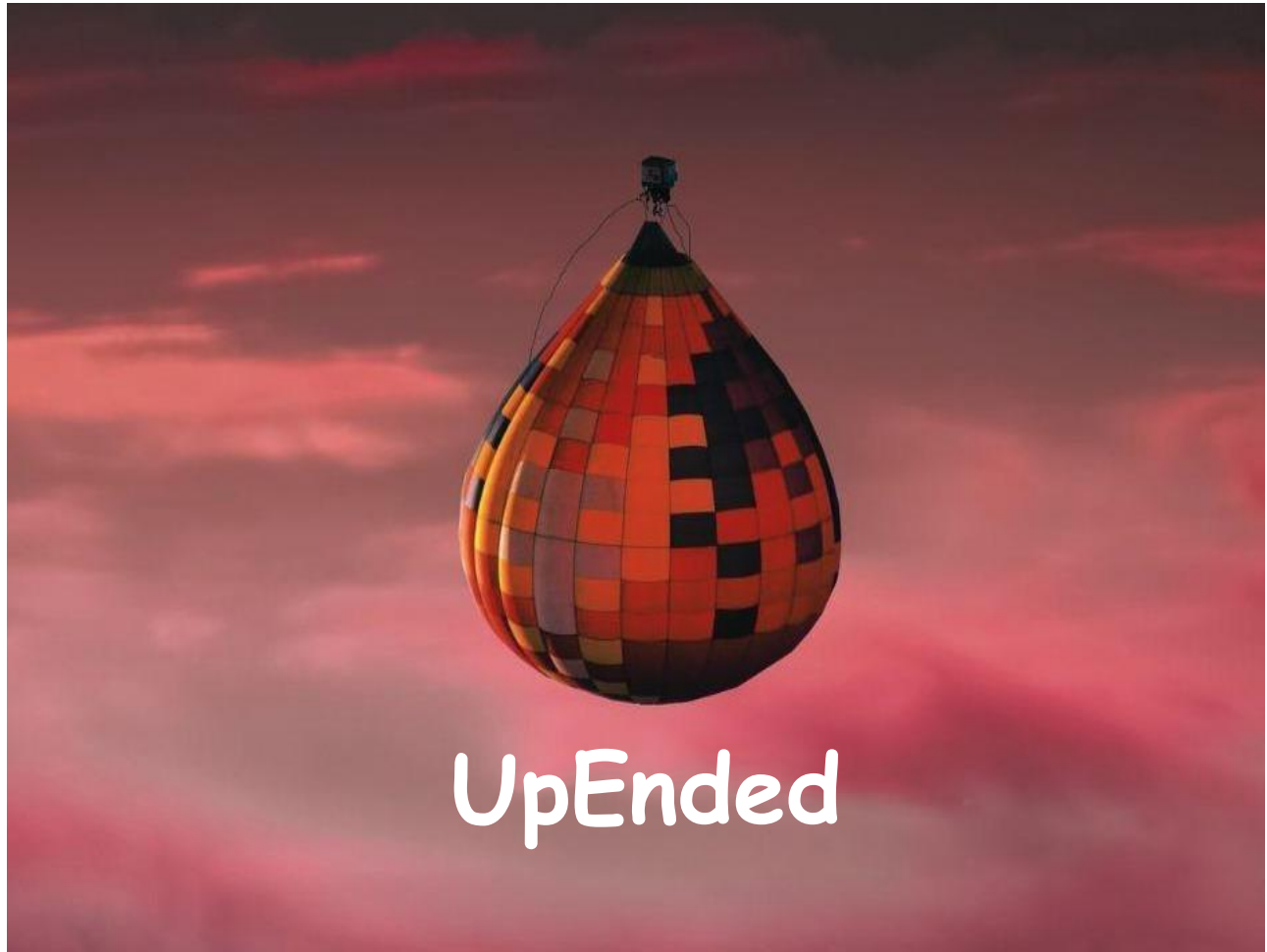


# *Maundy Thursday -UpEnded*

*April 17, 2025*



## ***Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)***

*"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith,  
while serving others"*

### ***7:00 p.m. Worship***

***Bold type indicates Congregational responses***

***\* Congregation stands as you are comfortable***

***"what r u up 2?"*** has been our Lenten theme. Throughout Lent, we have been asking that question of what Jesus is up to, and what Jesus has asked us to be up to. On Maundy Thursday, we usually contemplate what Jesus has asked us to do as followers of Jesus. So tonight, as we retell and think on some of the details and events that happened on the last night he spent in the company of his closest disciples, may we contemplate what we are called to be up to today.

