

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Building up God's people through His word for His world

Maundy Thursday: The Covenant Meal
April 2, 2026

When God made His covenant with Israel through Moses, it was confirmed by the shedding of sacrificial, innocent blood and followed by a covenant meal, in which Moses and the elders of Israel ate and drank in God's presence on the mountain. Christ's death has established a new and greater covenant: His blood atones for the sins of all people. As Moses and the elders of Israel beheld God and ate and drank, so also do we behold God and eat and drink in His presence when we receive the covenant meal of His body and blood. . "Drink of it all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27).

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here tonight. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

Tonight is the First Communion for the following young people, who will now join us at the Lord's Table:

Cordelia Rose Nathan-Barry (parents: Brian Barry and Heidi Nathan-Barry)
James Edward Ellis IV (parents: Natalie and Jim Ellis)
William Chester Taylor (parents: Britney and Donald Taylor)

Prelude "Lord Jesus Christ" (from *Prayers of Kierkegaard*) Samuel Barber
Evelyn Tsen, soprano

Welcome Pastor Johann
Please stand

+ PREPARATION +

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P: Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come.
He entered once for all into the holy places,
C: **by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.**
P: Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
C: **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray.
O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion.
C: **Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually manifest in us;**
P: for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS +

P: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. It is the meal of the new covenant. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves; but when we do, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us and by His sacrifice for us took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve. By His death, He offers us full and free forgiveness.
Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.
C: **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy,**

innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: **Amen.**

P: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C: **Yes.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. + Go in peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

Hymn No. 435

+ WORD +

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3-11

The old covenant is sealed with a meal.

L: The Old Testament reading is from the twenty-fourth chapter of Exodus.

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said,

C: **All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.**

L: And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said,

C: **All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.**

L: And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said,

P: Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.

L: Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

L: This the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Hebrew 9:11-22

Blood is shed to inaugurate both covenants.

L: The Epistle is from the ninth chapter of Hebrews.

When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled person with the blood of goats and bulls and with ashes of a heifer sanctifies for one purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying,

P: This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.

L: And in the same way He sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Lenten Verse

Music in hymnal, page 157

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:17-30

Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper.

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Music in hymnal, page 157

P: Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

C: Where will You have us prepare for You to eat the Passover?

P: He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, He reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, He said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another,

C: Is it I, Lord?

P: He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." Judas, who would betray Him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Music in hymnal, page 157

Please sit

Hymn of the Day

"The Fruit of Love Once Blooming"

insert

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message

"The Covenant Meal"

Pastor James

Musical Reflection

Please stand

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God and for all people in their various needs. Lord Jesus, offering fruit from the tree of life,

C: **by Your word of Law accuse every prideful thought in us, and by Your precious Gospel call us to repentance and a firm faith in Your gift of eternal life.**

L: Lord Jesus, bread from heaven,

C: **feed us always that we may neither hunger nor thirst, but continually be ready for whatever temptations we might face in this wilderness until our journey's end.**

L: Lord Jesus, whose forgiveness is healing medicine,

C: **bind up our sin-sick souls and heal our wounded consciences so that Your life may flow through us.**

L: Lord Jesus, offering a blest communion in the Lord's Supper,

C: **we give thanks that in spite of our sinful condition You bring us into fellowship with You and one another, acceptable in Your sight by Your atoning grace.**

L: Lord Jesus, rest for the weary,

C: **lift the burden of our sins, we pray, and refresh our souls so that we may serve You each day and invite others to join us on our journey toward an eternal Sabbath.**

L: Lord Jesus, who invites us to the heavenly nuptial feast,

C: **bestow on us hearts of love and joy each time we partake of the Lord's Supper, a foretaste of the feast to come.**

L: Lord Jesus, whose sacrifice instituted the new covenant,

C: **enable us to receive in true faith Your assurance that our separating sins have been forgiven in time and eternity.**

L: Lord Jesus, who received the Father's wrath in our stead on the cross,

C: **each time we receive Your body and blood in the Lord's Supper, grant that we may recognize the gravity of our sin and the reality of Your grace.**

L: Lord Jesus, God's Passover Lamb,
C: give us hearts single-mindedly fixed on You, whose blood has saved us from the wrath we deserve and whose victory over death has opened to us eternal life.

L: Lord Jesus, who has made the Lord's Supper Your feast of victory,
C: with saints and angels we praise and glorify Your holy name here in time until we join them to sing Your praises face-to-face.

