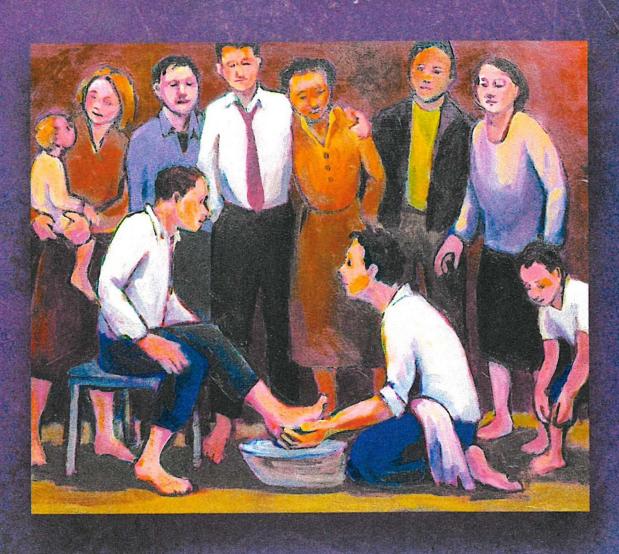
# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

JOHN 13:34





# March 28, 2024

#### **AS WE GATHER**

The whole salvation story, woven throughout the pages of sacred Scripture, leads to a feast. As we gather for worship this Thursday of Holy Week, we experience the same: everything leads us to a feast. Who are the ones welcomed to this feast? Only those who are poor, crippled, blind, and lame are invited (Luke 14:21). Only the bankrupt are welcome here. Only those who know they can never repay the Host of this Meal for His loving kindness are welcome to sit at His Table. "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God" (Luke 14:15). How blessed we are to eat His bread and drink from His cup together this day! For in the sacred feast our nail-scarred Host has prepared, we who lack so much are given everything we could possibly need.

#### **REGARDING COMMUNION**

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord's Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ's Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.

If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion, please let Pastor or an Elder know.

#### **Liturgical Color:**

#### Scarlet is the color of blood—associated with the Lord's passion (suffering).

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but will be removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

Prayers for your use before and during today's service can be found at the very front of the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Let us gather and endeavor prayerfully!

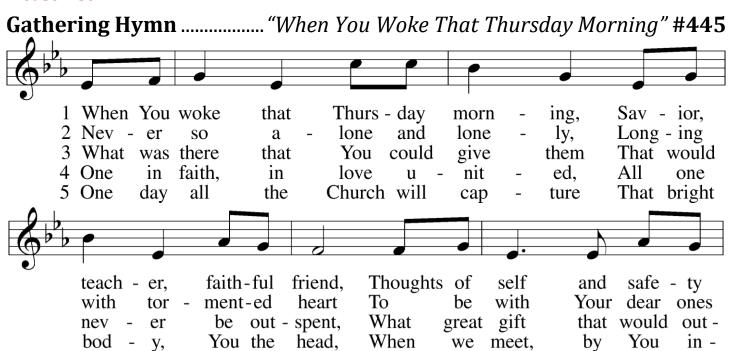
Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit. A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time. Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.

