

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
40 N. Main St., Hatfield, PA 19440  
[gracelutheranhatfield.org](http://gracelutheranhatfield.org)

**Maundy Thursday**  
**April 17, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.**

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor  
Susanna Faust, Minister of Music  
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator  
Jessica Moran, Stepping Stones Director

The Stations of the Cross has been a devotional practice for many centuries. Drawing on both scriptural images and traditions that emerged over generations about the day of Jesus' crucifixion, the stations invite us into contemplation of both Jesus' sufferings and the sufferings of the whole creation. We include five of the stations here which rely closely on scriptural authority.

Contained in this rite, in quotation marks, are quotes from *Laudato Si'*, an encyclical written by Pope Francis in 2015. In the opening paragraph he states, "Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us." Pope Francis draws on scripture, theology, and science to describe the ecological crisis in the twenty-first century. In doing so, he calls the whole church and indeed the whole world "to acknowledge the appeal, immensity, and urgency of the challenge we face." We continue to heed this call today.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

In the name of the One  
who creates all things,  
who bears all sufferings,  
✠ who enlivens all creatures.

**Amen.**

We gather today around the ancient tradition of the Stations of the Cross. The stations give us a window into the sufferings of Jesus and call us to listen to the cry of all who experience poverty, marginalization, and persecution. Now as never before, our awareness extends to the suffering of the whole earth. As we reflect at these stations, we are called to witness the cry of creation, to pray for the web of life, and to lend our voice to halt destruction. We also remember that God's presence in suffering makes resurrection possible.

Let us pray.

God of the cross, we stand in awe of your love made known in the midst of suffering. As we behold your life-giving cross and remember your passion and death, hear our cries and those of all creation for your redeeming and resurrecting grace, through Christ the Crucified One.

**Amen.**

## Station 1: Jesus is condemned to death (Luke 23:23-25)

But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. <sup>24</sup>So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. <sup>25</sup>He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Mindful that so many creatures have been condemned to extinction, let us call to mind and heart all the species that have been lost.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence nor convey their message to us. We have no such right.”

## God of the Sparrow

ELW 740

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a staff. The first line of lyrics is aligned under the first staff, the second line under the second staff, and the third and fourth lines under the third staff. The lyrics are: 1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing; 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet; 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty; 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i - stars; blast; grave; gal; How does the crea - ture say Awe; How does the crea - ture cry Woe; How does the crea - ture say Grace; How does the crea - ture say Care; How does the crea - ture say Praise; How does the crea - ture cry Save; How does the crea - ture say Thanks; How does the crea - ture say Life.

1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing  
2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet  
3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty  
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stars  
blast  
grave  
gal

How does the crea - ture say Awe  
How does the crea - ture cry Woe  
How does the crea - ture say Grace  
How does the crea - ture say Care

How does the crea - ture say Praise  
How does the crea - ture cry Save  
How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
How does the crea - ture say Life

## Station 2: Jesus takes up his cross (John 19:16-17)

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha

Mindful that holding on to excess goods makes it challenging for us to pick up the cross, let us call to mind and heart all the species that have been affected by human consumerism.

*Pause for silent reflection*

“‘Less is more.’ A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment.”

**Response: Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said** *Stanzas 1 & 2*

**ELW 667**

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,  
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;  
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;

for - sake the past, and come this day,  
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,

and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."  
sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.

### Station 3. Jesus meets his mother *(based on John 19:25)*

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Mindful of the nourishing gifts God provides in creation, let us call to mind and heart that the earth is our mother.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“The entire material universe speaks of God’s love, [God’s] boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains—everything is, as it were, a caress of God.”

### Response: Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

ELW 735



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry  
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

### Station 4. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross *(Luke 23:26)*

“As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.”

Mindful that each of us has gifts to offer and opportunities to serve, let us embrace our personal call to serve our Lord and all of creation, and the struggle that so often comes with that service.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to their own culture, experience, involvements and talents.”

