past week.

What is a piece of music you love or favorite hymn that has to do with communion, eating, or being at the table?

Who taught you about table manners, how to cook, or how to prepare a family recipe?

What was it like? What is one thing you learned about that person through the experience of being at the table with them?

As the meal is finished, a bell will be rung to bring us back together to hear the words Jesus said over the cup at the end of his meal.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

As Jesus shared the cup at the end of the meal, we close this part of our worship by passing the cup. We will pass the cup using the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you" to our neighbor, who responds "Amen".

When all have received, a bell will ring and we leave the table to move to the Sanctuary in contemplative silence.

PROCESSION TO SANCTUARY

MEAL CLOSING IN SANCTUARY

We close the meal with the table blessing in the Sanctuary, reminding us that God's table moves with us wherever we go.

Please remain standing until all have arrived.

TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you today, tomorrow and always.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION MOTET

AVE VERUM CORPUS

W. A. MOZART

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

When Jesus finished his meal with his friends, he knew it was time to continue his journey into his passion. We follow him into the garden through a time of confession, forgiveness and prayer.

As Lutheran Christians, as the Augsburg Confessions (the guiding principles of our expression of faith) state: “No one should be compelled to enumerate sins in detail. For this is impossible.” Instead, we pause to acknowledge the impossibility of making ourselves perfect in God’s sight. Through reflection and confession, we are prepared to feel the comfort of God’s love, mercy and forgiveness in the words of absolution. “God requires us to believe this absolution as much as if it were God’s voice resounding from heaven and that we should prayerfully and joyfully find comfort in the absolution, knowing that through such faith we obtain forgiveness of sin.”

Please stand or kneel.

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.

PERSONAL PRAYER

During this period of personal prayer, you are invited to pray as God touches you. You may remain in your pew to pray seated or kneeling. You may come forward to light a candle or engage in healing prayer with a Stephen Minister. You are welcome to pray in as many ways as you feel called. Please remain silent while others complete their prayer time. We will close this time of prayer by coming together as a community to pray.

MUSIC DURING PRAYER

CONTEMPLATION ON *UBI CARITAS*

CATHERINE MCMICHAEL

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please respond to each petition: Merciful God, **Receive our prayer.**

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.**

PEACE

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

NUNC DIMITTIS

The assembly is seated.



Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace;
your word has been ful - filled. My own eyes have
seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre - pared
in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the
Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
be for - ev - er. A - men

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

MUSIC DURING THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

SPIEGEL IM SPIEGEL

ARVO PÄRT

The congregation is encouraged to stay for silent reflection after the stripping of the altar and to leave silently.

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Ellen Williams - *preaching/presiding*

Virginia Haas, Mamie Hickerson,
Carey Henderson, Linda Zander - *assisting ministers*

Susan Pearce - *prayer station*

Tim O'Brien - *Director of Music*

Austin Haller - *Organist & Associate Director of Music*

St. Martin's Choir

Jenny Ohrstrom, June Julian, *soprano*

Katherine Altobello O'Brien, *mezzo-soprano*

Evan Brown, Brian Pettey, *tenor*

Gil Zilkha, Anthony Ashley, *bass*

James Burch, *cello*

St. Martin's Ringers

Susie Cobb, Brian Powell, Lynn Powell, Michelle McGovern, Matt Wall, Martha Dorrow,
Carey Henderson, Viera Buzgova, Christina Martin, Katherine Lutter, David Cross,
Andrew Fuhrman, Mike Kaase

Eddie Jennings - *video*

Mo McGovern - *sound*

Norm Hummell, Joel Anderson,

August Anderson - *ushers*