## **Prelude**

### **\*Opening Litany**

P: The disciples were aghast at the topsy-turvy way that Jesus kept upending the status quo. That night in the upper room was no different. Jesus got up and radically changed the hierarchical structure of that gathering by showing how the first can be last and the last can be first. The hierarchy of our day can be disrupted if we but follow Jesus in this final act of table hospitality that invites us to get up out of our own position in order to serve and lift up others.

Let us pray together:

**UpEnding God, we live, as Jesus did, in times where the wind changes directions quickly and the storms of life leave us uncertain. At times we are stuck in our seats, hanging on for dear life to things that we mistake for security and keep us tied to the way things are, even if they aren't for the good. In this moment of quiet, we lift up to you those things we'd like to give up for good... for the sake of The Good.**

*Brief pause for self-reflection.*

Hear assurance in what the Psalmist proclaims (Excerpts from Psalm 116):

I love the Lord, because God has heard my voice and my supplications. Because God inclined God's ear to me, therefore I will call on God as long as I live. What shall I return to God for all God's bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of God's faithful ones.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Glory to God, Amen!**

### **\*Peace**

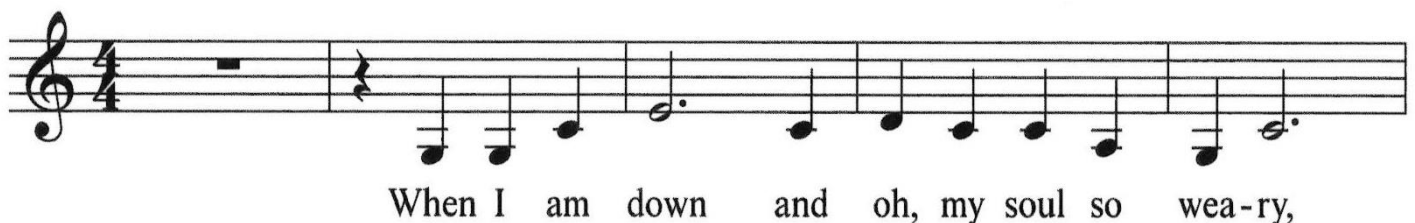
P: As a people forgiven and freed, we reach out to lift others up, offering the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

You are invited to share the Peace with those around you.

*Please share the peace with those around you.*

### **\*Opening Song: "You Raise Me Up"**



When trou-bles come and my heart bur-dened be, Then I am  
 still and wait here in the si-lence un-til you come and  
 sit a-while with me. You raise me up so  
 I can stand on moun-tains. You raise me up to walk on stor-my  
 seas. I am strong when I am on your shoul-ders.  
 You raise me up to more than I can be.

### ***\*Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

**Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### ***First Reading Exodus 12:1-14***

L: The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***Second Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26***

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, 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." 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." 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.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ***\*Gospel Acclamation***





mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

**\*Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

P: The holy gospel according to John the 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

"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.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

The gospel of our Lord.


**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**


Pastor Becky Sells

**Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love.....ELW 708**


*Refrain*




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet:



*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

**\*Prayers of Intercession**

L: Trusting in Jesus who gave his life for the world, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each prayer petition ends with:*

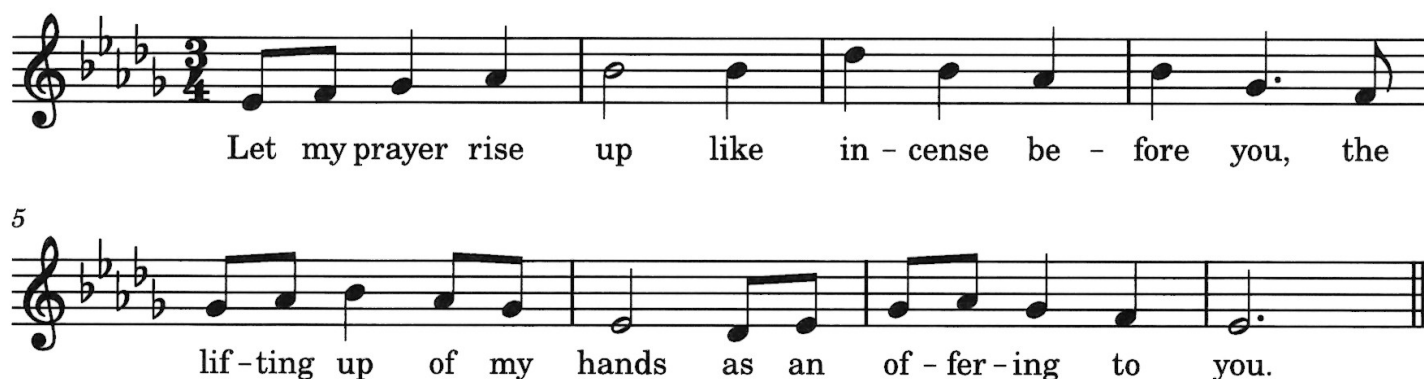
L: Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*(Last petition)* Receive these prayers, loving God, for the sake of the One who loved us to the end, Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

