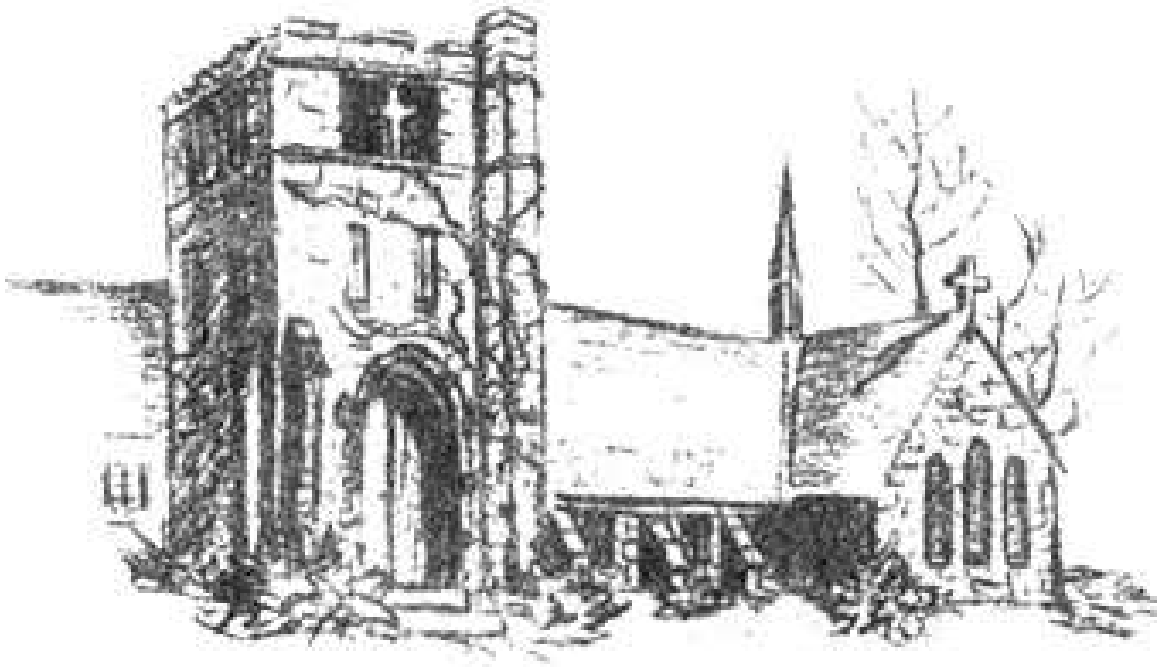


Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

7:30 p.m.



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

1935 The Plaza

Parish Office: 1229 Baker Avenue

Schenectady, NY 12309

518-346-6241; office@st-stephens.church

A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany

The Rt. Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop

The Rev. Lisa Busby, Rector

Susan Lohnas, Organist

Douglas Lohnas, Choir Director

If you or someone you know is in need, please call Mother Lisa at (518) 637-7736

Maundy Thursday

Thursday in Holy Week is part of the Triduum referring to the three holy days before Easter.

“Maundy Thursday” comes from the Latin *mandatum novum* or “new commandment” (John 13:34).

The washing of feet was a menial act of hospitality in the Old Testament (Genesis 18:4, 19:2), often performed for guests by a servant or the wife of the host. The Gospel of John (13:1-17) records that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper, urging them to follow his example of humble service. Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet was a lived expression of his teaching that “whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all” (Mk 10:43-44). The foot washing also expressed Jesus’ “new commandment” for his disciples to love one another, as he had loved them.

The washing of feet continued in the early Christian church and has been associated with the Maundy Thursday liturgy since the seventh century in Spain.

The early editions of the Book of Common Prayer did not provide for the foot-washing. The 1979 BCP restored the washing of feet as an option for the Maundy Thursday Service.

Maundy Thursday celebrations also commemorate the institution of the eucharist by Jesus “on the night he was betrayed.” Egeria, a fourth-century pilgrim to Jerusalem, describes elaborate celebrations and observances in that city on Maundy Thursday.

Following the Eucharist, the altar is stripped by members of the Altar Guild and the priest, who will also remove decorative furnishings from the church in preparation for Good Friday.

[Source: “An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: Glossary of Terms.”]

(Please exit in silence after our service concludes. You are invited to keep vigil in solidarity with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Chapel will remain open as long as two people are present continuously.)

The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

The Prelude *Pange Lingua* St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)/Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

St. Thomas Aquinas wrote both the tune and text for this hymn praising the mystery of the Eucharist. The rhythm may have been inspired by a marching song of Caesar's legions. Noel Rawsthorne's setting highlights the flowing nature of this plainsong.

A Penitential Order: Rite Two

The Processional Hymn

Hymnal #167

(The people standing)

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant: Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31)

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant offers absolution.

People: **Amen.**

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The First Lesson

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

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. 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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 116:1, 12-19

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

12 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord *
is the death of his servants.

14 O Lord, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon the Name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord *
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the Lord's house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Lector: A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

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.

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal #439

The Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to John.

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant: 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, "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.

"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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Lisa Busby

The Washing of the Feet

Celebrant: The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and ha washed their feet, said to them, “Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.”

People: **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Celebrant: The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and ha washed their I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

People: **Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.**

Celebrant: By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

All are invited to come forward for foot washing.

Hymn *The hymn is sung by the people during the Washing of the Feet* Hymnal #602

The Prayers of the People for Holy Week The Stranger Welcomed (Matthew 25:35)

Intercessor: For when we see you, Lord, in the hungry, the thirsty, and the stranger,

People: **May we serve you with open hands and open hearts.**

Intercessor: For those who feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty,

People: **Bless their ministries.**

Intercessor: For those who welcome the stranger,

People: **Make their homes places of peace.**

Intercessor: For those who visit the sick and imprisoned,

People: **Strengthen their compassion.**

Intercessor: For communities that serve the least among us,

People: **Fill them with joy.**

Intercessor: For those who are overlooked or ignored,

People: **Let them know your love.**

Intercessor: For leaders who champion the vulnerable,

People: **Guide their decisions.**

Intercessor: For the Church, called to serve Christ in all people,

People: **Empower us to act with courage.**

Intercessor: For those who long for justice and mercy,

People: **Satisfy them with your grace.**

Intercessor: For ourselves, that we may see Christ in every person,

People: **Transform our vision and our lives.**

Intercessor: For all who have died, whom we now commend to your mercy,

People: **Rest them in the promise of resurrection.**

Intercessor: O God of resurrection and hope,
People: **Lead us from death to new life. Amen.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

The Offertory Anthem *The Upper Room* Nancy Price (b.1958)/Don Besig (b.1936)

The Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Celebrant adds the Proper Preface, and continues

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus Hymnal S-124 *Hymn numbers beginning with S are found in the front of the Hymnal.*

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer; the congregation joins in at the following prompt:

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Page # 364

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

The Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn

Hymnal #322

Post-Communion Prayer

Page #365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

Read by the Lector during the Stripping of the Altar

Page #610

Please exit in silence after the stripping of the altar.

The Triduum liturgy resumes at the Good Friday service tomorrow at noon.

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Serving tonight:

Celebrant:	The Rev. Lisa J. Busby	Eucharistic Minister:	George Woodzell
Altar Guild:	Carolyn Morin Jean Strefanski Mary Alexander Doreen May Basil Dewdney	Acolyte:	Basil Dewdney
		Lector:	Marilyn Humphrey
		Intercessor:	Doreen May
Ushers:	Vicki Hoshko Marilyn Humphrey		