

Here is a service format to commemorate Maundy Thursday which is easily used with very small groups.

Feel free to use as is or substitute your own hymn choices. Referenced hymnals include the Lutheran Book of Worship, Celebration, With One Voice and the Common Service Book and Hymnal.

Scriptures can be substituted with the current year lectionary.

The food takes very little preparation and if you ask three or four people to contribute it will be very easy. Use what is easy for you.

Station 1: Crackers or Pita Triangles spread with Honey

Station 2: Pita with apple and nut spread. You can mix some ground walnuts with some apple butter.

Station 3: Use hard-boiled eggs and pickled beets or combine the two by putting shelled hard-boiled eggs in a jar with the pickled beet brine for two or three days. (very Pa Dutch)

Station 4: Bitter greens and salt water. A stiff green like endive works well You can sprinkle with some dill or spread a bit of cream cheese with the dill.

## A Maundy Thursday Remembrance

**Tonight's service combines the traditions of the Jewish Seder, which Jesus celebrated with his disciples on that first Maundy Thursday, and the traditions of the Pennsylvania Dutch "Green" Thursday. Green comes from the German word griuen (to weep), similar to the English word Grief. Both traditions use food as symbols.**

PASTOR/LEADER: We gather together tonight just as Christ's twelve most faithful disciples once did. We gather with a sense of impending horror and loss. We gather with fear and uncertainty with only our memories and your promises to keep us going.

We are not unlike your children thousands of years ago, who fled Egypt and slavery for the promise of a better land. Like them, we trust in your grace.

**Savior, be with us this evening as we remember your enduring acts of salvation, the exodus from Egypt and the sacrifice of your Son. As we share in the symbolic foods, unite us with all your children in a celebration of the heritage we share with your Son. Make us mindful of the terrible sacrifice He bore for us and remind us of his great and lasting commandment, that we should love one another in the same way he loves each of us. Amen.**

Father, with this hymn we remember how you blessed your people, guiding them through desert wilderness to the promised land flowing with milk and honey.

### HYMN:

Blue 670

When Israel was in Egypt's land, Let my people go.  
Oppressed so hard they could not stand, Let my people go.

**Go down, Moses, Way down in Egypt's land.  
Tell old Pharaoh: Let my people go.**

The Lord told Moses what to do. Let my people go.  
To lead the children of Israel through. Let my people go.

The pillar of cloud shall clear the way. Let my people go.  
A fire by night, A shade by day. Let my people go.

As Israel stood by the waterside Let my people go.  
At God's command it did divide. Let my people go.

When they had reached the other shore. Let my people go.  
They sang the song of triumph o'er. Let my people go.

Oh, let us all from bondage flee. Let my people go.  
And let us all in Christ be free. Let my people go.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:

### Exodus 12:1-14a

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.

### READER:

God's people fled Egypt in haste and took with them flat bread for there was no time to wait for the bread to rise. In the desert, God saw that his people would not hunger. He sent them bread from heaven.

At the First Meal Station we break the unleavened bread of the journey of escape and dip it into the honey of the Promised Land, washing it down with a sip of milk.

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### THE FIRST MEAL STATION: Unleavened Bread with Milk and Honey

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## HYMN

### BREAK NOW THE BREAD OF LIFE,

Break now the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,  
As once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord,  
My spirit waits for you, O living Word.

Bless your own truth, dear Lord, To me, to me.  
As when you blest the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease. I seek you, Lord;  
My spirit waits for you, O living Word.

You are the bread of life, O Lord, to me.  
Your holy Word the truth That rescues me.  
Give me to eat and live with You above;  
Teach me to love Your Truth, for You are love.

Oh, send your Spirit, Lord, Now unto me,  
That he may touch my eyes and make me see.  
Show me the truth concealed Within your Word,  
And in your book revealed I see my Lord.

### PSALM 78

He led them with a cloud by day,  
and all the night through with a glow of fire.  
**He split the hard rocks in the wilderness  
and gave them drink as from the great deep.**  
He brought streams out of the cliff,  
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

**But they went on sinning against him,  
rebellin in the desert against the Most High.**  
They tested God in their hearts,  
demanding food for their craving.

