

The Great
Three Days

Maundy Thursday,
Good Friday,
The Vigil of Easter
Worship Resource



Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
Albuquerque, NM
April 2 and 3, 2026

Maundy Thursday – p. 3

April 2 – 7:00 PM

Good Friday – p. 9

April 3 – 7:00 PM

Easter Vigil – p. 16

April 4

See ideas and prompts
for contemplation.

The Maundy Thursday Liturgy

With the nightfall, our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death to life. 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 **ommission of the benediction** at the end of the service indicates the continuity between Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The **stripping of the altar** during the final hymn is symbolic of Jesus' humiliation at the hands of the soldiers and authorities, and it marks our movement with our Lord at the cross. **Psalm 22** was quoted by Jesus as he was being put to death. "And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (*Matthew 27:46*).



GATHERING

GATHERING SONG

Scars

Praise+Team

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

All: 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.

Pastor: 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 assembly is seated.

All may come to the baptismal font for the laying on of hands.

Music during Laying on of Hands

Garden

Praise+Team

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

Pastor: 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

WORD

FIRST READING	Exodus 12:1-4; 11-14
SECOND READING	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
GOSEL ACCLAMATION	<i>Let your steadfast love</i> ELW p. 198
GOSPEL	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
SERMON	Hungry: Purpose Pastor Adam
HYMN OF THE DAY	<i>Where Charity and Love are Shown</i> ACS 931

FOOT WASHING

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. 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. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

The assembly is seated and may come to a nearby station and have their feet washed. In the spirit of service and love, please then wash the feet of the next person. Those not wishing to come for foot washing may sit in silent prayer reflecting on God's new commandment.

Music during Foot Washing Praise+Team
All the Room was Hushed and Still

AFTER FOOT WASHING

O God of love, as your Son washed the feet of his disciples, he revealed his undying love that would lead him to the cross. May this simple act be a sign of our love for one another, and our call to serve our neighbors and all those in need, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***)

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

MEAL

OFFERING *Lamb of God* Voices of Hope

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation.

Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies.

Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *The Lord...* ELW p. 199

SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* ELW p. 200

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us
our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey.
Take and be filled.

COMMUNION

<i>Lamb of God</i>	ELW p. 201
<i>Now We Join in Celebration</i>	ELW 462
<i>Ubi Caritas Et Amor</i>	ELW 642

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.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The assembly may sit in silent reflection and prayer as the Altar is stripped marking our movement with Jesus to the cross.

Psalm 22

Rich Neely and Keri Sutter

We depart in silence until our worship continues tomorrow,
Good Friday, at 7:00 pm.
You may remain in prayer as long as desired.

The Good Friday Liturgy

At the heart of the Good Friday liturgy is the passion according to John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. The ancient title for this day—the triumph of the cross—reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

There is no benediction or dismissal or handshake at the door since our worship does not end tonight, but continues in vigil tomorrow until the great celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Easter morning.



*The assembly gathers in silent prayer.
Good Friday Offerings may be left in the baskets at the doors.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Beautiful Things

Praise+Team

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:16-25

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (v 1)

ELW 335

GOSPEL

John 18:1-19:42

*During the reading the assembly sings v 2
Assembly stands and sings for v 3 and v 4*

Silence for prayer and reflection follows the reading.

HOMILY

Hungry: God

Pastor Adam

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

ELW 351

*The assembly sits. The hymn is introduced.
Silence for prayer follows each bid.*

Almighty and eternal God, you continue to bless the church. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism. Give them new birth as your children, and keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (sing)

***Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.
Watch and pray.***

Let us pray for our sisters and brothers who share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give your church unity. Look with favor on all who follow Jesus your Son. Make all the baptized one in the fullness of faith, and keep us united in the fellowship of love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (sing)

***Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.
Watch and pray.***

Let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, long ago you gave your promise to Abraham and your teaching to Moses. Hear our prayers that the people you called and elected as your own may receive the fulfillment of the covenant's promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (sing)

***Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.
Watch and pray.***

Let us pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, gather into your embrace all those who call out to you under different names. Bring an end to inter-religious strife, and make us more faithful witnesses of the love made known to us in your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (sing)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Let us pray for those who do not believe in God.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all may long to know you and find peace in you. Grant that all may recognize the signs of your love and grace in the world and in the lives of Christians, and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (sing)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Let us pray for God's creation.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of a magnificent universe. Hold all the worlds in the arms of your care and bring all things to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen. (sing)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Let us pray for those who serve in public office.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, give wisdom to those in authority, so that all people may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(sing)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Let us pray for those in need.