**Prelude** ......Jerrode Marsh

#### **Pastoral Welcome**

#### **▼ PREPARATION ▼**

#### Please rise.



And

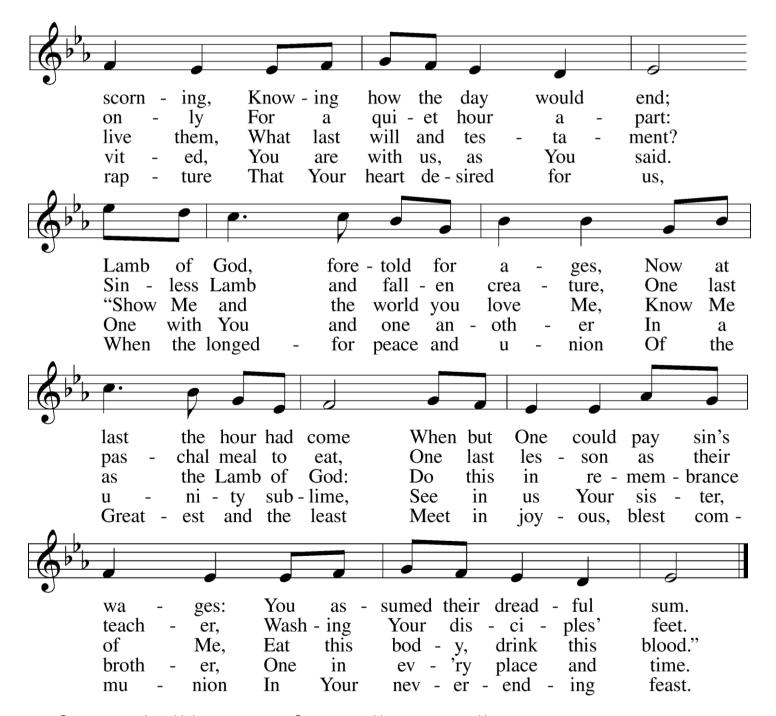
Your saints

glo - ri - ous,

sion

will know

the



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#### **Invocation**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

#### **Confession and Absolution**

P By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this day to receive our Savior's mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

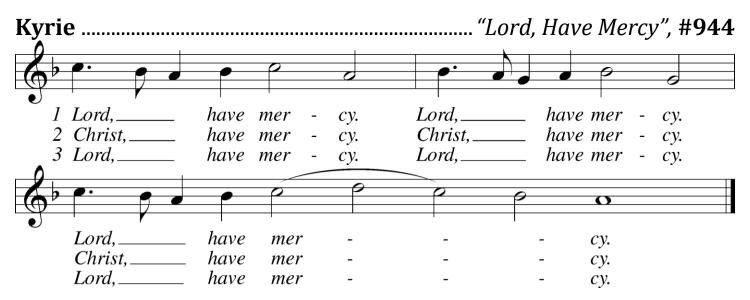
In silent prayer, we reflect on God's Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

- P Together, let us pray:
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

### ₩ WORD ₩

Psalm 116:12-19 ..... (spoken responsively)

- **P** I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.
- for all His benefits to me?
  I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
  I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.
  Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.
  - O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.
- **P** I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.
- I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!
- I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.



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#### **Salutation**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.

# Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion.
- Grant that we who can never repay You for Your mercy may be blessed as we eat with You in the kingdom of God;
- **P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

#### Please be seated.

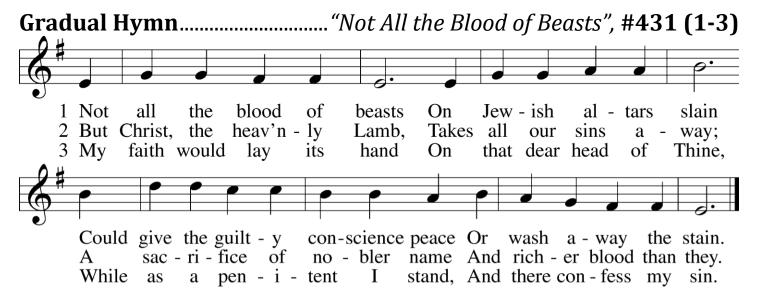
### Old Testament ..... Exodus 12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

"Then 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 flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and 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 are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



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# Epistle Reading ...... 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, 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 guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, 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.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

#### Verse

- P Having loved His own who were in the world,
- **G** He loved them to the end.

Holy Gospel ......John 13:1-17, 31b-35

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You call

me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

#### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God. the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

