

Welcome to
St. Luke Union Church

Presbyterian Church (USA) • United Church of Christ
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Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 17, 2025 6:30 pm

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

On this day Christ the Lamb of God gave himself into the hands of those who would slay him.

On this day Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

On this day Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us.

On this day Christ our God gave us this holy feast, that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may here proclaim his holy sacrifice and be partakers of his resurrection, and at the last day may reign with him in heaven.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he loved them. Write this commandment in our hearts; give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave his life and died for us, yet is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #102

"Were You There?"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and gracious God, our sin is too heavy to bear. Trusting in your mercy,

we lay before you the truth of who we are. We confess our failure to love as Christ loved . . .

We confess our covetousness and greed . . . We confess our weakness before temptation . . .

We confess our frailty before the challenges of this world . . . Merciful God, forgive us. Heal us, and make us whole, for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE #SPW 214

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of Exodus and Resurrection, you have promised to write your law on our hearts. As we hear the reading of your Word, teach us your law of love, that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may show forth the light of Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 12:1-14

ANTHEM

“Lamb of God”
SLUC Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

SERMON

“What He Has Done”
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Gifford

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

ANTHEM

“Via Dolorosa”
Doug Ferrier & Jeff Hendricker

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Sanctus
Words of Institution
Distribution of Loaf and Cup
Prayer Following Communion

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

Exit in silence as we prepare our hearts for what is to come.