



Welcome
WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE

Maundy Thursday

Hymn – LSB 637 “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

Text: Public domain

(Please Stand)

Opening Versicles

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;
C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.**
- L** Jesus said: If any man would come after Me,
C **let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.**
- L** Christ was wounded for our transgressions.
C **He was bruised for our iniquities.**
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C** **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.**

Readings from Holy Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’”¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve.²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray

me."²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"²³ Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me."²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so."²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

After the reading:

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory

L We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

L We have an advocate with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

C **He was delivered up to death; He was delivered for the sins of the people.**

Sermon

Hymn – LSB 622 “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared” vs 1,4,7,8

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| 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. | 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. |
| 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 blessèd comfort unto me
When living and when dying. |

(Please Stand)

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives on reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and

graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

+ We Commune +

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WE PREPARE

THE WORDS OF THE NEW COVENANT

Hymn – LSB 431 “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

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| 1 | Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain. | 2 | But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they. |
| 3 | My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin. | 4 | My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there. |
| 5 | Believing, we rejoice To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice And sing His bleeding love. | | |

Text: Public domain

The Stripping of the Altar

For the Stripping of the Altar, members of the Altar Guild (or other congregational members) come forward wearing white gloves. The minister reads the following explanations to the congregation as each item is being removed.

Flowers and flower vases are the first items to be removed. Plants represent life, New life springing forth.

During the Passion and suffering of Christ, life receded and was stripped from Him. It is in recognition of these events that the flowers and vases are taken from our presence.

The candles are extinguished and removed. Candles represent the "Light of the World." Jesus said, "I Am the light of the World." In recognition of the darkness following the death of Jesus on the cross, the candles are removed from our presence.

The Offerings that have been placed on the Altar are removed. Our offerings are one manner by which we serve God and others. They represent the greatest offering that has ever been made—the offering of God's only Son, given unto death. Just as the body of Christ, which had been offered for our Salvation, was removed from the cross and removed from sight, our offerings are removed from our presence.

The Missal stand is removed. The Missal contains all of the instructions and texts that guide our worship services, our readings, the songs of praise we sing. During Jesus' suffering, the songs of joy and thankfulness are not heard. Just as these songs are removed from our own lips, so, too, the Missal stand and book are removed from our presence.

The Communion Ware is removed. Jesus' Body and Blood, have been sacrificed for us and are given to us with, in, and under the form of the bread and wine. Just as He was removed from us in the grave, so, too, the elements and the vessels of the Holy Eucharist are removed from our presence.

The Altar itself is in the form of a Table. This is the place where our Lord Jesus Christ serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The Altar is dressed in fine linens, coverings and paraments, fitting and deserving of such a Holy Meal, and in the presence of the King of Kings. And just as Jesus' body was stripped of its coverings, so we, too, strip the coverings from this Altar.

Finally, The Paschal candle, which has remained lighted throughout this part of our worship service, is carried to the back of the sanctuary, there is no benediction,... there is no postlude, no closing hymn,... because the service is not over.

We will continue our worship service tomorrow evening on Good Friday 7 PM