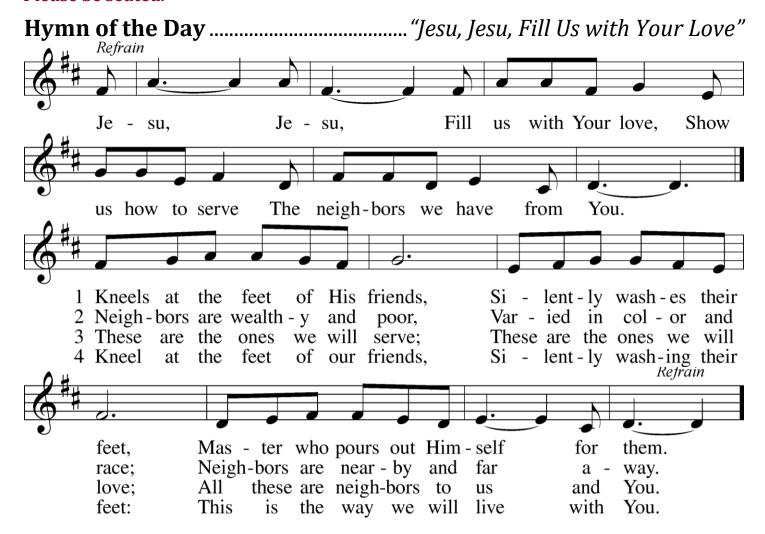
the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### Please be seated.



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Sermon....."Washed, Fed, & Washing"

(At the end of the sermon, all will be welcomed to come forward and put their slip of paper in the washbasin by the baptismal font. When all have done so, Pastor will have a prayer of dedication.)

### Offering/Offertory

#### Please rise.

# **Prayer of the Church**

- **P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- We belong to You, O Lord. Renew us, guide us, and lead us so that we may bless Your holy name and celebrate the feast You have prepared for us,
- for Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

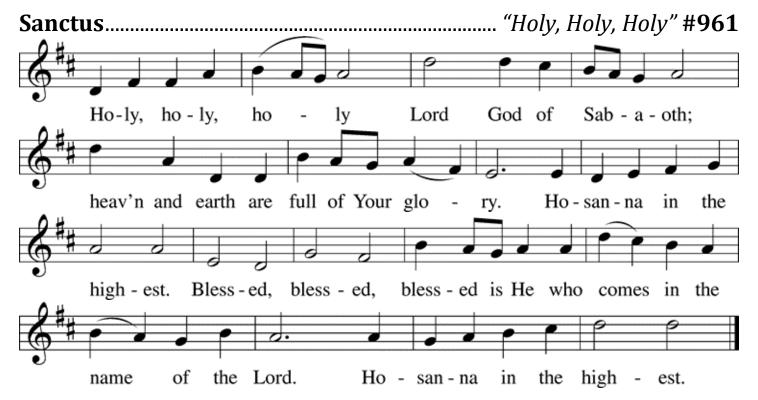
# **★ SACRAMENT**

#### **Preface**

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

# **Proper Preface**

**P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and singing:



# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Because He is the very Bread of Life who satisfies our hungry hearts, we say with the Scripture:
- Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!
- P Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of Christ's cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

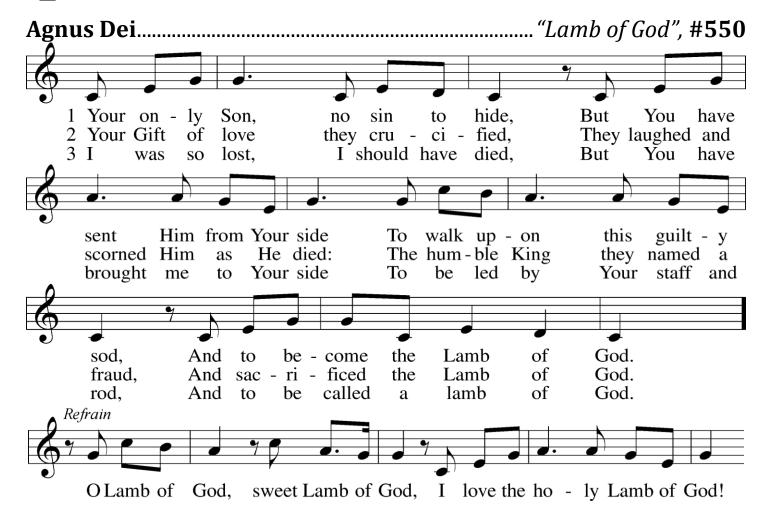
# Lord's Prayer

#### The Words of Our Lord

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

#### Pax Domini

- f P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.





O wash me in His pre-cious blood, My Je-sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

#### **Communion Distribution**

You might want to use the prayers "Before communing" and "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament" inside the front cover of the hymnal for your devotional meditation.

