

Holy Thursday



**“I have eagerly desired to eat this
Passover with you.”**

- Luke 22:15

Worship Service

Thursday, April 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.

HOLY THURSDAY



Theme of the day: Historically, Holy Thursday marked the day when people who had been under church discipline and had repented were restored to the church (hence the German name *Gründonnerstag*, or “*Green Thursday*,” recognizing the new life of the penitent). They were publicly welcomed back into the fellowship. Preparation for this time means self-examination, but Holy Thursday also offers a refreshing welcome and an invitation to the most unexpected place: being served at the table by Jesus and feasting in communion with God.

Minister: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

Congregation: Amen.



M: I lift up my eyes to the mountains.

C: **Where does my help come from?**

M: My help comes from the LORD,

C: **the Maker of heaven and earth.**

♪ **Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember your mercy and love.**

M: He will not let your foot stumble.

C: **He who watches over you will not slumber.**

M: Yes, he who watches over Israel will not slumber.

C: **He will not sleep.**

♪ **Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember your mercy and love.**

M: The LORD watches over you.

C: **The LORD is your shade at your right hand.**

M: The sun will not strike you by day,

C: **nor the moon by night.**

**♪ Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember your mercy and love.**

M: The LORD will watch to keep you from all harm.

C: He will watch over your life.

M: The LORD will watch over your going and your coming

C: from now to eternity. (Psalm 121)

**♪ Remember your mercy, O Lord;
Remember your mercy and love.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: God has invited us into his presence to worship him with humble and repentant hearts. Therefore, let us confess our sins and ask him for forgiveness.

Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate;
He is patient and abounding in love and faithfulness.

C: LORD, do not rebuke me in anger.

Do not discipline me in wrath.

There is no health in my flesh because of your rage.

**There is no wellness in my bones because of my sin,
because my guilt has gone over my head.**

Like a heavy burden, it is too heavy for me.

M: Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate;
He is patient and abounding in love and faithfulness.

C: I am drooping. I am completely bent over.

All day long I go around mourning.

I have become numb. I am totally crushed.

I groan loudly because of my anxious thoughts.

Lord, all my needs lie before you.

My sighs are not hidden from you.

M: Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate;
He is patient and abounding in love and faithfulness.

**C: So I declare my guilt,
and I am troubled by my sin.**

Do not forsake me, O LORD.

My God, do not be far from me.

Hurry to help me, O LORD, my salvation. (Psalm 38)

M: Turn to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate;
He is patient and abounding in love and faithfulness.

Silence to reflect on the Word and to examine yourself.



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

M: Our holy and gracious Father in his infinite love has made us his own. Even when we were still enslaved by wickedness and death, he, in his mercy, sent his only and eternal Son, Jesus Christ, to share in our humanity, to live and to die as one of us, and in this way reconciled us with God, the Father of all. Through him, God has freed us from all unrighteousness, and has made us worthy of his presence. Through him, God has turned us from wrongs to truth, from sin to righteousness, and from death to life. In him we have forgiveness of all of our sins.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

HYMN: # 654 (vv. 5,6), “Jesus Sinners Does Receive”

♪ **Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scarlet my transgression,
it shall be as white as snow by your blood and bitter passion,
for these words I do believe: Jesus sinners does receive.**


Now my conscience is at peace, from the law I stand acquitted.
Christ has purchased my release and my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners does receive.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Amen.


PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 116

Refrain



I will walk in the pres-ence of the Lord,
in the land of the liv - ing.

Psalm tone



*

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;*
he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me,*
I will call on him as long as I live.

The LORD is gracious and righteous;*
when I was in great need, he saved me.

Refrain

For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,*
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

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.

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.

Refrain

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 24:1-11

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, along with Nadab and Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship me from a distance. ²Only Moses is allowed to come near the LORD, but the others are not to come near, and the people are not to go up with him.”

³Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances. Then all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.” ⁴Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD.

He got up early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain. He set up twelve memorial stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵He sent young Israelite men, who offered whole burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings of cattle to the LORD. ⁶Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and he splashed half of the blood on the altar. ⁷He took the Book of the Covenant and read it out loud to the people and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do. We will obey.”

⁸Moses took the blood and splashed it on the people. He said, “Look, here is the blood of the covenant, which the LORD made with you by means of all these words.”

⁹Then Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up. ¹⁰They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet they saw what looked like a pavement of sapphire as clear as the sky. ¹¹The LORD did not lay his hand on the dignitaries of the people of Israel. They gazed at God, and they ate and drank.