**Amen.**

**BUILDING UP**  
**Up to Something Good**  
*An "UpEnding" Ritual*



P: You are invited this evening to a Ritual of UpEnding. The end of Jesus' earthly life felt anything but uplifting to those who loved him and ate with him that night. Our world sometimes feels as upside-down with reality and peace hanging by a thread. But Jesus already knew that this was the only way to truly show us how to love one another completely. Not by sleeping through it or denying the chaos, as the disciples may have tried to do in the Garden of Gethsemane that night after supper. Not by wielding a sword, which Peter wanted to do later in the Garden when they came to arrest Jesus. But by remaining true to the UpEnded vision of what it looks like when we pay attention to the masses of humanity who suffer. And so we come this night with sorrow for the world, sorrow for all those who have lost loved ones just as those around that table were about to lose their beloved teacher and friend. Yet we come knowing "the rest of the story," that the UpEnded become UpLifted in the realm of God.

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.**

It is right, and a good and holy thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creator of all things, you formed us in your image and filled us up with your breath of life. When we turned away, deflated and down, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, ignited us again with the warmth of your love, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

*[Sung to the tune of "Let My Prayer Rise Up."]*

**Holy, holy, God,**

**come close to, and save us.**

**We cry to you this night**

**for the lifting of all souls.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. At his baptism, your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

He upended the status quo at every turn, choosing love and healing before all else. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners, and humbled himself as a servant to wash the feet of his friends. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus went up to his place on high, and into the depths of this Body of Christ, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*[Sung to the tune of "Let My Prayer Rise Up"]*

**Christ our Lord has died;**

**and Christ is now risen.**

**Our lifted hearts proclaim,**

**"Christ will come to us again."**

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer, like this:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

### ***\*Pre-Communion Prayer***

P: Let us pray.

Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

*Please be seated*

### ***Invitation to Communion***

P: Friends, the table is ready. You are invited to stop at the basin of water as you come down the center aisle. As you pause there, I invite you to think of the most unlikely person in your life whose feet you could not imagine washing. Consider the radical upending that would need to take place in order to be restored to right relationship with them, in order to “right-side-up” your relationship. This is how shocking Jesus’ upending words and actions were. If it feels right to you, touch the water as a sign that the water of renewal is possible. And then as you approach the table, remember that Jesus served and fed all. Jesus loved and invited all. Even those who betrayed him. And that is the most upending, radical, bold grace of all. This is ultimately that which lifts us up and invites us to lift up others as well. Come. All are welcome.



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

## **Distribution Music**

### **\*Table Blessing**

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep, and unite us, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **\*Prayer after Communion**

P: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and

won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

*All depart in silence. If you'd like to stay a moment to pray before leaving, you are free to do so. Please remain quiet until after you leave the church building. Thank you.*

*Our Good Friday Service will begin at 7pm tomorrow night.*

*Prayer Vigil begins following the Good Friday service, until 9am in the morning. People can sign up online for 30 minute increments to pray throughout the night, or you can simply pick your own time slot to pray from your own home.*

*Easter Service will begin at 9am on Sunday.*

*The Youth Easter Continental Breakfast happens right before the Easter service at 8:15am and directly following the service until 10:30ish.*

***Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love***

Text: Tom Colvin, 1935-2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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***Lamb of God***

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Music: Twila Paris

Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

***You Raise Me Up***

Text: Brendan Graham

Music: Rolf Løvland; arr. Jon Novak

Text and Music © 2002 Universal - Polygram International Publishing, Inc.

***What Wondrous Love Is This***

Text: North American folk hymn. 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker. *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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