



# Holy (Maundy) Thursday

28 March 2024

## As We Gather...

Holy (Maundy) Thursday begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the *Triduum Sacrum* (Latin for "sacred three days" -- Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday). The Service for Holy Thursday culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, today's Service exhibits a mood of restrained joy as the Church remembers with thanksgiving the sacrificial death and great salvation of the Lamb of God.

The historic Gospel for this day (John 13) recounts the washing of the disciples' feet by our Lord. Although this *is* an example of Christian love for the neighbor, the foot washing is first and foremost a demonstration of *the Lord's* enduring love for His people and a depiction of our return to Holy Baptism through contrition and faith where *the Lord washes us* clean in those blessed baptismal waters. To emphasize the primacy of our Savior's actions for us, the name "Holy Thursday" is commonly used in place of the well-known "Maundy Thursday." Maundy (from the Latin *mandatum* which means "commandment") comes from the Lord's words in John 13:34: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." Receiving and celebrating both aspects of this important day, the Service for Holy Thursday consists of four parts: 1) the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution, signaling the end of our Lenten preparation with the absolution and peace of Christ; 2) the Service of the Word, focusing upon Christ's sacrificial service to us; 3) the Service of the Sacrament, culminating the Service of Holy Thursday with the Lord's ministry to His people through His true body and blood; and 4) the Stripping of the Altar, demonstrating the depth of Christ's servanthood in preparation for the Church's observance of Jesus' death on Good Friday.

The penitential discipline of Lent has brought us to this point, and Christ Jesus, our Savior, loves us to the end. The dust and ashes of sin and death are washed away by Jesus' word of Holy Absolution, and the One who humbled Himself, even to death, now serves us in love with His own holy body and precious blood, exalting those who have been humbled by the Law throughout this Lenten season. Because the Triduum is seen as one service in three parts, no Benediction is spoken at the conclusion of the Holy Thursday service. The Benediction spoken at the Easter Vigil concludes all the services of the Three Days.

## Prayer before Worship...

Almighty, everlasting God, for our many sins we justly deserve eternal condemnation. In Your mercy You sent Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who won for us forgiveness of sins and everlasting salvation. Grant us a true confession that, dead to sin, we may be raised up by Your life-giving absolution. Through faith in these words, "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," make us ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and send us Your Holy Spirit that we may be ever watchful and live true and godly lives in response to Your great love for us in Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

# ✠ SERVICE OF CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

*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,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**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. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, 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.

*Stand*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **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 my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

**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.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**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.**

*Sit*

### 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.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE**      *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 concerning 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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**LENTEN VERSE**      *John 13:1b*

**C** Having loved his own who were in the world, 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.**C** **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. Jesus said, "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.**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.***Sit*

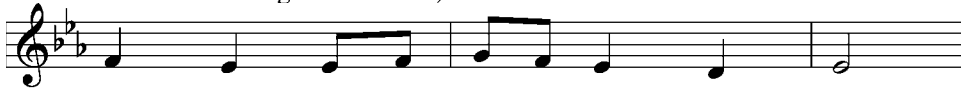
7pm: Sung by stanza as follows: **1 - All; 2 - Women; 3 - Choir; 4 - Men; 5 - All**



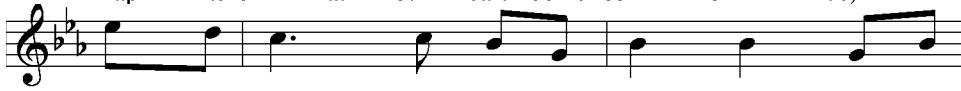
1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,  
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing  
 3 What was there that You could give them That would  
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one  
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



