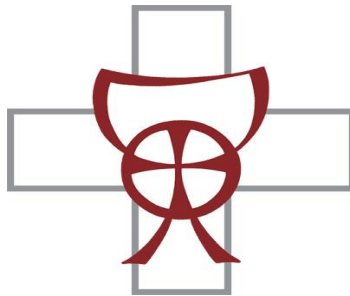




St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Maundy Thursday
March 28, 2024
12:15 and 7 p.m.



Welcome to the Lord's house today—this place that God makes holy by His presence among us. Whether you are a visitor or a long time member, God has good things to give you today, and we invite you to lift up your hearts and give your attention to the Word of God in worship today.

Regarding Holy Communion, the scriptures teach that in this sacramental meal, our Lord gives His own true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. In the forgiveness of our sins we become partakers of the new covenant in His blood. For this reason, scripture also teaches that anyone who receives the sacrament ought to examine himself (see 1 Cor. 11:17-29). To that end, we encourage all who receive the sacrament regularly to make use of the literature provided for this purpose and to regularly visit with the pastor personally.

For guests and visitors: If you are a member of a Missouri Synod church or a church which shares fellowship with the Missouri Synod, you are welcome to commune with us. If not, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing while the sacrament is being given out (Please indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms in front of you). If you would like a pastoral exception, please arrange for a meeting with the pastor.

Preparation for Worship

Opening Hymn “O Lord, We Praise Thee”

LSB 617

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. [*Psalm 23:1*]

C Jesus, Good Shepherd, in Your passion, You became the sacrificial lamb.

- P** Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for You are with me. [*Psalm 23:4*]
- C** **Jesus, You faced Your death for our sake, that we would never be without You.**
- P** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; [*Psalm 23:5*]
- C** **Jesus, You filled Your last supper table with those who would betray You. At Your table, You chose to serve us.**
- P** You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. [*Psalm 23:5*]
- C** **Jesus, anointed at Bethany, You took a cup of suffering and give us now a cup of blessing.**
- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
- C** **And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.** [*Psalm 23:6*]

Confession and Absolution

- P** On this holy day, as we remember and join in Jesus' last supper, we acknowledge that the table was full of disciples who faltered and betrayed. We are among those broken disciples that Jesus spoke to saying, "one of you will betray me." As we echo the disciples' question, we join in confessing the sins of our hearts and lives.
- (moment of silence)*
- P** Among us there are liars. Painting a better picture than what is true. Serving ourselves with our words instead of serving others.
- C** **Is it I, Lord?**
- P** Among us there are jealous hearts. Ones who long for and scheme for what wasn't given them, instead of holding in gratitude what they have.
- C** **Is it I, Lord?**
- P** Among us there are fearful ones. Ones who have been overcome with the worries of the world and of their lives, not trusting in the power and provision of a gracious God, but believing they have to do it all themselves.
- C** **Is it I, Lord?**
- P** Among us there are hateful hearts. Ones who have harbored bitterness and disdain toward those who disagree and those who have offended. Hate in our hearts has dehumanized whom God has made in His own image.

C Is it I, Lord?

P We confess:

C Lord, it is each and all of us. In searching and knowing the depths of our hearts, You have discovered our sins and found us guilty. And yet, knowing every sickness of our hearts, by the grace of Christ, You still welcome us to Your table.

P Christ has come to give Himself for you. Receive His grace. Your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus, You have given us Your Holy Sacrament that we may remember Your suffering and death and be forgiven for our sin. May this holy Sacrament empower us to confess our faith boldly, and serve You with a quiet mind; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Choir (7pm)

“There Is a Savior”

Words and Music by Patty, Nelson & Farrell

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3-11

Moses 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.” And 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. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then 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.” And 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.”

Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and 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.

And 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

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Mark 14:12-26

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 14th chapter.

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

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus'] disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 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, 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?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 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." They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 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." 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." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 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." And 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

Hymn “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” *LSB 445*

When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples’ feet.

What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”

One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev’ry place and time.

One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Exhortation to Communicants

[From Martin Luther's Sermon on the worthy reception of the holy and true Body of Christ, W.A. 7. 694 f., quoted from: Day by Day We Magnify Thee, Fortress Press, 1982]

P Anyone who wishes to receive the Holy Sacrament must offer to God Almighty an empty, single, and hungry soul. Therefore it is most fitting when the soul is least fit, which means, when the soul feels altogether wretched, poor, and devoid of grace, it is most receptive for God's grace and least fitted to receive it. But then the soul must endeavor to come to the Sacrament with perfect faith, or with all faith possible, and most firmly believing that he will receive grace. For a man receives as much as he believes he will receive. Therefore faith alone is the best and highest preparation. Your hungry heart must build upon these words and you must trust in the promise of the divine truth, and in this spirit go to the Sacrament, imploring God and saying, "Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof, yet I am needy, and eager for Thy help and grace, that

I too may be made godly. Thus I come with no plea but that I have heard sweet words, namely, that Thou dost invite me to Thy table.

Dear Lord, Thy Word is true, I do not doubt it. In that faith I eat and drink with Thee. May it be done to me according to Thy Will and Words. Amen.” That is to come worthily to the Sacrament.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

The Words of Institution

The Distribution

Distribution Hymns

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

LSB 623

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.

Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav’n.

By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.

One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven’s high and holy feast.

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LSB 436

Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

“Now the Light Has Gone Away”

LSB 887

Now the light has gone away;
Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep
And to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away
All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev’ry day to be
Good and gentle, more like Thee.

Let my near and dear ones be
Always near and dear to Thee;
O bring me and all I love
To Thy happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give;
Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee;
Oh, how good Thou art to me!

Thou, my best and kindest Friend,
Thou wilt love me to the end.
Let me love Thee more and more,
Always better than before.

The Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and ✠ give thee peace.

C Amen.

*** (The 12:15pm service ends here. Please exit in silence.) ***

Stripping of the Altar (7 p.m.)

The pastor will read Psalm 22 as the altar is prepared for Good Friday. After the altar has been stripped, the congregation will exit in silence.

Acknowledgments

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