

The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills

Maundy Thursday

April 1, 2021



AS WE GATHER

Our worship tonight on Maundy Thursday takes us to the Upper Room with Jesus and His disciples. Here Jesus gives us a “mandate,” or command, which is why we call our service, Maundy Thursday. A command is graciously given this night to celebrate the Lord’s Supper as a *means of grace* that delivers forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation to all who approach the altar in unworthiness, repentance, and faith.

Especially, we remember our First Communion Class who receives this *means of grace* for the very first time. We pray the Lord’s blessing on our youth, not only on this special night, but also in the days to come.

Eternal Savior, how can my heart show its appreciation of Your love? How can I serve You best, who has loved me and given Your life for me? You have sealed to me the forgiveness of all my sins and offered me reconciliation and peace in the Sacrament You instituted this day. You have promised to give me, with the bread and the cup, Your body and blood for the remission of my sins. Oh, what amazing love! What riches of divine wisdom! In awe and wonderment I ponder this gracious gift. May I ever appreciate this blessed gift that You have invited me to use as a memorial of Your death and a monument of Your redemptive love. May I come worthily each time I approach Your altar.

O Savior, cast me not away from Your presence. Let not my sins remain with me because of my impotence of heart or because I doubt Your Word and promises. Let me become one with You and all Your saints as I receive with them this Sacrament. Make me Yours, and give me strength to amend my sinful life and walk closer to you. Let thousands and ten thousands find through it the assurance of forgiveness, peace, and salvation.

-Lutheran Book of Prayer

PROFESSION OF FAITH BY FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES

+RITE OF FIRST COMMUNION+

In Holy Baptism we are born again as God's children and received into His church. As a further gift of His love for us, our Lord Jesus Christ has given His Church the Sacrament of the Altar on this night and invites His children to receive this Sacrament in faith for the forgiveness of sins. The apostle Paul reminds us: "Let a person examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup," and "as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

These candidates have received instruction regarding their sin and their understanding of the Sacrament of the Altar.

Tonight, you come to the Lord's Table for the first time. Holy Scripture describes the life of the Church and every baptized Christian with these words: "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers." You are invited by our Lord to come and regularly to hear His Word and receive His Sacrament. You will continue to be instructed and nurtured in the Christian faith and life. You are invited to confess your sins and receive the comfort of Holy Absolution. All this will help you live as the child of God you have been made through Holy Baptism.

Nolan Blackenburg

Lee Burnett

Mac Cahill

Rawlings Mgeni

Krislynn Nicholas

In preparation to commune this night, I now ask you:

Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper He gives you His true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and to strengthen your faith in Him and your love towards others?

Yes, I believe.

Do you intend to continue to hear and receive the instruction of your Lord, confess your sins, and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully throughout your life?

Yes, with the help of God.

I therefore invite you to the Lord's Supper to receive Christ's precious body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, whose Son Jesus Christ loved the young and called them to Himself, we ask You to bless these young people. Strengthen them in faith through the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood so that they may grow spiritually and bring forth the fruits of faith in a life of love toward others to the praise and honor of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB #618 (v. 1,4-5)



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -
soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -
bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:
ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.
heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8a

¹Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In 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." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:1-16

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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!" ¹⁰Jesus 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

- 1 Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
 Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the_ eternal grace,
 And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

- 2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
 Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
 Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

- 4 I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
 Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

SERMON

"Holy Ground"

Exodus 3:1-8a

Rev. Clifford Hellmers, Pastor Emeritus

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 blood on the cross. Gathered in Your 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 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 glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

~ Please be seated for the Distribution ~

(First Communion Class and Families Approach Altar Followed By Congregation)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"The Lamb"

LSB #547 (v. 1-4)



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.



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.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



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

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

~Depart in silence when chancel is empty and after Pastor and Elders leave sanctuary~

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VESTAVIA HILLS



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TO OUR GUESTS: We offer you a warm welcome in the name of Jesus. If you do not have a church home, we would be delighted to have you become a part of our church family. Please feel free to speak with the Pastor about membership in our congregation. If you do have a church home, we pray that God will bless you as you continue your growth in faith and love.



COMMUNION We invite all baptized Christians who acknowledge their sinfulness, trust in Christ as their Savior, and who recognize the real presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and wine to join us in Communion.

Holy Week Schedule:

Thursday, April 1 st 7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship with First Communion
Friday, April 2 nd Noon & 7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship Services
Saturday, April 3 rd 4:00 p.m.	Easter Worship Service with seated communion no singing
Sunday, April 4 th 6:30, 8:30, & 10:30 a.m.	Easter Worship Services with continuous line communion