Silent prayer.

Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and deliver your world from falsehood, hunger, and disease. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble, that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(sing)

Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray.

Watch and pray.

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

HYMN

Were You There

ELW 353

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

*The assembly stands and faces the cross as it is brought
forward.*

Behold the life-giving cross, on which was hung the Savior of the
whole world.

Oh, come, let us worship him.

*Once the cross is in place, the assembly is seated.
All may come to the large cross to make a sign of reverence.
Reverencing the cross may include actions such as pausing
before the cross, bowing, kneeling before it for prayers, or
touching it.*

MUSIC DURING ADORATION OF THE CROSS

At the Cross (Love Ran Red)

Praise+Team

After a brief silence, the presiding minister continues.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

We proclaim our confidence in Christ's triumph on the cross

HYMN

There in God's Garden

ELW 342

We depart in silence while our worship continues tomorrow in vigil until the great celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord Sunday morning.

*Any who have not done so earlier
may reverence the cross before they depart.
All may remain in prayer as long as desired.
In respect for those in prayer,
please remain silent until you leave the building.*

The Vigil of Easter April 4 –

The services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year passes with Christ through death to life.

On Holy Saturday, the church gathers in worship for the great Vigil of Easter. Though we will not host or partner for the Vigil this year, you are invited to sit vigil at home, contemplating the mystery of Christ passing over from death to life, the gift and call of Holy Baptism, and the great anticipation of celebrating the ***Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday at either 8:45am or 10:45am.***

Ideas and prompts for contemplation:

❖ *light a candle in a darkened room –*

This night the church welcomes the light of Christ on the new Paschal Candle and speak or sing 'The Light of Christ. Thanks Be to God.' at the beginning of a time of silence.

❖ *read stories of our faith that proclaim God's creative and saving action –*

Genesis 1:1- 2:4a + Exodus 14: 10-31; 15:20-21 + Isaiah 55: 1-11 + Daniel 3: 1-29 are good choices for the night.

❖ *give thanks for the gift of baptism –*

pour water into a bowl and use it to trace the sign of the cross on yourself or one another with these, or similar, words:

'Name, you are God's beloved, rejoice always in the light of Christ' and read Romans 6:3-5.

❖ *prepare for the Feast of the Resurrection at Holy Communion –*

Pray this prayer of preparation:

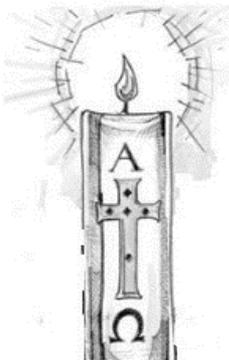
Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen.

❖ *rest peacefully confident in God's enduring and unending love.*

Resurrection of Our Lord - Easter Sunday Worship at 8:45 and 10:45am

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Worship Leaders

Presider	R. Adam Berndt, Pastor
Accompanist	Amy Ellis
Music Director	Thomas Ropp
Musicians	Praise+ Team; Voices of Hope
Ushers	Ron Cordova and Art Kavanaugh

Maundy Thursday

Assisting Minister	Gary Warner
Lector	RC Jordan
Cantors	Rich Neely and Keri Sutter
Communion Server	Kristi Valdez
Acolyte	Boden Bencomo

Good Friday

Assisting Minister	Rhonda Warner
Lector	Kathy Gorman
Passion Reading	Tim George, Nancy Lacher, Zach Zimmer, And Ed Christians