L: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Amen.

Please sit

Offering Moment

Please place offerings and Welcome cards in the offering plate by the doors as you leave the sanctuary.

Anthem "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (from *Requiem*) John Rutter
Sanctuary Choir

<p>The Lord is my shepherd; therefore I can lack nothing. He shall feed me in a green pasture, and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort. He shall convert my soul and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, For his Name's sake, for his Name's sake. Yea, though I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:</p>	<p>For thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff comfort me. Thou shalt prepare a table for me against them that trouble me: Thou hast anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. But thy lovingkindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: And I will dwell in the house of the Lord, In the house of the Lord forever, forever.</p>
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Please stand

Offertory **Music in hymnal, pages 159-160**

+ SACRAMENT +

Preface and Proper Preface **Music in hymnal, page 160**

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy **Music in hymnal, page 161**

Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini ~ *The peace of the Lord*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Agnus Dei ~ *Lamb of God*

Music in hymnal, page 163

Please sit

Invitation to First Communicants

The pastor addresses the congregation.

P: Beloved in the Lord, in Holy Baptism these young people were born again as God's children and received into His Church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of their sins. The apostle Paul reminds us, "Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup," and "as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." These candidates have received instruction and have been examined by the pastor regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

The pastor addresses the candidates.

P: You are about to be admitted to the Lord's Table. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." You are invited by our Lord to come regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism.

In testimony of this faith and confession, I now ask you:

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ, true God and true man, is your Lord?

R: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe that you are a sinner?

R: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for you and shed His blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins?

R: Yes, I believe.

P: Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love toward others?

R: **Yes, I believe.**

P: Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

R: **Yes, with the help of God.**

P: I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

R: **Amen.**

The pastor addresses the congregation.

P: Parents, sponsors, and members of the congregation, the whole Church shares with you the responsibility and concern for the ongoing instruction and spiritual care of these young people. I now ask you, will you intercede for them in prayer and, as much as you are able, give them your counsel and aid that, in communion with the Church, they may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ? Then answer: We will, with the help of God.

C: **We will, with the help of God.**

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in the faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: We rejoice with thankful hearts in your confession of faith. As you continue to hear the Lord's Word and receive His holy Supper, He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Peace † be with you.

C: **Amen.**

Distribution

First-time communicants will receive the sacrament first.

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: "This is My Body . . . this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows. Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

Music during Distribution

Hymn "Your Table I Approach" **Hymn No. 628**

Anthem "Like as the Hart"
Sanctuary Choir, Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet Vincent Novello

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, Why art thou so full of heaviness,
So longeth my soul after Thee, O God. So full of heaviness, O my soul,
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, And why art thou so disquieted in me?
So longeth my soul after Thee, O God. O put thy trust, thy trust in God.

Hymn "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" **Hymn No. 633**

Please stand

Nunc Dimittis ~ *Song of Simeon* **Music in hymnal, page 165**

Please sit

+ STRIPPING of the ALTAR +

*The Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped,
and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.*

Anthem "Jesu, Word of God Incarnate" W. A. Mozart
Sanctuary Choir, Hart Guonjian-Pettit, trumpet

Jesu, Word of God incarnate, Cleanse us by the Blood and Water
Of the Virgin Mary born; Streaming from Thy pierced side.
On the Cross Thy sacred Body, Feed us with Thy Body broken,
For us men with nails was torn. Now and in death's agony,
Now, now, and in death's agony.

All leave the church quietly.

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Cover Image: Photo by James Coleman on Unsplash.

Serving This Evening	
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor James
Crucifer	*
Acolyte	*
Scripture Reader	Lisa Dorn
Prayer Leader	Kirsten Bates
Communion Assistants	Pastor Johann (host) Nancy McGarry(host) Jamie Ellor (tray) Melinda DeWan (tray)
Ushers	Rob Fekete (lead) John Purtilo Brian Cors Bernie Schoch
Choir Director	Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee
Altar Care	Joey Tempel Diane Ellor
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager	Matt Hardy
Greeter	June McGurn (door) Donna Harper (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Kelly Nield
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Closer	Martin Farley

* = unfilled as of March 30

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann
The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James
The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper
The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann
Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Randy and Melanie Stockman); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann
The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann
This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Franker), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

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Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

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Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

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Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

chloe@gslcva.org

Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org