**Response: Come, Ye Disconsolate (stanzas 1 & 2)**

**ELW 607**



1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;  
2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,  
come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.  
hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;  
Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;  
here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,  
earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.  
"Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."

**Station 5: Jesus is nailed to the cross (Luke 23:33)**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Mindful of our call to reject violence in every form, let us bring to mind and heart our call to acts of service to creation.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

“Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.”



1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,  
 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,  
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,  
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,



nour-ish the life of the world in our care:  
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,  
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,  
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,



gift of great won - der, ours to sur - rend - er,  
 we who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—  
 health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,  
 teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,



trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.  
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!  
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.  
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.



## GREETING

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.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. 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.  
**C. Amen.**

## Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>23</sup>For 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, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In 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.” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Unity Mass, Norah Duncan



## Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31-35

P. The gospel of the Lord, according to John, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup>Jesus 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.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

<sup>12</sup>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? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

<sup>31b</sup>“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>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.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Meditation: Just Be Held**

**Pastor Nancy Raabe**

## **PRAYERS**

To the petition “God of grace,” please respond, “Hear our prayer.”

## **PEACE**

P. The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

**Music at the Offering: Ubi Caritas**

**by Norah Duncan (1952- )**

## OFFERTORY



## Offering Prayer

A. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **C. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

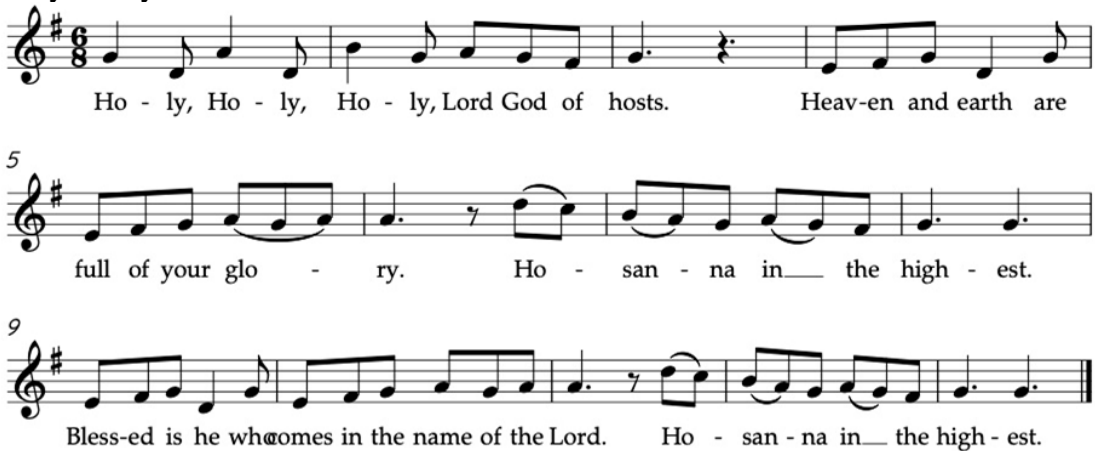
P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**  
P. Lift up your hearts. **C. We lift them to the Lord.**  
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.**



## Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Blessed are you, O God of the universe....

...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C. Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**C. Our Father, who art in heaven.....**

## Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins\_ of the world, have mer - cy on us, have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins\_ of the world, have

mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sins\_ of the world, grant. us\_\_\_ peace, grant. us\_\_\_ peace.

## Prayer after Communion

A. 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.

**C. Amen.**

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

*The altar is stripped as Psalm 88 is chanted.*

*All depart in silence.*

Serving tonight:

Preacher and Presider, Rev. Nancy M. Raabe

Minister of Music, Susanna Faust

Communion Asst. and Reader: Lisa Boyer

Lector: Jean Shaffer

Ushers: Bruce Schmidt & Carol MacDonald

Council Lock up: Jeff Krout



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“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth,” text by Jean Janzen (based on Julian of Norwich), c. 1991 Augsburg Fortress; music by Carolyn Jennings, c. 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

“Touch the Earth Lightly,” text by Shirley Erena Murray, music by Colin Gibson, c. 1992 Hope Inc.

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