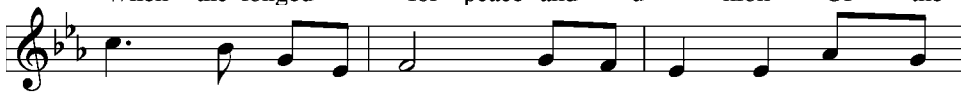
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty  
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones  
 nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -  
 bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -  
 vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;  
 on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:  
 live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?  
 vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.  
 rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at  
 Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last  
 "Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me  
 One with You and one an - oth - er In a  
 When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's  
 pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their  
 as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance  
 u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,  
 Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.  
 teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.  
 of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."  
 broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.  
 mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

SERMON

*Stand*

## 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## OFFERTORY

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it





## SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## LORD'S PRAYER

**O**ur 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.  
**F**or Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

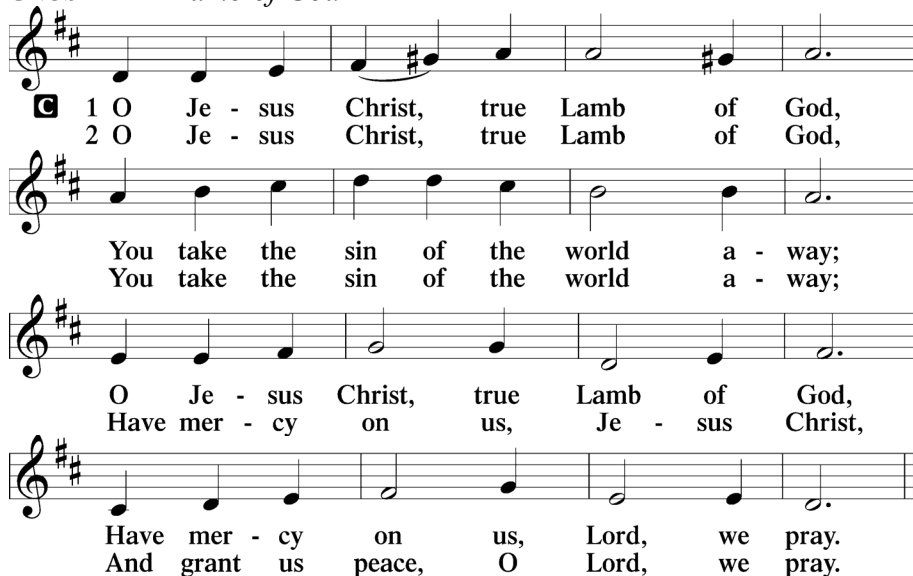
**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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."

## PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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

## AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

### DISTRIBUTION

<i>O Lord, We Praise Thee</i>	LSB 617
7 p.m. Choir – <i>What Is This Bread?</i>	
<i>Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior</i>	LSB 627
<i>Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling</i>	LSB 630

*Stand*

### POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*(The 1 p.m. Service concludes with the reading of PSALM 22. Following the reading, all may leave the church in silence, or you may be seated for silent prayer and meditation.)*

## ✠ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

### PSALM 22

*The depth of Christ's servanthood is demonstrated as the communion vessels are reverently removed, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday. During the Stripping of the Altar, PSALM 22 is chanted by the choir. On Holy Thursday, the Church and her catechumens begin the journey through the three days, commonly known as the Triduum, of Christ's Passover from death to life and from captivity to freedom.*

*Because the Triduum is seen as one service in three parts, no Benediction is spoken at the conclusion of the Holy Thursday service. The Benediction spoken at the Easter Vigil concludes all the services of these three days. At the conclusion of the Stripping of the Altar, all may leave the church in silence, or you may be seated for silent prayer and meditation.*

*Please join us for the rest of our Holy Week Services:*

### **Good Friday – March 29**

Tre Ore: 12-3 p.m.

(Chief Service at 1 p.m. – See March Newsletter for explanation)

Tenebrae Vespers: 7 p.m.

### **Holy Saturday – March 30**

Vigil of Easter: 8 p.m.

### **The Resurrection of our Lord – March 31**

6:30 & 10:30 a.m.