



Maundy Thursday



MAUNDY THURSDAY

24 March 2024 at 6:00 pm

AS WE GATHER

Holy Thursday, the night Jesus was betrayed, began with the disciples celebrating the Passover. Here, Jesus washed His disciples' feet, telling them to love one another, just as He loved them. He took a cup, gave it to His disciples to drink, and commanded them to remember Him by doing likewise. Then we go to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He was betrayed and arrested. On this day, also called Maundy Thursday, we remember the commands of Jesus and celebrate His coming to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

PRESERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WORDS OF INTRODUCTION

This night we know as "the night when Jesus was betrayed" began with a meal. Faithful to all that had been written, Jesus and His disciples would observe the customary Passover meal that was instituted centuries before, prior to the Lord leading and delivering His people out of slavery in Egypt and observed by the faithful each year following.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come together intending to receive our Lord Jesus Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. The Sacrament provides comfort for troubled hearts and freedom from the wrath we deserve.

When we look at our lives and conduct, though, we find sin and rebellion. Worse, we cannot free ourselves by our own strength. "But when Christ appeared as a high priest . . . He entered once for all into the holy places . . . by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins in thought, word, and deed with which I have ever offended You. Although I justly deserve Your punishment in time and eternity, I am truly sorry for them and sincerely repent of them. In Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being, forgive me all my sins, and direct me to walk in Your loving ways.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit, lead you to greater faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SONG OF REDEMPTION

"There Is A Redeemer"

Melody Green

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Chorus

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. **Chorus**

When I stand in glory I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King forever, in that holy place. **Chorus**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Gracious God, Your covenant of love for us came to full fruition in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Guide us to be so moved by the depth of Christ's new covenant of love, that we love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 12:1-14

Bob Cochran

The First Passover

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴And 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and 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.

⁷“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. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

¹¹In 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴“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.”

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 41

Blessèd is the one who considers the poor!

In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

the LORD protects him and keeps him alive;

he is called blessèd in the land;

you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

The LORD sustains him on his sickbed;

in his illness you restore him to full health.

As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me;

heal me, for I have sinned against you!”

My enemies say of me in malice,

“When will he die and his name perish?”

And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,

while his heart gathers iniquity;

when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

All who hate me whisper together about me;

they imagine the worst for me.

They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him;

he will not rise again from where he lies.”

Even my close friend in whom I trusted,

who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

**But you, O LORD, be gracious to me,
and raise me up, that I may repay them!**

By this I know that you delight in me:

my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**But you have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in your presence forever.**

Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel,

from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Grace Perry

The Lord's Supper

²³ 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, ²⁴ 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." ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³² But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE HYMN *“When You Awoke That Thursday Morning”* LSB 445:1

When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

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DRAMATIC NARRATIVE: John 13:1-15 *“Washing the Disciples’ Feet”*

RESPONSIVE HYMN *“Jesus, Greatest at the Table”* LSB 446:1-3

- 1 Jesus, greatest at the table,
 The almighty Son of Man,
 Laid aside His outer clothing,
 Poured some water in a pan;
 As the Twelve lay, hushed in silence,
 He the servant’s task began.
- 2 Marvel how their Lord and teacher
 Gently taught them not to vie
 As He humbly knelt before them,
 Dusty feet to wash and dry,
 By His tender touch expressing
 True compassion from on high.
- 3 Jesus took the role of servant
 When upon that gruesome span,
 For all human sin He suffered
 As a vile and loathsome man;
 On the cross poured out like water
 To fulfill the Father’s plan.

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GOSPEL READING: John 13:16-35

"A Disciple Will Betray Jesus"

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²² The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³ One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴ so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.

²⁵ So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" ²⁶ Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷ Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." ²⁸ Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹ Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰ So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³ 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.' ³⁴ 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. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"Jesus, Greatest at the Table"

LSB 446:5

Jesus gave to His disciples
A commandment that was new:
"Show My love to one another,
Do as I have done for you;
All the world will know you love Me
As you love each other too."

Please stand.

CATECHISM RESPONSE: *The Sacrament of the Altar*

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Love, How Deep"

LSB 544

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake!
- 2 He sent no angel to our race,
Of higher or of lower place,
But wore the robe of human frame,
And to this world Himself He came.
- 3 For us baptized, for us He bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp He knew;
For us the tempter overthrew.
- 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
For us His daily works He wrought,
By words and signs and actions thus
Still seeking not Himself but us.
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us He gave His dying breath.

MESSAGE

"My Close Friend"

Psalm 41:9

Pastor Marty Tyler

JESUS BETRAYED: Mark 14:32-50

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” ³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

³⁶ And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” ³⁷ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹ And he came the third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴³ And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” ⁴⁵ And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁴⁶ And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸ And Jesus said to them, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled.” ⁵⁰ And they all left him and fled.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

"We Praise You, O God"

LSB 785 v 1, 3

We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Father, on the night when He was betrayed, Christ Jesus humbled Himself to stoop down and bathe His disciples' feet, even the feet of the one who would betray Him. Grant us the fervent desire to embody this attitude of service and kindness to all that the love of Christ may abound through all our speech and actions. Hear our prayer and

humble us, O Lord.

