

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

Following New York State guidelines, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.*
- 2. that you follow the one way direction signs noted in the aisles.*
- 3. that our members and guests fill out the orange sheet for contact tracing purposes and leave at your seat in the pew.*

We invite you to share your story and your worship experience!

Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity.

*You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo,
on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff*

INTRODUCTION

With nightfall our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. At the heart of the Maundy Thursday liturgy is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

THE VOLUNTARY

Two Settings of O Welt, ich muß dich lassen
Op. 122, Nos. 3 and 11

Johannes Brahms
(1833 – 1897)

Ringling of the Bells

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING AND CONFESSION OF SIN

In the name of (+) Christ.

Amen.

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 were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of the Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of God's love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Within the community of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the words of absolution, we each receive forgiveness from God. This absolution we should not doubt, but firmly believe that thereby our sins are forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Together we receive the Lord's gift of grace and participate in that new covenant which makes us one.

On this night, let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the paschal feast reconciled with God and with one another.

Please kneel as you are able.

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.

THE ABSOLUTION

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.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The reading for Maundy Thursday is recorded in Exodus, the 12th Chapter.

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. 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

God So Loved the World

Text: John 3:16-17

John Stainer

(1840 – 1901)

Arr. William Stickles

Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano*

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that who so believeth, believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

THE GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b - 35

The holy gospel according to Saint 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.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Lee M. Miller, II

SERMON MEDITATION

Ubi Caritas

Marilyn Biery
(b. 1959)

Please stand, if able.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United by the servant love of God in Christ, we pray this holy night for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

You call your people to hand on what we receive from you. Form all the baptized into teachers of faith. From one generation to the next, give your church hunger for your promises in the sacraments and joy in receiving and sharing your word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your creation provides all that we need. Cleanse and protect the water you have given for washing and drinking, water on which all life depends. Sustain crops and herds that provide food; teach us how to live so that there is enough for all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You redeemed your people from slavery. Preserve people throughout the world who flee violence and oppression especially in Honduras, Guatemala and Sudan. Establish just leadership in place of tyranny and peace in place of war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus loved his followers to the end. Grant assurance of that love to all who need it: those living with guilt, those struggling to forgive, those who are lonely or overlooked. Heal the sick and embrace the dying. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Jesus washed the feet of the one who betrayed him. Inspire this congregation's ministries of service, that we love as Jesus loved us. Give us renewed courage to serve. Bless the ministry of deacons throughout the church. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your glory shone in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We thank you for generations of the faithful who have proclaimed our Lord's death. Unite us with them in hope until he comes again. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear these and all our prayers, O God, in the name of the one who loves us to the end, Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

We ask that you remain at your seat.

*You may share the sign of peace
with a head nod or peace sign.*

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

*Offerings and tithes may be left in the offering plate
located at the exit.*

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

Nearer My God to Thee

Text: Sarah Flower Adams

Tom Trenney

(b. 1977)

Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano*

Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to thee.
Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

Yea, though the vale I tread, thou art with me.
When shadows cloud my head, thou anointest me.
Thy rod and staff shall be comfort to shepherd me nearer, my God to thee.

Though waters foam and roar, though mountains quake,
Thou art my refuge sure, though the earth should shake.
Lord strengthen and shelter me nearer, my God, to thee.

Please stand as you are able.

THE PRAYER AT THE OFFERING

Let us pray together.

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, 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.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, O God, through Jesus Christ, your beloved son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you today and to serve you as your priestly people.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion

All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. In your pews you will find pre-packaged grape juice and wafers (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR *(kneel or sit)*

Stripping the altar 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 and the humiliation of his crucifixion. We remove the altar's ornaments and linens in remembrance of that violent deed.

THE SOLO

Were You There

Traditional Spiritual
Arr. Harry T. Burleigh
(1866 – 1949)

Carolyn Lansom, *mezzo-soprano*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they laid him in the grave?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*At the conclusion of the service,
please exit the church building in silence
beginning with those seated closest to the Main Street doors
(back of church).*



The worship assistants are:

Sam Guzzino, Oscar Guzzino and Saniyah Gilchrist

The ushers are:

Paul and Karen Bauchle,
Paul Biesinger and Ron Leiser



Good Friday and Easter Worship

Good Friday, April 2

- 3:00 p.m. Family Service in Main Church (in-person / Facebook)
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service with Tim Flynn, *bass-baritone*, and Amie Vredenburg, *violin* (in-person / Livestream / Facebook)

Easter Sunday, April 4

- 8:15 a.m. Pre-service Music
*8:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion in Main Church (in-person / Livestream / Facebook)
10:15 a.m. Pre-service music
*10:30 a.m. Festival Service of Holy Communion in Main Church (in-person / Livestream / Facebook)

*Both services will be *identical* in music and celebration with soloists and brass quartet, featuring Dr. Aurora Deeds, *soprano*, Dr. Brian Zunner, *baritone*, and Maestro Jaman E. Dunn, *associate conductor of the BPO*. You will not miss any special music if you attend either service.

*Reminder that seating will be limited.

The Staff

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

The Rev. Lee M. Miller II, Senior Pastor
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Pastor Brenda Maynor, Pastor
pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist

Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster

Linda Lipczynski, Parish Secretary

Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant

Judy Reifsteck, Parish Nurse (632-3448)

John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds

Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

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