The altar bread being used tonight was made in our kitchen by parishioners in a prayerful workshop, as is our Holy Thursday tradition. It is similar to what Jesus likely used with his disciples.

### Silent and Instrumental Music for Reflection

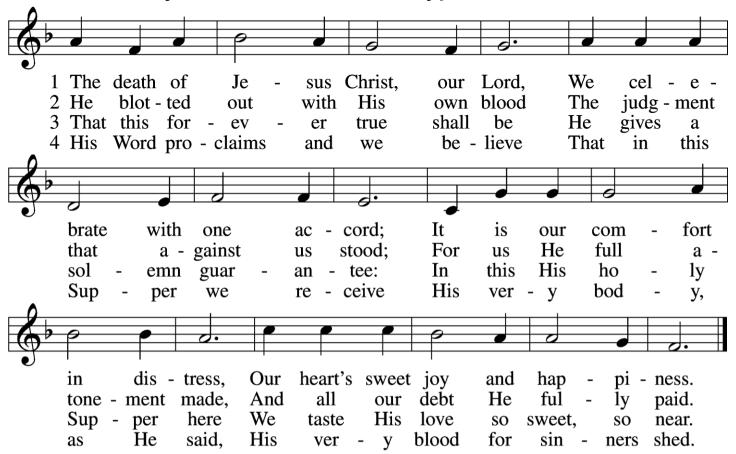
Communion Hymn .. "Lord Jesus Christ You Have Prepared" #622 (1,4,6,8)





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# Communion Hymns ...... "The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord" #634



- We dare not ask how this can be, But simply hold the mystery And trust this word where life begins: "Given and shed for all your sins."
- 6 They who this word do not believe This food unworthily receive, Salvation here will never find— May we this warning keep in mind!
- 7 But blest is each believing guest Who in these promises finds rest; For Jesus shall in love remain With all who here His grace obtain.
- 8 Help us sincerely to believe
  That we may worthily receive
  Your Supper and in You find rest.
  Amen! They who believe are blest.

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# **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

- Let us pray. O Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank You for refreshing us through the gift of Your body and blood in this sacred Meal.
- Enable us with renewed minds and hearts to always love and trust in You alone;
- **P** for You live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem ..... "Do Not Be Afraid"

# Stripping of the Altar

Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him," (John 13:31b) just after Judas had left to betray Him. Jesus, in His good time, washed the disciples' feet, inaugurated a new commandment to love one another, and instituted the Lord's Supper for the life of the Church; now the time for Jesus' death was drawing near. As we pray the psalm, which Jesus prayed and fulfilled on the cross, the guild members will remove all linens, vessels, and candles from the chancel—symbolizing the abuse and abandonment our Lord endured in the hours that followed that Passover Meal.

Please rise, as able.

**Psalm 22** .....(spoken responsively)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were rescued;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;

they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O LORD, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

# For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,

and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

# From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!

# All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,

and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

# For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

#### Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

(All leave the sanctuary in silence.)

# There is no benediction because the services Thursday through Saturday are considered one unit—the Triduum—taking us to Easter Sunday.

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#### **Serving us today:**

Elders	Alan Miller, Rich Vanderburgh
Musician	Jerrode Marsh
Altar Committee	Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
	Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee	Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

# This Week's Schedule

Friday	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday Noonday Prayer Service
	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Service (Service will be livestreamed)
Saturday	11:30 a.m.	Lunch and Easter Egg Hunt
	7:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil Service (Begins out front)
Sunday	6:30 a.m.	Greet the Rising "Sun/Son" Prayer Service (Out front)
	7:00 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Communion Service
	10:30 a.m.	Easter Celebration Communion Service
		(Service will be livestreamed)



### **Contact Information**

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

#### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

#### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



#### Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am-5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742 Cell Phone: 660-441-5710 Email: jkurz@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: blcwarrensburg

#### **Office Manager**

Cindy Smith
Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm
660-747-6742
csmith@blchurch.com

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey Wednesday: 1pm-5pm Thursday: 1pm-5pm rholland@blchurch.com

#### Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman
Tuesday: 9am-11am
Thursday: 9am-11am
thillsman@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.