



Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor. 11:26)



Church of the Lutheran Confession

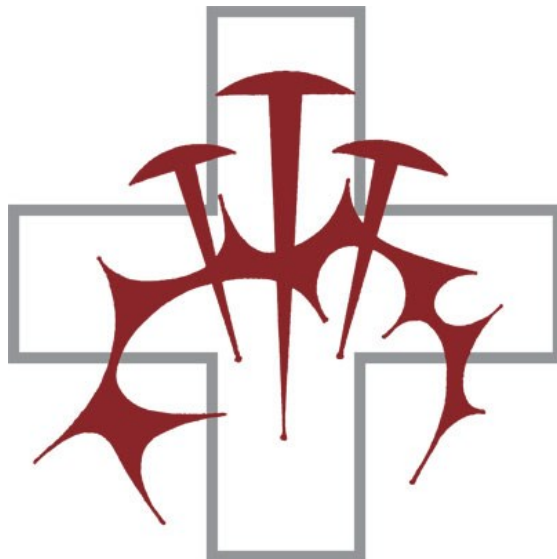
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Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024



Opening Hymn 547: *The Lamb*

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

C: Amen.

P: Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Here we consider the time Jesus takes, even as the events of His Passion start to unfold, to love His disciples. And He gives a new command (“Maundy” is from the Latin for “command”): “Love one another:

C: Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

P: Let us pray: Lord, this is a time to remember how much You love us and loved all people. Grant that we may so treasure Your love that we may share it with one another and with all whom You send us.

C: Amen.

Confession of sins and absolution:

P: Many times we, the people of God, have promised: “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.”

C: And yet we have not done all that the Lord has commanded. From the first commandment telling us that God is more important than anything else, to the last commandment telling us to be content with what we have, we have sinned in all of them.

P: Let us now examine ourselves and confess our sins before God, our Father. Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C: Yes, I am a sinner and my sin cries out for God’s punishment.

P: Do you believe that your sins can be forgiven?

C: Yes, I believe that God’s love and mercy are stronger than my sin. And so I ask God for forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.

P: Do you repent of your sin, that is, do you intend to make right what you have done wrong? Do you intend to restore relationships where you have offended? Do you intend to conform your life to the will of God?

C: Yes, I do so intend with the help of God.

P: Finally, and most importantly, do you trust that by the merits and sacrifice of God's holy Son, Jesus Christ, both the guilt and the punishment for your sins have been forgiven?

C: Yes, I believe that God grants to me the full and free forgiveness of all my sins for the sake of Jesus.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God grant you His Holy Spirit, that by His strength, your good intentions may prosper and mature and produce the fruits of the Spirit in your daily life.

C: Amen.

Confession of Faith:

(Luther's Explanation to the Second Article)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn 437: *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

Sermon: Psalm 34:1-8

Taste and See That the Lord is Good!

Hymn 445: *When You Woke That Thursday Morning*

Responsive Reading:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, established the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

C: Praise be to You, O Lord, for giving us this sacrament by which Christians are strengthened in their faith, uplifted in their spirits, and built up in their love for You and for their neighbor.

P: He took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples.

C: We give thanks to You, Lord Jesus, for this special meal by which You would nourish and sustain the souls of Your disciples.

P: He said to His disciples, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you."

C: How great and marvelous is Your power in this sacrament, O Lord, in giving us to eat of Your very body which was lifted up on the cross to make us redeemed children of God and heirs of heaven.

P: Concerning the sacramental eating of His body, Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

C: Help us, dear Lord, to make frequent use of this sacrament, and to be reminded through it of the great sacrifice You made for our eternal salvation.

P: In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to His disciples.

C: We give thanks to You, Lord Jesus, for being willing to drink the bitter cup of suffering on the cross as our Savior, so that in this sacrament the cup of blessing might be received for spiritual refreshment.

P: He said to His disciples, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

C: How marvelous it is, dear Savior, that in this sacrament You give of Your very blood which was poured out on the cross in atonement for all our many sins. In this precious blood we find the sure and certain guarantee of Your covenant of grace.

P: Concerning the sacramental drinking of His blood, Jesus said, “Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

C: May Your precious blood, Lord Jesus, given here in this sacrament, ever serve to remind us of God’s forgiving love through You.

Prayer:

P: Lord Jesus Christ, in Your infinite love You have invited us to this holy supper in which Your sacrifice, which was made once for all, might be given to us for our forgiveness and salvation. Bless us, as we receive it, with faith to know Your real presence in the bread and wine, and strength to obey Your commands. And then receive our heartfelt thanks and praise for all Your goodness to us. In Your most holy name,

C: Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer and The Words of Institution

Hymn 628: *Your Table I Approach*



The Distribution

Note: The first table of the distribution will be for those not able to come to the front of the church and stand for the Sacrament. Individual Communion kits are available at the back of the church.

Communion hymns: 629, 624, 627.

Hymn of thanksgiving: 617: *O Lord, We Praise Thee*

Prayer (Spoken in unison)

O Lord Jesus Christ, since You have left us a memorial of Your Passion in a wonderful Supper, grant, we pray, that we may so use this Sacrament of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redeeming work may continually be visible in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Stripping of the Altar:

Pastor: This is the night in which our Lord was betrayed. After He had instituted the Sacrament of His body and blood, He and the eleven disciples went out to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He knew Judas would come to set in motion the events leading to His crucifixion. All the appointments in the chancel are symbols related to our Lord, the light of the world, the Word of God in the flesh, the covering for our sins, and so on. This evening they are stripped from the altar—which represents Jesus Himself—just as He was struck, humiliated, tortured, and taken to the cross.

As the various items are removed, we speak together the words of Psalm 22, which anticipated our Lord's Passion. We then depart until our worship continues tomorrow.

Psalm 22

**Cong: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My
groaning?**

**O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.**

**Yet You are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In You our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and You delivered them.
To You they cried and were rescued;
in You they trusted and were not put to shame.
But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
All who see Me mock Me;
they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;
“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him;
let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”**

**Yet You are He who took Me from the womb;
You made me trust You at My mother's breasts.
On You was I cast from My birth,
and from My mother's womb You have been My God.
Be not far from Me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
Many bulls encompass Me;**

**strong bulls of Bashan surround Me;
they open wide their mouths at Me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.**

**I am poured out like water,
and all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
it is melted within My breast;
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and My tongue sticks to My jaws;
you lay Me in the dust of death.
For dogs encompass Me;
a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My hands and feet—
I can count all My bones—
they stare and gloat over Me;
they divide My garments among them,
and for My clothing they cast lots.**

**But You, O LORD, do not be far off!
O You My help, come quickly to My aid!
Deliver My soul from the sword,
My precious life from the power of the dog!
Save Me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen!**

**I will tell of Your name to My brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise You:
You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him,
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel!
For He has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and He has not hidden His face from Him,
but has heard, when He cried to Him.**

**From You comes My praise in the great congregation;
My vows I will perform before those who fear Him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek Him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before You.
For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and He rules over the nations.**

**All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
Posterity shall serve Him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet
unborn,
that He has done it.**

The Benediction:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: (Sung): Amen.

Closing hymn 885: *I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care*

Please Note...

*Our Good Friday Tenebrae service begins at 8:00 P.M. tomorrow.

*Our celebration of Christ's Resurrection will begin Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

*Please remember to bring lilies for the altar and the food items for the Easter breakfast.