THE INSTITUTING WORD:

TAKE, EAT; THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. THIS DO IN REMEMBERANCE OF ME.

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.



HOLY THURSDAY

THE INSTITUTING WORD

It is Passover night, the night before the day the children of Israel walked though blood-stained doorways into freedom and life as God's people. This is the paschal night, the night of the remembrance meal—the hard, unleavened bread, the bitter herbs, the lamb roasted to dry toughness. The Lamb's blood painted on the doorposts. It is the night of judgment and death as God seeks out the blood. Under the blood of the lamb, you are safe. Death passes over. Without the blood you are dead. It is neither safe nor salutary to deal with God apart from the blood of the Lamb.

ABOUT THIS EVENING'S SERVICE: As part of our Holy Week worship life, we are observing in part an ancient custom of the Early Christian Church. The services held beginning with the evening worship on Maundy Thursday (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday---the Triduum) were thought of as one long, continuous service.

Even though people go home to rest and carry out their necessary responsibilities, they are encouraged to remember that at least in spirit, they are still worshiping and remembering the events of Holy Week. There is no benediction at the end of this service, which indicates the thought that the service continues for two more days.

RESPONSES

P = Pastor **C** = Congregation

★ SERVICE OF CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION **★**

You may stand

INVOCATION AND EXHORTATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- **P** I will go to the altar of God,
- **C** to God my exceeding joy.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.

You may be seated

CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

P During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. It is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. This holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and

to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with the wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

- C Amen.
- P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.
- C Amen.

You may stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
- C Amen.
- P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- C Yes.

- **P** Let it be done for you as you believe.
- 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.
- C Amen.
- P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in

 → peace.
- C Amen.

HYMNLSB 615 STS. 1–2

- When in the hour of deepest need We know not where to look for aid; When days and nights of anxious thought No help or counsel yet have brought,
 - 2 Then is our comfort this alone That we may meet before Your throne; To You, O faithful God, we cry For rescue in our misery.

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SALUTATION AND 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, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

♣ SERVICE OF THE WORD ♣

You may be seated

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3-11

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.
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C Thanks be to God.

HYMNLSB 431 STS. 1-2

- 1 Not all the blood of beasts
 On Jewish alters slain
 Could give the guilty conscience peace
 Or wash away the stain.
 - But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
 Takes all our sins away;
 A sacrifice of nobler name
 And richer blood than they.

Text: Public domain

+ THE PASSION ACCOUNT +

VERSE JOHN 13:1B

P Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

PASSION ACCOUNT MARK 14:12–16

(Preparation of the Passover)

¹² And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to Him, "Where will You have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹³ And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

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

HYMN "JESUS, THY BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS"...... LSB 563 STS. 1, 3

- Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
 My beauty are, my glorious dress;
 Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
 With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

Text: Public domain

GRADUAL HEB. 9:12A

- P Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,
- thus securing an eternal redemption.

(Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet)

¹Now 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. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 8Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." 9Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 10 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." 11For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

³¹When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By 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.

HYMNLSB 446 STS. 1, 4

- 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.
- 4 Can we fathom such deep mercy? Do we see what God has done? Who can grasp this great reversal: Love that gives His only Son? Christ, the sinless for the sinners, For the many dies the One.

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GRADUAL Heb. 9:15a

- P Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,
- so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

PASSION ACCOUNT MARK 14:17-25

(Institution of the Lord's Supper)

¹⁷ And when it was evening, He came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me." ¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with Me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

²² And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is My body." ²³ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"WHAT IS THIS BREAD"

LSB 629

1 What is this bread?
Christ's body risen from the dead:
This bread we break,
This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?
 The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
 The cup of grace
 Brings His embrace
 Of life and love until I sing!
 O taste and see—the Lord is King.

3 So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod?
My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

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SERMON

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

♣ PRAYER OF THE CHURCH ♣

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH The prayers of the church are spoken in individual petitions according to the joys and sorrows of our members, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. After each petition, Pastor will close with the words, "Lord, in Your mercy" after which the congregation responds with, "Hear our prayer."

- Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray ... (even those mentioned silently in our hearts) ... trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God.
- C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, 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.

You may stand

+ THE PASSION ACCOUNT +

PASSION ACCOUNT

MARK 14:32-42

(Praying in Gethsemane)

³²And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." ³⁵And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And 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? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹And 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. ⁴²Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

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

2 Watch against the devil's snares
Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares
To deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey
Oft are they
Who secure are sleeping
And no watch are keeping.

To the Lord unceasing.

God protects you day by day,

Strength and faith increasing,

So that still

Mind and will

Shall unite to serve Him

And forever love Him.

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GRADUAL PSALM 111:9a

P He sent redemption to his people;

C he has commanded his covenant forever.

PASSION ACCOUNT MARK 14:43-52

(Betrayal of Jesus by Judas)

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

⁵¹And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵²but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

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

You may be seated

HYMN.....LSB 419 ST. 3

By Thine hour of dire despair,
By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!

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+ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR +

The communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday. Psalm 22 may be read by the congregation during the stripping of the Altar.

PSALM 22

Why Have You Forsaken Me?

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock me;

they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

8"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

15my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
 a company of evildoers encircles me;
 they have pierced my hands and feet—
 ¹⁷I can count all my bones—
 they stare and gloat over me;
 ¹⁸they divide my garments among them,
 and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dog! ²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!

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

- ²²I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- ²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- ²⁴For 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.
- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- ²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
- and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
- ²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹All 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.
- ³⁰Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
- ³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

All leave in silence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Holy Thursday from Lutheran Service Book

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