

MAUNDY THURSDAY
MARCH 28, 2024

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Exodus: “Let My People Go!”
2024

Tonight’s Theme:

All too often we don’t have the right connections with the right person at the right time to accomplish all the right things. If we could just obtain access. The good news is that through Jesus’ blood we have unlimited access!

Prayer Before worship:

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

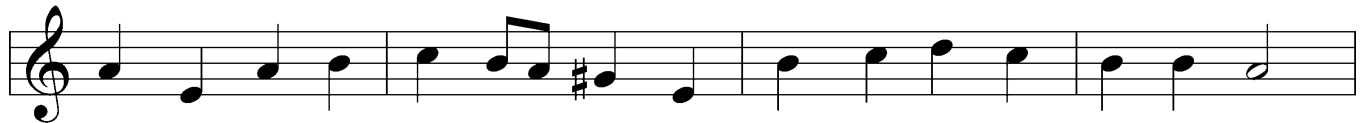
GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: And also with you.

HYMN “On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life’s rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope’s foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758. Text and tune: Public domain

stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the *†* Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

From selected verses in Psalm 78

P: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language.

C: **Judah became his sanctuary, Israel his dominion.**

P: The sea looked and fled,

C: **The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.**

P: Tremble at the presence of the Lord,

C: **At the presence of the God of Jacob!**

P: Who turns the rock into a pool of water,

All: **The flint into a spring of water.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

From selected verses in Romans 7

P: Hear me, merciful and mighty Father, as I confess my bondage to sin and death.

C: **I know that nothing good lives in me.**

P: That is, in my sinful nature.

C: **I have the desire to do good.**

P: But I cannot carry it out.

C: **What I do is not the good I want to do.**

P: No, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.

C: **I find this law at work—**

P: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

C: **In my inner being I delight in your law.**

P: But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war and making me a prisoner of the law of sin and death.

All: **Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

*You are invited to silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,
Christ's love is greater.*

P: Who will rescue me from this body of death? Hear the good news! The same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage also delivers you from your body of sin and death. Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed and his blood forgives you and sets you free! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the **†** Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

KYRIE

P: Lord, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament you have left us a remembrance of your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of your body and blood that the fruits of your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

sit

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS ARE ABOUT ACCESS THROUGH BLOOD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:1–11

¹Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship from afar. ²Moses alone shall come near to the LORD, but the others shall not come near, and the people shall not come up with him."

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." ⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot

of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.

⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.

¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 5:1–10

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

stand

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:26–30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED (*Luther’s Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Apostles’ Creed*)

LSB PAGE 322

sit

SERMON HYMN “Just As I Am”

LSB 570 v. 1-3, 6



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
6 Just as I am; Thy love un-known Has bro - ken



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
ev - 'ry bar - rier down; Now to be Thine, yea, Thine a -



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871. Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68. Text and tune: Public domain

Israel's leaders had to worship from afar. Why? Because we're all born **d**_____ in our trespasses & sins. By nature, we are God's **e**_____. We are fading leaves, empty cisterns and flowers quickly fading. We are **r**_____, **p**_____, prone to **w**_____, **h**_____ - **h**_____, **s**_____ and **I**_____ in sin. Moses gets to come near because he was the **m**_____ between God and Israel. **"Moses took the b_____ and threw it on the people."** **B**_____ is how the Israelites got out of Egypt. **B**_____ is how we gain access to God. **C**_____ blood is all we need! By the blood of Jesus, we gain unlimited **a**_____ to God! By the blood of Jesus, we enter God's presence with **c**_____!

"Unlimited access is God's gift in Christ, at this table, for you!"

