



✠ Maundy Thursday ✠
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
March 28, 2024

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.**

THE RINGING OF THE BELL *(Please remain seated)*

✠ SERVICE OF CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

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 sins, humbly confess them, 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 sinful nature 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 upon 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. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. 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 wine of many grapes and one the bread is 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

C O almighty God, merciful Father, 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 the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

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 and 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3–11

³Moses 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.”

⁴And 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. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.

⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then 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.” ⁸And 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.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹And 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.

Anthem – Adult Choir – “*Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright*”

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

¹⁶The 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? ¹⁷Because 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.

Stand

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-26

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

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

¹²On 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?" ¹³And 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, ¹⁴and 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?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And 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."

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For 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."

²²And 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."

²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, 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."

²⁶And 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.**

Sit

Offering

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

- 1 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!
- 2 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!
- 3 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!

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SERMON

THE PRAYERS

- P Holy Father, we come to You with praise and thanksgiving,
through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Through Him we beg You to
accept and bless the prayers and offerings we bring. Do not
consider what we truly deserve, but grant us Your forgiveness.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, Lord, Your holy Church. Watch over her and guide her. Grant her peace and unity throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, Lord, our Synod President, our District President, all pastors, teachers, deaconesses and servants of the Church. Grant them to hold and teach the faith that comes to us from the blessed apostles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, Lord, our president, our public servants, and all in our armed forces. Guide, bless, protect and uphold them in honor. Bring all nations into the ways of peace and justice. In Your kindness and love, grant us seasonable weather and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, Lord, all who suffer for Your name, all who are in prison, the hungry and ill-clad, the poor and the lonely, those who travel and all who cry out to You in their time of need. Take them under Your tender care and grant them deliverance from their afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Remember, Lord, all who are gathered here before You. We pray for our well-being and redemption. Order our days in Your peace, deliver us from the danger of eternal death and number us among Your chosen flock that we may sing our hosannas without end. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant that we may receive worthily this sacramental mystery, the new testament of our divine Redeemer, for He is truly the Lamb of God, who gave Himself once and for all, as a holy, spotless and perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin and for the life and salvation of the whole world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Join our prayers and praises with those of Your faithful people of every time and every place and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until He comes again in power

and great glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever!

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- 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 is my ✠ blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

THE PEACE

- P The ✠ peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

ANTHEM – ADULT CHOIR – “WITH WINE FROM THE VINEYARDS”

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

- 1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain

- ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!
- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain
- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain
- 4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain
- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain

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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.

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563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

- 1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.
- 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
- 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty,
Was also shed in love for me.
- 4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.
- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Public domain

✠ THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

(The stripping of the altar [removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments] is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers and of His being deserted by His disciples.)

PSALM 22 (Prayed responsively)

- P My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- C O my God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night, and am not silent.**
- P Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.
- C In You our fathers put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.**
- P They cried to You and were saved; in You they trusted and were not disappointed.
- C But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.**
- P All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:
- C "He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since He delights in him."**
- P Yet You brought me out of the womb; You made me trust in You even at my mother's breast.
- C From birth I was cast upon You; from my mother's womb You have been my God.**
- P Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
- C Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**
- P Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.
- C I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.**
- P My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; You lay me in the dust of death.

- C Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.**
- P I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.
- C They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**
- P But You, O Lord, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.
- C Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.**
- P Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
- C I will declare Your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise You.**
- P You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor Him! Revere Him, all you descendants of Israel!
- C For He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**
- P From You comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear You will I fulfill my vows.
- C The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise Him -- may your hearts live forever!**
- P All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him,
- C For dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations.**
- P All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before Him -- those who cannot keep themselves alive.

C Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

P They will proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn -- for He has done it.

PSALM 88 (*Prayed responsively*)

P O Lord, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before You.

C May my prayer come before You; turn Your ear to my cry.

P For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.

C I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like a man without strength.

P I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more, who are cut off from Your care.

C You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.

P Your wrath lies heavily upon me; You have overwhelmed me with all Your waves.

C You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape;

P My eyes are dim with grief. I call to You, O Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to You.

C Do You show Your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise You?

P Is Your love declared in the grave, Your faithfulness in Destruction?

C Are Your wonders known in the place of darkness, or Your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

P But I cry to You for help, O Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before You.

C Why, O Lord, do You reject me and hide Your face from me?

P From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered Your terrors and am in despair.

C Your wrath has swept over me; Your terrors have destroyed me.

P All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.

C You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.

✠ ✠ ✠

After the stripping of the altar has been completed, all may leave the Church in silence. Our Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow, Good Friday, with the Adoration of the Crucified and Solemn Communion at 1:00pm and the Tenebrae Service of Darkness with Holy Communion at 7:00pm

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

**Preacher
Presiding Minister
Organist**

**Rev. Patrick Niles
Rev. Jeremy Hanson
Sandy Kasten**

Communion Assistant

Randy Holler

Student Assistants

**(A) Addyson Niles & Isaiah Niles
(U) Hank Scholz & Nate Vanic**

✠ The Great and Holy Week ✠

**Good Friday worship with Holy Communion
March 29th, 1:00pm and 7:00pm (Tenebrae)**

**Easter Vigil worship with Holy Communion
March 30th, 5:30pm (No Bible class)**

**Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion
The Resurrection of Our Lord
March 31st, 6:00am, 8:00am and 10:30am (No Bible class)**

Easter Breakfast - 7:00 am -- 10:00 am