M: Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. (*Hebrews 12:2*)

C: As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (*1 Corinthians 11:26*)

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. ²⁸Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

HYMN: # 550 “Lamb of God”

**♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide,
but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod,
and to become the Lamb of God
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God**

**Your gift of love they crucified,
they laughed and scorned him as he died:
the humble King they named a fraud
and sacrificed the Lamb of God
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God**

**I was so lost, I should have died,
but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod,
and to be called a lamb of God
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in his precious blood,
my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY Mark 14:12-17

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

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 sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: We pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs:

For courage to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, that we may be obedient to the command of our Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For strength to love others after the pattern of Jesus Christ, that our love may not be self-serving, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world, that it may be faithful to the proclamation of the Gospel for the glory of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For our remembrance of Jesus Christ as we celebrate the foretaste of the feast to come, that as we receive His very body and blood our faith may be strengthened by the forgiveness of sins and we may be empowered to love as we have been loved, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For our observance of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, that we may more fully appreciate the great sacrifice of love on our behalf, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For all who are in need of special gifts from God; the lonely, the ill, the troubled, that they may know the love of God, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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 LORD'S SUPPER

M: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And also with you.

M: We lift up our hearts.

C:  We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C:  It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, 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, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C:  Amen.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN: # 659 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,
turned away God's wrath forever;
by his bitter grief and woe he saved us from the evil foe.

**As his pledge of love undying,
he, this precious food supplying,
gives his body with the bread
and with the wine the blood he shed.**

**Jesus here himself is sharing;
take heed how you are preparing,
for if you do not believe, judgment instead you shall receive.**

**Useless would be Jesus' passion
if salvation you could fashion.
Do not come if you suppose
you need not him who died and rose.**

**Christ says, "Come, all you that labor,
and receive my grace and favor;
those who feel no pain or ill
need no physician's help or skill."**

**Then hold fast with faith unshaken
that this food is to be taken
by the souls who are distressed,
by hearts that long for peace and rest.**

**Praise the Father, who from heaven
unto us such food has given
and, to mend what we have done,
gave into death his only Son.**

**If your heart this truth professes
and your mouth your sin confesses,
surely you will be his guest and at his banquet ever blest.**

M: Dearest Jesus our Lord and our God, you took our sins with you on the cross, so, dead to sin, we might live in your righteousness. Have mercy on us now and in the hour of our death. Grant to us, your servants and to all who humbly remember your suffering and death a holy and productive life, and by your grace, guide us to eternal life with you in heaven; you who reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen.

Following the distribution prayer, the service continues with the Stripping of the Altar.

THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping of the altar symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by His disciples and prepares the sanctuary for the austerity of Good Friday. During the Stripping of the Altar, the congregation sings “The Lamb” (CW 525:1-4), and the Minister reads Psalm 88 – a psalm of Jesus’ abandonment.

HYMN: #525:1-4 “The Lamb”

♪ **The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, one perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
let earth join heav’n his praise to sing.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!**

**The Lamb, the Lamb, as wayward sheep their shepherd kill
so still, his will, on our behalf the law to fill.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!**

**He sighs, he dies, he takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, he gives me His own righteousness.
Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne!**

Psalm 88

**¹O LORD, the God who saves me, by day I cry out.
At night I cry before you.
²May my prayer come before you.
Turn your ear to my cry.**

³Indeed, my soul has had its fill of troubles,
and my life has arrived at the grave.
⁴I am treated like those who go down to the pit.
I am like someone without strength.
⁵I am turned loose with the dead.
I am like the slain who lie in the grave,
like the ones you do not remember anymore,
like those who are cut off from your hand.
⁶You have put me in the lowest pit,
in dark places, in the depths.
⁷Your wrath presses against me.
You have battered me with all your breakers.
⁸You have distanced my acquaintances from me.
You have made me repulsive to them.
I am shut in and I cannot get out.
⁹My eyesight grows dim from affliction.
I call to you, O LORD, every day.
I spread out my hands to you.
¹⁰Is it for the dead that you do a miracle?
Do the spirits of the dead rise up and praise you?
¹¹Is your mercy declared in the tomb,
your faithfulness in decay?
¹²Is your wonderful work known in the darkness?
Is your righteousness known in the land of forgetfulness?
¹³But I cry to you, O LORD,
and in the morning my prayer comes before you.
¹⁴Why, O LORD, do you reject my soul?
Why do you hide your face from me?
¹⁵I have been afflicted
and I have been close to death since my youth.
I have endured your terrors.
I am in despair.
¹⁶Your rage has swept over me.
Your terrors have destroyed me.
¹⁷All day long they surround me like water.
They have battered me completely.
¹⁸You have distanced my loved one and friend from me.
My only friend is darkness.

No benediction is spoken to end the service.

No music is played.

The minister exits the chancel.

Each worshipper may remain for prayer and meditation
before dispersing quietly.



*The service continues at 7:00 p.m. tomorrow,
where we will focus on Christ's death on the cross.*

*Tonight's account is not the end of the story.
Come and hear what happened next!*

† **GOOD FRIDAY** worship service at 7:00 p.m.

† **EASTER CELEBRATION** Sunday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(cf. page 156 in the front of Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.