

April 6, 2023
Maundy Thursday

REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

613 Lakeview Avenue
Milford, Delaware, 19963

Phone: 302-422-9117

www.rlcmilford.com

Office hours (*Closed holidays*):

9:00am-3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Pat Sparks

Administrative Assistant

Gail Kelso

Director of Music / Organist

The Rev. Eric W. Evers & The Rev. Paige G. Evers

Pastors



Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm service

Spread the word!

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Please “Like” Reformation’s **Facebook** page for news, announcements, and photos of church events!

www.facebook.com/RLCmilford

Check in and **tweet** or post about what’s going on with the hashtag #RLCMilford, or post on Facebook and tag *Reformation Lutheran Church*.

Welcome to Worship

We welcome you to Reformation for this Holy Week service. We are especially blessed by the presence of visitors. Due to the reverent silence at the beginning and end of the service, the pastors may not be able to personally welcome guests, but please know that we are glad you have come this night, and we pray that the liturgy this evening will touch your heart with the Savior’s grace and mercy for you.

Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Please follow the usher’s directions to the altar rail. We will receive Communion in a continuous standing manner. Those who do not yet receive Communion may come and receive a blessing. At the Lord’s table, we receive the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good!

Announcements

Prelude

(The Prelude prepares us for worship with time for meditation, reflection, and prayer.)

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death and the devil — all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we are called in baptism. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the paschal celebration reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Laying on of Hands: *Those in the congregation desiring individual absolution may come forward and kneel before the altar.*

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

C: Amen.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: 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; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: 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.

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31-35

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

C: 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.”¹² After 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?”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, servants 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.”

³¹When [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, “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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Eric W. Evers

Hymn of the Day

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

No. 343

The Washing of Feet

Prayers of Intercession

P: Hear us, O God,

C: your mercy is great.

The Lord’s Prayer (*Prayed together*)

**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.**

The Peace

Special Music

“And When It Was Evening”

Choir

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

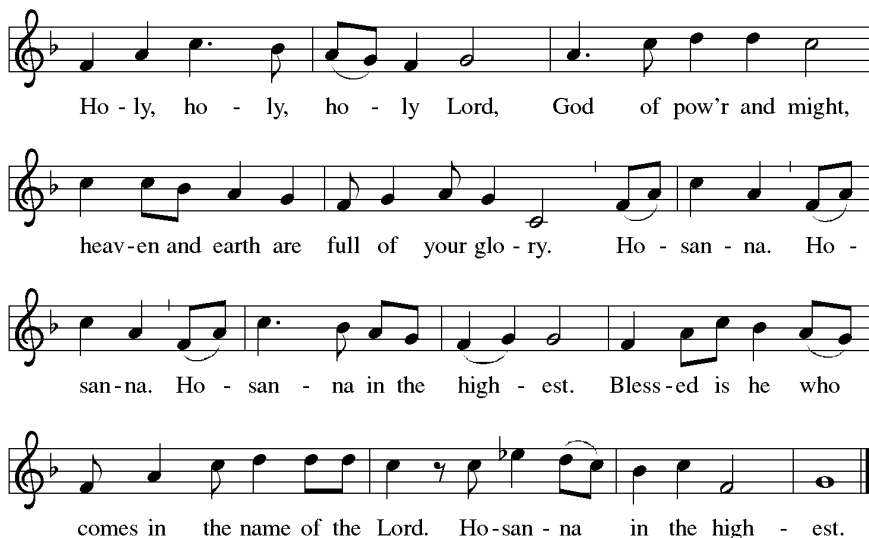
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

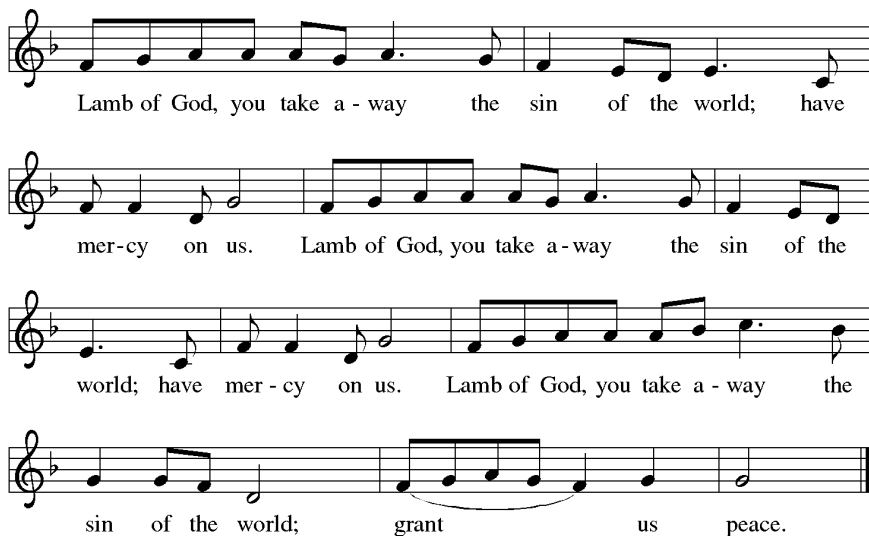
“Holy, Holy, Holy”



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

The Words of Institution

“Lamb of God”



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.

Distribution of Communion, Standing, at the Altar Rail

Communion Hymns: “Love Consecrates the Humblest Act,”
No. 360; “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love,” No. 708; “Go
to Dark Gethsemane,” No. 347

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

The Stripping of the Altar

*The congregation is seated. Psalm 22 will be read as the altar
is stripped.*

All leave the church in silence.

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*Thank you for placing your offering in the plate in the Narthex. For
information about electronic giving, please visit www.rlcmilford.com/
give.*

Our observance of Christ's Passion ("suffering") for our salvation continues tomorrow with Good Friday services at Noon and 7:30 PM

SERVING THIS EVENING

Usher	Tim & Cheryl Altares
Lay Reader	Kelsey Oldland
Worship Assistant	John Leach
Acolyte	Dresden Miller
Altar Guild	Eric Valentine
Live Stream Operator	Scott Rainville

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 7: Good Friday

Spoken Service at 12:00 pm

Seven Last Words/Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm

April 8: Easter Vigil

Service of Light at 7:00 pm

Preparation of Sanctuary at 7:30 pm

April 9: Easter Sunday Celebration

Worship Service at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Coffee Fellowship at 9:45 am

ABOUT THE SERVICE

The term “*Maundy*” is an English form of the Latin word for commandment. The overarching theme of the day is Jesus’ new commandment to “Love one another even as I have loved you,” a love sharply focused by the contrast of the betrayal which followed. Jesus’ love is demonstrated both in his example of servanthood and in his gift of himself in Holy Communion.

We *leave in silence* both out of reverence for Christ’s Passion and to reflect that the service is not truly over, but continues on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Stripping of the Altar: The final action of the Maundy Thursday liturgy has both practical and symbolic value for the Church’s worship. Practically, it sets the stark stage for the Good Friday liturgy. Symbolically, it represents the indignities Jesus suffered at the hands of the Roman soldiers, specifically the stripping of his garments in the humiliation of his crucifixion (John 19:23-24). We remove the altar’s ornaments (candles, flowers, and missal stand) and clothing (linens and paraments) in remembrance of that violent deed. It is also useful to remove all other adornments from the chancel.