On this night, Christ prayed that His disciples would be one in faith. He prayed for those who would hear His disciples' proclamation, that all would come to know that You sent Him into the world to be the light of the world. Just as Christ encouraged others to boldly proclaim the message of salvation, so also hear our prayer and

renew our witness, O Lord.

On this night, Christ acknowledged the world's hatred and persecution of those who confess Him as Lord and Savior. Heavenly Father, fix our eyes constantly on Jesus, that we may remain steadfast in the midst of strife and harassment. Hear our prayer and

grant us Your peace.

On this night, Your Son and our Savior gave us His last will and testament, giving us His true body and blood that we might receive the forgiveness of sins and our faith be nourished. Give us truly penitent hearts that we receive this Sacrament worthily. Cleanse us and feed us that we live godly lives and boldly resound, in word and deed, the one true confession of faith with the whole company of saints, in heaven and on earth.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith whereby we profess at this altar that our Lord Jesus Christ gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Those who desire to receive the Sacrament, who believe in the real presence of Christ's body and blood, in, with and under the bread and wine, are baptized and truly repent of their sins, are welcome at this Table. Those who are not baptized and/or are not yet instructed, or who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are respectfully asked to refrain from partaking in the meal and instead may come to the altar and receive a blessing, or you may remain in your seat during distribution, and afterwards speak with the pastor.

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Psalms 136

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, who humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, and who gathered once with His disciples to fulfill the Passover and deliver His Church the sacred meal of His own flesh and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, and who has gathered us now for this Holy Communion. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

LSB 507:1-3

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,

Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who of Your tender love for all people gave Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to take our nature upon Himself and to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. Gathered at His Table in the fellowship of all the saints, we pray You to send down Your Holy Spirit on us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Gathered at Your gracious invitation, we bring You our thanksgiving and pray that we be filled with all Your heavenly blessings; To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

(1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20)

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"The Lamb"

LSB 547:1-2

The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain

Worthy is the Lamb
Whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

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Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

LSB 637

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

LSB 622

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.
- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,
- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.
- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand,
 Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now
 At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be;
Your Word alone suffices me;
 I trust its truth unfailing.
- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
 Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
 And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
 And is my priceless treasure.
- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
 Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
 May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
 In holiness increasing.
- 8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
 Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
 The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
 When living and when dying.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb,

Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;

And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.

And when from death I’m free,

I’ll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,

And through eternity I’ll sing on.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

We give thanks to You, gracious God, for having received us as guests at Your Table and fed us this Meal. As we prepare to approach again the remembrance of your beloved Son’s suffering and death upon the cross, renew our strength through this gracious gift, that we may serve You with all our heart, mind, body, and soul; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

✠ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

Immediately following the POST-COMMUNION COLLECT, the closing hymn is sung, during which the communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn service of Good Friday. The altar is stripped as a symbol of the abandonment our Lord endured in the hours that would follow and a reminder of how Jesus was stripped of His clothes and ultimately His life, in payment for our sins. No benediction concludes this service as an indication that the worshipful reflection continues for three more days.

PASSION HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
- 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

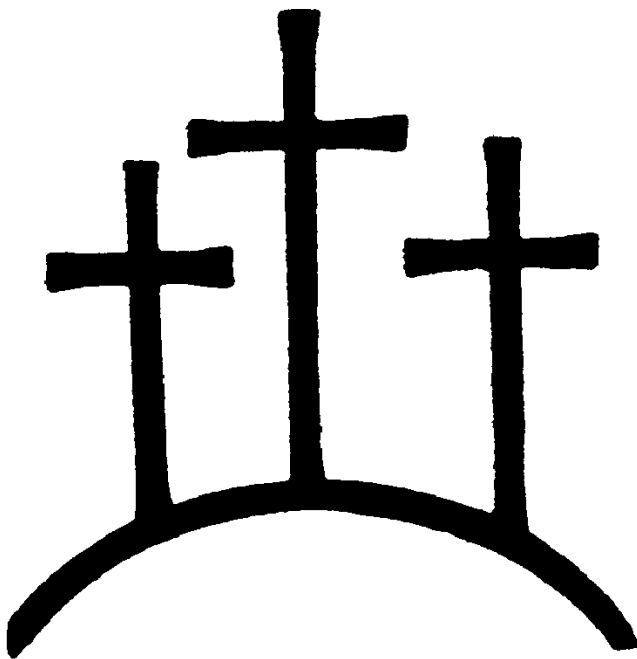
At the conclusion of the Stripping of the Altar, all leave the sanctuary in silence.

Please place your offering in the “I BRING AN OFFERING TO THE LORD” grey box by the ushers’ station as you leave the Sanctuary this evening. Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."
Isaiah 53:5



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

"Service of Darkness"
GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE
6:00 pm March 29th

"Keep Watch"
VIGIL OF EASTER
6:00 pm March 30th

"Celebration of the Resurrection"
EASTER FESTIVAL SERVICE
10:15 am March 31ST

FRIENDS & FAMILY EASTER BRUNCH
Immediately following the service