



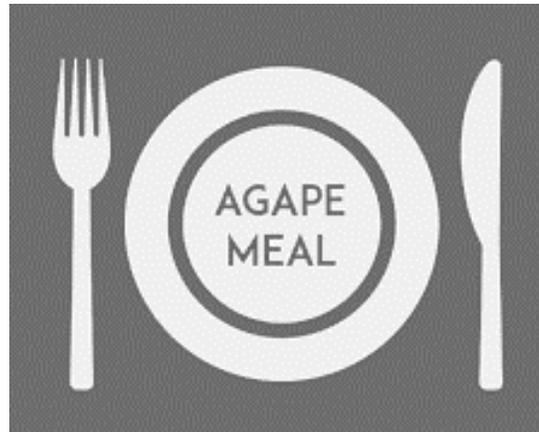
# SAINT JOHN'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Rooted in God, Growing in Faith*

576 Concord Road  
Glen Mills, PA 19342  
SaintJohnsConcord.com 610-459-2994

Maundy Thursday: Agape Meal  
April 2, 2026 6 p.m.



**The Rev. Jill M. LaRoche Wikel – Rector**  
**The Rev. Terry Dinovo – Pastoral Care Chaplain**  
**The Rev. Elizabeth Brickle – Deacon**

**Mission of Saint John's**

**To be a welcoming community committed to seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.**

*The word "agape" is the Greek word used in the New Testament for the highest and broadest kind of self-giving Love, the kind of Love that is our source, our true life in this life, and our eternal reality.*

*Many Christian communities have the custom of sharing a simple meal before or after the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, as part of the commemoration of the two maundys (maundy = commandment) of the Lord, to "love one another" and to break bread "in remembrance of me."*

*We know that our Lord shared a last meal with his disciples. In the Gospel of John (chapter 13), at this meal Jesus washed the feet of his twelve disciples saying, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another" (John 13:34). At this supper, our Lord instituted – created the new tradition of – what St. Paul called "the Lord's Supper" in which Jesus gives new meaning to bread and wine shared at this meal (see Luke 22:14-20).*

*Welcome to this holy evening, this Agape Meal, this Love Feast.*

## OPENING ACCLIMATION

*Leader:* Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

*People: Hosanna in the highest!*

## CALL TO THE FEAST

*Leader:* Out of darkness came light;

*People: And the power of God was revealed  
in the running wave and the flowing air, in the quiet earth and the shining stars.*

*Leader:* Out of the dust came life;

*People: And the image of God was revealed  
in the human face and gentle heart, in the warmth of flesh and depth of soul.*

*Leader:* Out of justice came freedom;

*People: And the wisdom of God was revealed  
in the need to grow and the will to love, in the chance to know and the power to  
choose.*

*Leader:* And God looked at the creation,

*People: And behold, it was very good.*

## THE BLESSINGS

*Lift up the item you are offering to God as you say these blessings.*

### *Over Wine*

*Leader:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and on this night you have refreshed us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever.

*People: Amen.*

### *Over Bread*

*Leader:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; and on this night you have given us the bread of life in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever.

*People: Amen.*

### *Over the Other Foods*

*Leader:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You have blessed the earth to bring forth food to satisfy our hunger. Let this food strengthen us in the feast that is before us, that following our Savior in the way of the cross, we may come to the joy of his resurrection. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever.

*People: Amen.*

*The community may eat as they reflect on the following readings.*

## **SACRED SCRIPTURE READINGS**

*New Testament Scriptures*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-15*

*Reader:* A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

***People: Thanks be to God.***

*The Gospel*

*John 15:5-17*

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel of John.

On his last night, Jesus was at supper with his disciples. Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*Leader:* Let us pray. Christ our Lord, your love is poured out in death for our sakes: Hold us in your embrace as we wait for Easter's dawn. Comfort us with the promise that no power on earth, not even death itself, can separate us from your love; and strengthen us to wait until you are revealed to us in all your risen glory. **Amen.**

*The service concludes with the following:*

*Leader:* The Lord Jesus, after he shared a meal with his disciples and had 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.**

*Leader:* 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.**

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

*Leader:* Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God.  
St. John's welcomes all to our diverse, inclusive, and affirming community.*

*Please join us for Maundy Thursday worship in the church beginning at 7 PM.*

*Please note: the church office will be closed on Monday, April 6.*

<b>Office:</b> office@SaintJohnsConcord.com 610-459-2994	<b>Church Office Hours:</b> Monday – Friday: 9 AM – 1 PM <b>SaintJohnsConcord.com</b> facebook.com/saintjohnsconcord instagram.com/saintjohnsconcord youtube.com/saintjohnsconcord <b>Talking about us on social media? Be sure to use our hashtag #SJConcord</b>
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