



APRIL 17, 2025

## Gather in Silence

### Voluntary

*Herzlich lieb hab ich dich, o Herr*  
("Heartfelt love I have for you, O Lord")

Johannes Ludwig Krebs  
(1713-1780)

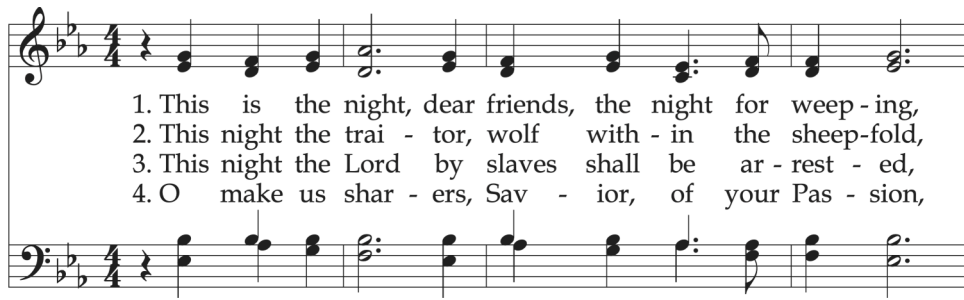
### ✠ Call to Worship

On this night,  
Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room.

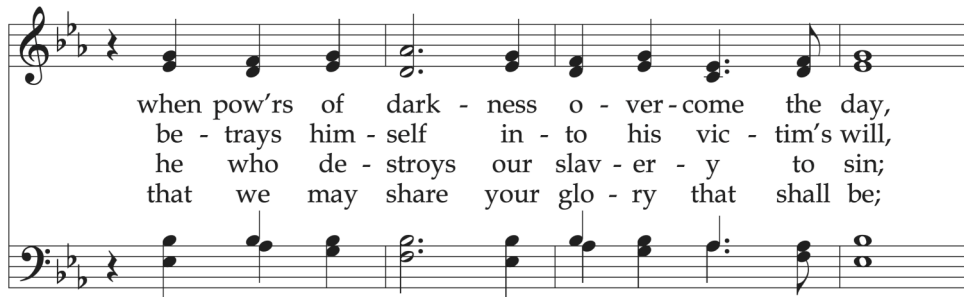
On this night,  
Christ took a towel and washed his disciples' feet  
to show us how to love and serve one another.

On this night,  
Christ our God gave us this holy feast,  
that we who eat this bread and drink this cup  
may proclaim his sacrificial love.

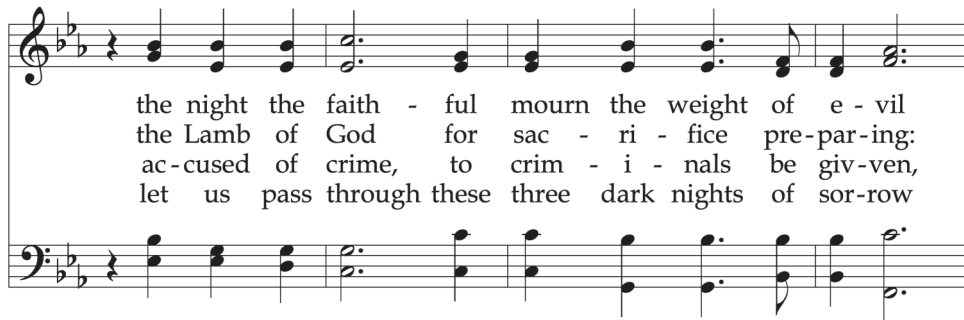
On this night,  
Christ the Lamb of God gave himself  
into the hands of those who would slay him.  
Let us follow him to Calvary,  
so that we may partake in his resurrection,  
and at the last day may reside with him in glory.



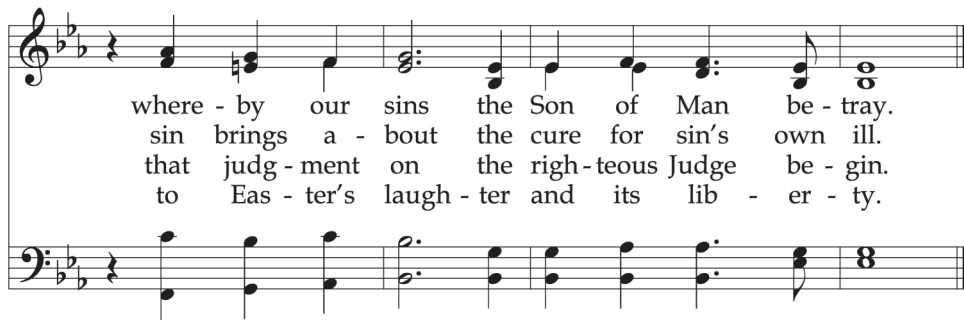
1. This is the night, dear friends, the night for weep - ing,  
 2. This night the trai - tor, wolf with - in the sheep-fold,  
 3. This night the Lord by slaves shall be ar - rest - ed,  
 4. O make us shar - ers, Sav - ior, of your Pas - sion,