"Therefore, brothers, we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus." Heb. 10:19

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *[Based on Romans 5:16 and Hebrews 10:19]*

P: Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ: Almighty Father, we thank and praise you that through Jesus,

C: **"We have gained access."**

P: Protect your Church from the temptation to compromise this message of salvation, as well as from the temptation to remain silent, that your pure Word, passionately proclaimed and guided by the Holy Spirit, may be an occasion for all people to know that through Jesus,

C: **"We have gained access by faith."**

P: Let us pray for all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the church, and for all the people of God, that with our lips and our lives we declare that,

C: **"We have gained access by faith into this grace."**

P: Lord, at your Son's invitation, we come to his table. Help us to discern in the bread his true body and in the cup his true blood. Give us, by your Holy Spirit, a right judgment of ourselves, that lamenting our sins we would receive pardon and absolution, all because,

C: **"We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."**

P: These prayers, and those we silently place before you, we place before you, O God, because

All: **"We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus."**

SPECIAL PRAYERS

P: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

All: **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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory,

honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: 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."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

sit

*[Silent Prayer: Jesus, I come to you,
for you have broken every barrier down! Amen.]*

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Lamb"

LSB 547

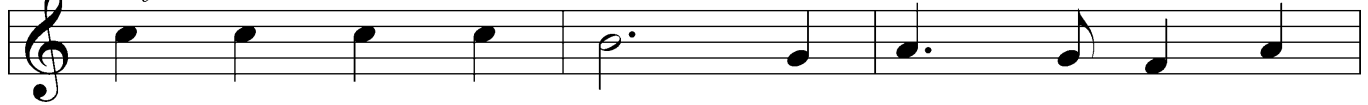


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953. Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

LSB 845



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
 3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
 char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
 we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
 all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
 mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
 oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
 that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
 Dwells Christ, His only Son;
 As members of His body joined
 We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt. Tune: Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842
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"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

LSB 436



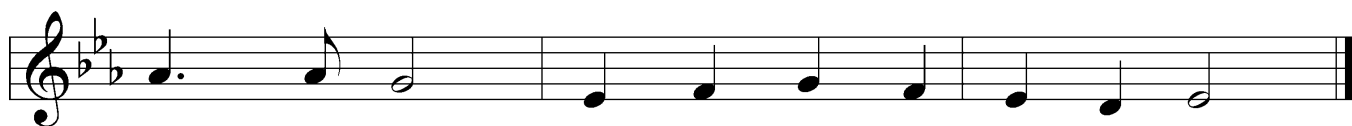
1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm-wood and the gall!
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,
 breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"
 Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901. Text and tune: Public domain

stand

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, in love and mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh. We thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Grant us faith always to trust that by the water and blood that flowed from Your pierced side You have fully and freely poured out Your forgiveness upon us all; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

[removal of all ornaments, linens and paraments]

Removal of all ornaments, linens and paraments, is an ancient Church custom on Maundy Thursday, pointing to Christ's humiliation at the hands of the soldiers.

After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's life moved rapidly: Jesus prays in Gethsemane, is betrayed by Judas and arrested, suffers a mock trial and painful beatings, leading to His trudge to Golgotha and execution.

As His life was stripped from Him, we strip our altar of the signs of life to point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us. Jesus said, **"I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness."** At Golgotha, the life of Jesus, the Light of the world, was snuffed out and creation was dark, so we extinguish our candles.

Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering us and to the world in sending His Incarnate Son, Jesus. As the offered body of Jesus was removed in burial, so are our offerings removed.

The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

Jesus' offered Body and shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was placed in the grave and removed from us, we remove the Sacramental elements and vessels.

Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade; materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

RESPONSIVE READING OF PSALM 22

P: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

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

P: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C: **In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

P: To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

C: **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

P: All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

C: **“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”**

P: Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.

C: **On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.**

P: Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

C: **Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

P: they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

C: **I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted with in my breast;**

P: my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

C: **For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—**

P: I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;

C: **they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.**

- P: But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
- C: **Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!**
- P: Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
- C: **I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**
- P: 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!
- C: **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.**
- P: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- C: **The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!**
- P: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
- C: **For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**
- P: 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.
- C: **Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;**
- P: they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.
- ALL: 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.**

*++ After the stripping of the altar is complete,
all may leave the church silently. ++*



Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service. Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Holy Communion. Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, *"This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- *"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 upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do **I repent** of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do **I intend** to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way?

We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

**Peace Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod**

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

YouTube: Peace Neenah

