

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE | MAUNDY THURSDAY
First Methodist Church, Houston | Downtown Campus Traditional Service
April 17, 2025 | 12:00 pm

The word maundy comes from the Latin words *mandatum novum*, which mean new commandment. On Maundy Thursday we commemorate two events. The first is the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples the night before his crucifixion. The second is Jesus' long night of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane after which he was arrested and then abandoned and denied by his disciples.

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum during which Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. The services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter function as one service in three parts. We encourage you to worship on each of these days to fully experience the miracle of redemption made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE O Lamb of God who died though innocent, BWV 618 by J. S. Bach
(PDM)

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

*CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Steven Newcomb

Return to the Lord, God of all mercies, for a feast of love has been prepared for his own.

I will bless the Lord at all times. His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Happy are they who take refuge in God.

O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt his name together.

*HYMN Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (V. 1-3) UMH 626

*OPENING PRAYER Rev. Sylvia Kiboko

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. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE Rev. Lance Richards

All who love Jesus, seek repentance and forgiveness of sin, and seek to live in peace with one another are welcome at the table, regardless of faith tradition or denominational background.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Lance Richards

Christ shows us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

Most merciful God, we your church confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Where we have failed to love one another as he loves us, where we have pledged loyalty to him with our lips and then betrayed, deserted, or denied him, forgive us, we pray; and by your Spirit make us faithful in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Rev. Lance Richards

...in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

READING 1: Preparation of the Passover Meal and Institution of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:7-18) Rev. Amanda Davis

SHORT REFLECTION Rev. Lance Richards

READING 2: Story of the Passover (Exodus 12:17, 21--28) Rev. Ken Coneby

SHORT REFLECTION Rev. Lance Richards

READING 3: A New Commandment (John 13:2-17; 34-35) Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh

SHORT REFLECTION Rev. Lance Richards

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Lance Richards

The Lord Jesus, after he had washed his disciples' feet...you should do as I have done."

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you."

.....
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

...let us offer one another signs of peace and reconciliation.

READING 4: Institution of the Lord's Supper (Mark 14:22-25)

Rev. Steven Newcomb

SHORT REFLECTION

Rev. Lance Richards

HYMN

Come, Sinners, to the Gospel Feast

UMH 616

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Sylvia Kiboko, Rev. Dr. Eric Pugh, Rev Amanda Davis,
Rev. Lance Richards, Rev. Steven Newcomb, Rev. Ken Coneby

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company 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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

...as we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

GIVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Servers

COMMUNION MUSIC

Were You There
Rick Files, Soloist

Moses Hogan

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SPOKEN)

Rev. Sylvia Kiboko

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. Amen.

READING 5: Conclusion of the Meal (Mark 14:26)

Rev. Lance Richards

SHORT REFLECTION

Rev. Lance Richards

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane (vs. 1-3)

UMH 290

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

Rev. Steven Newcomb & Rev. Amanda Davis

The stripping of the church symbolizes the desolation and abandonment experienced by Jesus during the long night at Gethsemane. This practice dates back to the 7th century.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

UMH 286

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lance Richards

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Chorale prelude on "O man bewail thy grievous sin"
(PDM)

J. S. Bach

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