

Maundy Thursday 2026 "Pressed"

Matthew 26:36-41, Thursday, April 2, 2026

Title Slide 1 People had been hearing about Jesus—His words, His miracles including Lazarus raised from the dead, His upholding the law of Moses, but NOT as the religious leaders. Where is He? Is He coming? And this day after the Sabbath was the 10th of Nisan, the day when Exodus 12:3 notes that each household was to select their lamb for the Passover meal (Logos commentary). In a time filled with tradition and the words of that tradition, Jesus joins the thousands coming to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, and this He does in ways associated with the Messiah, the Promised One of whom the prophets spoke. Seeing this, the crowds shouted, "Hosanna", save us, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." And Jesus came, on a donkey, while they worshipped and honored Him. Stop them. No, Jesus said—it is right. But while they cheered, Jesus dried His tears, for He had wept as He had approached the city. Jerusalem, you look so beautiful, but soon, you will be destroyed "because you did not recognize the time of your visitation." Lk. 19:44 Jesus looks around the temple and returns to Bethany. **Slide 2** **But** that was Sunday—the day the paschal lamb was set aside for the Passover meal. The people continued to talk—Who is this? And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee." Matt. 21:10-11 But the chief priests were indignant at those ascribing fulfillment of prophecy to Jesus. While confusion and tension concerning His identity continued, Jesus knew what must take place. It was all part of the Godhead's plan. But first there were a few more things to teach His disciples. On **Monday**, Jesus, sees a fig tree, looks for figs, and finds no figs. Mark notes that it made sense because it was not the season for figs (Mk. 11:12-14). However, Jesus CURSES the tree—"May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" WHAT? It says, His disciples were listening, never to forget this incident. They continued to the temple where Jesus overturns the business of worship declaring words of Scripture, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a robbers' den. Mark 11:17 What? The religious leaders have had enough. He MUST be eliminated. Some Greeks on their way to worship at the feast of the Passover asked to see Jesus. Word gets to Jesus

Slide 3 Reader: 23 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. 26 "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Congregation: 27 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 28 "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." John 12:23–28 (NASB95)

Slide 4 **But** those listening, the crowds, the people of Israel didn't understand. Even the disciples themselves didn't fully understand some things, like the temple incident or the fig tree.

Slide 5 Reader: 20 Seeing this, the disciples were amazed and asked, "How did the fig tree wither all at once?" 21 And Jesus answered and said to them,

Congregation: "Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. Matthew 21:20–21 (NASB95)

Slide 6 **WHAT?** So many questions. But they were not the only ones w questions. **Tuesday** finds Jesus back at the temple in Jerusalem where the religious leaders demand an answer—"By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" Matt. 21:23 Jesus answers them this and other questions asked. But did they really want to hear? Would they believe it as God's truth? Because of their rejection of His teaching, Jesus not only rejected them, He told others to watch out for them. "Beware!" Listen to them, do what they tell you, but do "NOT do according to their deeds." Matt. 23:3. Jesus then pronounces 8 woes against them after which Jesus shows great compassion and longing for Jerusalem

Slide 7 **Congregation:** 37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Matthew 23:37–39 (NASB95)

I love you, I've sent prophets to tell you of Me, of My goodness to you and you would not hear. Not only would you not hear, but you acted in line with your true belief—you rejected them. You stoned them. Therefore, you will be judged.

Slide 8 **Congregation:** 38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! 39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' "

Note, even this judgment doesn't come without hope. There would be time to celebrate His coming again. Would they be ready that time? Jesus continues to teach with example— **Slide 9** **Look** at that widow's small gift in comparison with those with great gifts? Mark 12:43–44 (NASB95) 43 Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she

owned, all she had to live on.” There IS a way to live pleasing the Lord. It just won’t look like you would always think. Look carefully. But for now, Jesus still spoke of judgment.

Slide 10 Reader: 1 Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. 2 And He said to them,

Congregation: “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” 3 As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Matthew 24:1–3 (NASB95)

Slide 11 And Jesus taught those hungry to learn, giving what is called the “Olivet Discourse,” explaining the signs of His return. And when he finished we all understand, right? WHAT? That was Tuesday. **Wednesday** brings Jesus’ prediction of His crucifixion in two days, and Judas’ agreement to betray Jesus. And now we come to **Maundy Thursday**—the night to celebrate the Passover meal. They reserved the room, made the preparations, The Lamb reserved now slain—they celebrated together. A somber time, but filled with the familiarity and security of their heritage. But then Jesus says,

Slide 12 Congregation: “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” Lk. 22:15-16

Slide 13 Jesus then got up, and taught by word and example, taken the basin and the towel, washing their feet—Teaches, wash one another’s feet. Jesus announces betrayal, Judas Leaves, Jesus predicts Peter’s denial, the disciple’s talk about who is the greatest—we have what is called the upper room discourse—a new commandment I give you, love one another as I have loved you. And where is their mind—teaching, questions, betrayal, conflict—where is your mind? Note Jesus’ taking the lead—love, compassion, telling what was to come—He loved His own to the very end. It is a night of deep—deep darkness, but deep love.

Stand and remain standing after this song.

Slide 14-17 *Hymn# 177: What Wondrous Love Is This

Slide 18 This love is great. Greater than any attention you can give to the work of Christ for trusting sinners. Take the focus from yourself to contemplate the love of the Trinity for each other. Pastor Jahn will speak of the pressure of Gethsemane. Now contemplate the love of the Trinity for the one made in their image who marred that image leading to the silence of God as Jesus asks for the cup of suffering to pass from Him. In THIS context, hear the familiar words, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” THIS silence shows the gravity of sin and the cost of the love planned by the Trinity to bring you back to God at God’s expense. Listen as this poem speaks of the press, the squeezing of the Son of God so we might experience the love of God. Hear not merely love through suffering, but love experienced HOW? Listen to the ending.

Slide 19-21 Poem: The Agony (by George Herbert) (read by Jody Wenger)

Slide 22-25 Choir: I Sing Thy Love

Slide 26 Sermon: “Pressed” Matthew 26:36-41

Slide 27 The Lord’s Table

Slide 28 As they ate the Passover meal together, their minds and emotions were all over the place—some tradition, some sobriety because of the tensions surrounding this journey to Jerusalem, SOME foolishness as they argued over their position and dignity. But all but Judas trusted the One leading the ceremony. He took the bread, He took the cup, He had more to teach—They would learn more of the new significance of this evening—have you? Sing what we celebrated.

Slide 29-34 *Hymn Powerpoint: Behold the Lamb (Communion Hymn)

Slide 35 Tonight, the Last Supper the upper room discourse, and then what we just heard preached during their time in Gethsemane—all given for us to contemplate. JESUS showed the obedience required for the great love we would experience. It benefits you and me if we submit to it, but the glory of this act goes ALL to God. You will never know the obedience of faith until your gaze willingly lingers, is attracted to the love of God shown among the Godhead and by its obedience, extended to you. Sing as we close.

Slide 36-39 Hymn #119 (Red): ‘Tis Midnight—and on Olive’s Brow