

## MAUNDY THURSDAY ORDER OF WORSHIP

Opening Hymn	“Old Rugged Cross”
Confession of Sin	ELW page 258
Absolution	Page 259
Sharing of the Peace	
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 loves us. By your Holy Spirit write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**AMEN**

First Lesson	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
Second Lesson	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Lenten Verse	ELW page 142
Holy Gospel	John 13:1-17, 31-35
Hymn	WOV 664
Sermon	
Hymn for Reflection	ELW 351
Prayers of the Church	
Offering	
Great Thanksgiving	page 144
Words of Institution	
Lord’s Prayer	page 145
Distribution	
Hymn	ELW 349
Prayer	
Stripping of the Altar	Psalm 22

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The reading of Psalm 22 recalls the words of abandonment spoken by Jesus from the cross, “My God why have you forsaken me?” and moves us now into the solemn remembrance of Good Friday.

## NOTES

Ash Wednesday began with an extended confession of sins; the absolution is deferred until today, Maundy Thursday. The service begins in an unusual way—with an invitation to confession and with the absolution and the sharing of the peace. All this is done before Holy Communion begins, not simply as a novelty, but to close off the time of repentance, to conclude the season of penitence with the long-awaited absolution. The Lenten discipline having been concluded, the church turns its attention to the most intense celebration of the cross and resurrection of Christ.

No further words are said after the stripping of the altar. There is no benediction or postlude, suggesting continuity with the services of Good Friday and Easter. The church is left in semi-darkness and all leave the church in silence. The transition is made from the communion celebration to Jesus’ crucifixion and death. Symbolically, Christ, stripped of his power and glory, is now in the hands of his captors.

Tomorrow night we will again gather here at 7:30 p.m. for Good Friday worship. In this service we remember Christ’s death on the cross. We will be using the service of the Tenebrae (the name means “Darkness” or “Shadows”), a service of lessons and prayer during which the church is gradually darkened as the day of our Lord’s death comes to a close.

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## EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Sunrise Service**  
**7:00 a.m.**  
**Festive Service**  
**9:30 a.m.**



**SUNNE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
WILTON, NORTH DAKOTA**

**April 1, 2021**

**Paul Schauer, Pastor  
Sunne Lutheran Church Phone: 734-6485  
Pastor's Cell: 391-0584  
[www.sunnelutheran.org](http://www.sunnelutheran.org)**