**They railed against God and said,  
"Can God set a table in the wilderness?"**

True, he struck the rock, the waters gushed out,  
and the gullies overflowed;  
but is he able to give bread  
or to provide meat for his people?"

**So he commanded the clouds above  
and opened the doors of heaven.**

He rained down manna upon them to eat  
and gave them grain from heaven.

**So mortals ate the bread of angels;  
he provided for them food enough.**

**READER:**

God's people toiled and sacrificed in Egypt. Their sweat and blood built palaces for pharaohs and important people. Jesus died to prepare a place for all of us, rich and poor, in his heavenly palace. In his eyes all were important. As we eat the salad before us, let it remind us of the mortar which held together the bricks of the Egyptian Jew's labor and the bonds which hold us together as a people, commanded to love as God loves.

**THE SECOND MEAL STATION****Unleavened bread sandwiched with apple/nut spread**

SPECIAL MUSIC: Behold the Lamb (Best of the Best 23)

A Child Asks . . . (have the youngest child ask this question)

**Why is this night different from any other night?**

**THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD****Luke 22:14-30**

When the hour came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!" Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this. A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. "You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

**HYMN**

Celebration 657-2 verses

**SEARCH ME**

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
Try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

I praise Thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
Fulfill thy Word and make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.

**SERMON****OFFERING**

ANTHEM: Meekness and Majesty

**HYMN**

Celebration 789

And in all things give Him thanks,  
And in all things let your gratitude shine through.  
And in all things give Him thanks,  
For He has given all things unto you. REPEAT

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Lord God, in Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May we live by your example and live lives proclaiming your redeeming love. **AMEN**

**READER:**

The egg is a symbol of wholeness, perfection. In this symbolic station, the symbol of perfect life is washed in redness of the beets, symbolic of Christ's blood, shed for our sins.

**THE THIRD MEAL STATION****Hard Boiled Eggs and Red Beets****HYMN**

LBW 98

**ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED**

Alas! and did my Savior bleed, And did my sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head For sinners such as I?

Was it for sins that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown, And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide And shut its glories in  
When God, the mighty maker, died For his own creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face While his dear cross appears  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, And melt my eyes to tears.

But tears of grief cannot repay The debt of love I owe;  
Here, Lord, I give myself away; It's all that I can do.

READER:

God's chosen people shed many tears under the oppression of slavery. Their freedom, won with God's guidance, was watered with tears of frustration, uncertainty, loss, and desperation. God's people, following Jesus, shed tears as well, as they watched their precious Savior experience an agonizing death. We dip our bitter leaves in salt water symbolizing the tears of God's faithful.

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**THE FOURTH MEAL STATION**  
**Bitter Greens and Salt Water**

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**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 11:23--32**

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. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

**HYMN**

**Celebration 460**

Let us break bread together on our knees (2x)  
**When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Let us drink wine together on our knees. . . .

Let us praise God together on our knees. . . .

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**FINAL STATION**  
**Christ's Body and Blood**

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PASTOR: Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.** (proceed to the altar)

The Distribution:    Take eat, This is my body given for you.  
                              Take drink, This is my blood shed for you.

**HYMN:**

**Celebration 352**

**O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS**

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
Rolling as a mighty ocean In its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me, Is the current of Thy love;  
Leading onward, leading homeward To my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread his praise from shore to shore.  
How he loveth, ever loveth, Changeth never, nevermore;  
How He watches o'er His loved ones,  
Died to call them all His own;  
How for them He intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

PASTOR:

As we begin our journey with Christ to the cross, let us remember Christ's love for us and the commandment he entrusted to his faithful. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all. Go in peace, and love one another.

**Thanks be God. Amen**

**CLOSING HYMN**

**Blue 664**

**A NEW COMMANDMENT**

A new commandment I give unto you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you,  
That you love one another as I have loved you.  
By this shall people know you are my disciples,  
If you have love one for another;  
By this shall people know you are my disciples:  
If you have love one for another. REPEAT

Silence as the Altar Is Stripped.

**POSTLUDE CHIMES play as people exit in silence**  
**There Is A Green Hill Far Away           CSBH 77-first tune**