when pow'rs of dark - ness o - ver - come the day,  
 be - trays him - self in - to his vic - tim's will,  
 he who de - stroy's our slav - er - y to sin;  
 that we may share your glo - ry that shall be;



the night the faith - ful mourn the weight of e - vil  
 the Lamb of God for sac - ri - fice pre - par - ing;  
 ac - cused of crime, to crim - i - nals be giv - ven,  
 let us pass through these three dark nights of sor - row



where - by our sins the Son of Man be - tray.  
 sin brings a - bout the cure for sin's own ill.  
 that judg - ment on the righ - teous Judge be - gin.  
 to Eas - ter's laugh - ter and its lib - er - ty.

## ✦ Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 you host us at your Table,  
 but we choose to sit elsewhere.  
 We reserve sumptuous tables, not sacrificial ones.  
 We handpick guests without wondering who you would ask.  
 We gossip then laugh.  
 We're embarrassed to pray.  
 Remove our sins from us, O Lord,  
 and ready us to gather at your Table  
 and rely on your gospel alone.

*silent prayer*

## ✦ Response

Justin Langham

Lord Je - sus Christ, Lamb of God, Have mer - cy on us. Lord  
 Je - sus Christ, Lamb of God, Have mer - cy on us.

## ✦ Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe the good news. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## ✦ Response

*Glory to the Father* | Kyrie

John Weaver

Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the  
 Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in the be - gin-ning, is  
 now, and will be for - ev - er. A-men. A - men. A - men.

## ✦ The Peace

Peace be with you. **Peace be with all.**

## Prayer of Illumination

## Gospel Reading

John 13:1-17

N.T. pgs. 107-108

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## Anthem

*Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured*Johann Crüger  
(1598-1662)

Let thy Blood in mercy poured,  
 Let thy gracious Body broken,  
 Be to me, O gracious Lord,  
 Of thy boundless love the token.

Thou didst give thyself for me, now I give myself to thee.

By the thorns that crowned thy brow,  
 By the spear-wound and the nailing,  
 By the pain and death, I now claim,  
 O Christ, thy love unfailing.

John Brownlie (1859-1925)

## Sermon

## Inexplicable Love

Keatan King

*Silence and stillness*

## ✠ Hymn 529

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

UNION SEMINARY



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Here we touch your gar - ment's hem.  
 lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

On this bittersweet night, Holy God...who taught us to pray, saying...

**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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;  
for Thine is the Kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of God's Gifts

#### Communion of the People

*Please come forward via the center aisle, receive the bread and take a cup of juice,  
then return to your seat via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available.*

**Communion Voluntary** *O Mensch, beweine deine Sünde groß*, BWV 622      Johann Sebastian Bach  
("O Man, bemoan your great sin")      (1685-1750)

#### Gospel Reading

John 13:21-38

N.T. pg. 108

#### Stripping of the Church

*Canticle of Simeon* | Nunc dimittis

John Weaver

*Refrain (choir first, then all)*

Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and  
guard us sleep - ing; that, a - wake, we may watch with  
Christ, and, a - sleep, rest in his peace.

*Cantor:*

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.      *Refrain – All*

#### Voluntary

*O Welt, ich muß dich lassen*, Op. 122/3  
("O World, I now must leave you")

Johannes Brahms  
(1833-1897)

#### Depart in Silence

*The service continues on Good Friday at 12 noon and 8:00 p.m.*

## SERVING TODAY

### Liturgists

Omar Rouchon | John Wurster

### Musicians

Matthew Dirst — organist | St. Philip Choir | Justin Langham — director of music

## WORSHIP NOTES

Through the ages, Christians have gathered on Maundy Thursday to remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples on the same night when he was later betrayed. Our word, "maundy," comes from the Latin word, *mandatum*, meaning "commandment." For on this night, Jesus said, "I am giving 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" (John 13:34-35). The stripping of the church at the end of the service symbolizes the desertion of those who shared the meal with Jesus that night.

