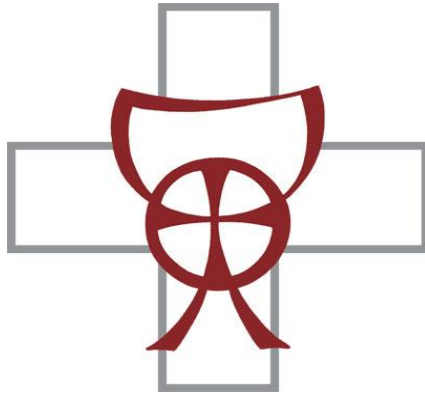




St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Maundy Thursday
April 17, 2025
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.

Preservice Music: (7pm)

Handbell Choir “*Meditation*” arr. Peggy A. Thompson

Vocal Duet “*Beneath the Cross of Jesus*” Art Kopka, Andrew Zerull

Joyful Praise “*I Will Glory in the Cross*” TSI

Preparation for Worship

Opening Hymn

“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.

Invocation

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

Psalm

Psalm 116

- P How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
- C **I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.**
- P Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
- C **O Lord, truly I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant; You have freed me from my chains.**
- P I will sacrifice a thank offering to You and call on the name of the Lord.
- C **I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in Your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

Confession and Absolution

- P It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love. (*John 13:1*)
- C **The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. (*Exodus 12:13a*)**
- P Today we remember the love of Christ and His blood shed for us, as we seek forgiveness. Most merciful God,
- C **We confess to You that we are sinners. In thoughts, words, and actions, we have sinned against You. We have not taken the towel of service for others, but have sought to be served. We have not shown love for You or others, and have often failed both to see Your love for us or show gratitude for it. We need Your precious blood to mark our doors once more, that we may not receive the punishment we deserve for our sin but that Your fierce anger may pass over us. For the sake of Jesus, our serving Lord, forgive us. Amen.**
- P Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, shed His blood for you that you might be forgiven. By the power of God's promise and according to His command, as God's called servant, I forgive you all your sins 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.

Handbell Choir (7pm) *“When Jesus Wept”* Sandra Eithun

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Hebrews 10:15-25

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Vocal Duet (7pm) *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

Holy Gospel

Luke 22:7-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

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:

O Lord, have mercy!

Sermon

Offering

Chancel Choir (7pm)

“Remember, Remember Me”

Words and Music by Jack Schrader

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.

The Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.
- C 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

"Come Unto Jesus"

Words and Music by Matt Merker, Laura Story and Jordan Kauflin

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Come unto Jesus, all you who are weary.
Come to the mercy seat; fervently kneel.
Here, bring your wounded hearts, broken and needy.
Come unto Jesus, mighty to heal.

Joy of the comfortless, light for the straying,
Hope of the penitent, peace in our strife;
Here speaks the Comforter, tenderly saying,
"My yoke is easy, my burden is light."

Chorus: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.
Come unto Jesus; rest in His love.

Come taste the Bread of Life, broken for sinners;
Drink from the cup of His promise made sure.
Feast at His table as sons and as daughters.
Grace overflowing is yours evermore. (*Chorus*)

Come now and follow Him, this life forsaking.
All that was gain, count as nothing but loss.
Trade all this world for His kingdom unfading.
Come unto Jesus; take up your cross.

Come unto Jesus; take up your cross.
Life everlasting He offers to us!

Chorus: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.
Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

Chorus: Come unto Jesus. Come unto Jesus.
Lay down your burdens; He is enough.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.
Come unto Jesus, rest in His love.

“How Great Thou Art”

Words and Music by Stuart Wesley and Keene Hine, arr. by Jeff Moore
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O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Chorus: Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think, that God His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. (*Chorus*)

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart.

Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God how great Thou art. (*Chorus 2x*)

Ending: How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

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

Stripping of the Altar (7pm)

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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