### Today's Lectionary readings:

- Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14 — *Before the exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.*
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 — *What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.*
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 — *Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's Supper.*
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35 — *Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss.

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## **HOLY WEEK** *at St. Philip*

### **GOOD FRIDAY** **APRIL 18**

**12 P.M. | SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE AND SONG**  
WITH CECELIA DUARTE

**8 P.M. | TENEBRAE SERVICE OF DARKNESS**  
FEATURING FANZ LISZT'S "VIA CRUCIS"

### *When I Rise Up*

### **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19 | 5 P.M.**

CECELIA DUARTE (MEZZO-SOPRANO), ANDREEA MUȚ (PIANO), & MATTHEW DIRST (ORGAN)  
MUSIC THAT WILL INSPIRE, UPLIFT, AND RENEW THE SPIRIT  
IN PREPARATION FOR EASTER MORNING.

### **EASTER SUNDAY** **APRIL 20 | 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.**

FESTIVAL SERVICES WITH COMMUNION,  
ST. PHILIP CHOIR, AND BRASS ENSEMBLE

**BREAKFAST AND EASTER ACTIVITIES BETWEEN SERVICES.**

**PLEASE BRING FLOWERS FOR THE TRADITIONAL  
FLOWERING OF THE CROSS OUTSIDE THE SANCTUARY  
ON EASTER SUNDAY.**





[ GUEST BOOK ]

### Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

Please register your attendance by scanning the QR code or by visiting the Guest Book tab at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net).

### AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST,

**we seek to be an inclusive,  
grace-filled community,  
engaging the world with open minds,  
willing hands and generous hearts.**

### WE LONG

**for deeper faith,  
vibrant hope  
and boundless love  
for everyone, every day, everywhere.**

**Thank you for joining us today!** We hope that you find our worship together to be joyous, meaningful, and thought-provoking. **Children of all ages** are welcome to worship with their families. Activity bags containing worship aids for children are available in the narthex on the way into the sanctuary.

**Nursery care** is available throughout the morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Infants to age 4 are invited to our Nursery which is staffed by professional childcare providers. Please find our Nursery in Room 100 off of the Gathering Area on the first floor. An usher or a greeter will be happy to direct you there.

**A Hearing Loop** is installed within the sanctuary. If you have a hearing aid equipped with a telecoil, please activate your “T switch” to hear the worship service most clearly. If you need assistance with hearing the service clearly and do not have a t-coil equipped hearing aid, please ask an usher for wireless headphones. **LARGE PRINT COPIES OF TODAY’S BULLETINS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.**

**Connect with St. Philip** through [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net) and our social media. To join our e-mail list for regular news updates, send a note to [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net).

**If you are interested in joining St. Philip Presbyterian Church** by profession of faith, by reaffirming your faith, or by transferring your membership, please speak with one of the ministers today or call the church office during the week. **The Session meets the third Sunday of each month after the 11:00 worship service in the Library for the purpose of receiving new members.**

**Worship with us, whenever, wherever.** Our 11:00 a.m. Sunday service is live-streamed at [saintphilip.net](http://saintphilip.net). Services can be viewed live or later in our video archives.

**Contributions**, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website, text “SPPC” to 73256 and follow the prompts, or sent to the Church Office at 4807 San Felipe, Houston, TX 77056. To make stock contributions contact Denise Ferrell at [denise@saintphilip.net](mailto:denise@saintphilip.net).

**Lost & Found**—did you leave a pair of glasses, umbrella, or other item during worship? There is a canvas basket in the library where these items may be found. Jewelry, phones and more valuable items are turned into Lorrie Castle in the Church Office, [lorrie@saintphilip.net](mailto:lorrie@saintphilip.net) or 713-622-4807.

**I Give Electronically**—in response to parents’ hopes that their children might be able to see their ongoing commitment to St. Philip and with the intent to better represent the totality of our giving as a congregation, we have available in the pews giving cards that can be placed in the offering plate by our electronic givers.



**Nametags**—Please wear your nametags not just in the sanctuary, but as you socialize before and after worship and at other events. To make it easier, if you don't want to bring your nametag home, there are labeled wicker BASKETS by several exit doors for you to return your nametag at the last possible moment! Those returned tags will be replaced on the boards in the narthex before the following Sunday morning. Visitor nametags are available in the pews and from an usher.