



## Holy Week Series

Maundy Thursday: Return to the Table

## Should I Take Communion Tonight?

In the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (also known as Holy Communion), our Lord Jesus Christ gives us his own body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His living presence brings salvation and strength for the new life in Him. As Christians partake of this sacrament together, they make a solemn public confession of Christ and of unity in the truth of His Gospel. We therefore invite all who share the confession of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to participate in the blessings of the Lord's Supper and make this public confession with us. All who plan to come to the Lord's Table should examine themselves as the apostle Paul urges in 1 Corinthians 11. We are to see whether:

- we are sorry for our sins
- we believe in our Savior Jesus and in His words in the Sacrament
- we plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to change our sinful lives

Our desire is not to exclude anyone from this sacrament, but to make a witness to our unity in the true faith. For that reason, we respectfully request that you would refrain from participating in the Lord's Supper today if you:

- are not sure what it means
- are unforgiving, refusing to be reconciled with someone
- have not been instructed in the Lutheran faith
- hold to the teachings of another denomination

**We make such a request because we are concerned for your well-being.** The Bible teaches that “anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Corinthians 11: 27—29). In Christian love for our neighbor, we do not want anyone to participate in this sacrament to his or her spiritual harm. In the Lutheran Church, we are united in the belief that when Jesus says, “This is my body...This is my blood” (Matthew 26: 26, 28), He is speaking the truth. In faith we “recognize the body of the Lord.” To participate without doing so is spiritually damaging.

**Holy Scripture also records Jesus saying, “If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Matthew 6: 15).** We are not allowed to help ourselves to God's forgiveness while planning to withhold it from our neighbor. This attitude reveals that one does not really believe that God has granted forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

**Further, the Bible informs us that “Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes” (1 Corinthians 11: 26).** *While the Lord's Supper is a personal matter, it is not private.* Participation in the Lord's Supper at this altar is a public act. By participating, one says, “**I believe as you believe.**” In order to say that with integrity, it is necessary to know Lutheran teaching. Our pastor would be happy to assist you in gaining this knowledge through classes or in personal instruction in the Word of God.

**Finally, denominational and doctrinal differences matter.** The Bible teaches that the earliest Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2: 42). Communicating the message of Jesus Christ correctly was a top priority of the early Church. It is a sad reality that today there are serious divisions within the Christian Church over matters of doctrine. We cannot pretend to judge the hearts of individual Christians. Neither can we pretend that differences in denominational teaching are unimportant. These doctrinal differences have real-life consequences in faith and practice. Again, our desire is not to exclude anyone from this sacrament, but to make a witness to our unity in the true faith.

# Maundy Thursday Worship

## April 1, 2021

*Stand* ↑

### INVOCATION & OPENING VERSES

**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** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

**C** slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents over disaster.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

**P** In the Upper Room, our Lord Jesus Christ gave a new command that His people are to love one another as He has loved us. When we look at our lives, we see clearly that we have not fulfilled that new command. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and realize that we have transgressed the Law of God in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves and have passed by countless opportunities to be of service in the name of the Lord. In His mercy, God has promised His forgiveness to those who repent and turn to Him, humbly asking for His grace in

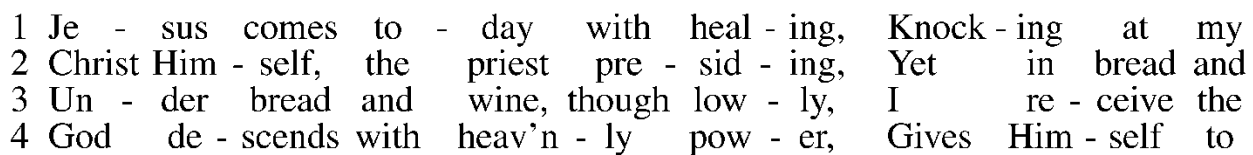
**© I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

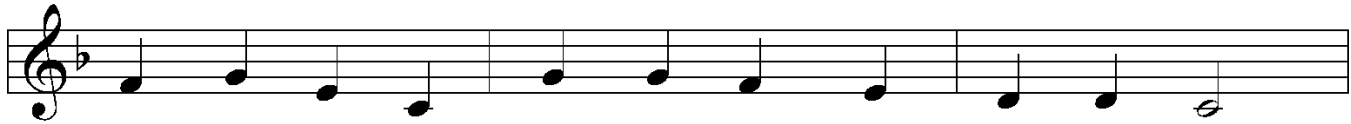
**C Amen.**

**C Yes.**

**C Amen.**

**HYMN:** 620 *LSB* “Jesus Comes Today with Healing”





door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
me this hour — In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."  
pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,  
Whose own feast of love I savor,  
Bidden by His gracious call.  
Wedding garments He provides me,  
With a robe of white He hides me,  
Fits me for the royal hall.

6 Now have I found consolation,  
Comfort in my tribulation,  
Balm to heal the troubled soul.  
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,  
Cleanses me from sin and error,  
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray: O Lord, in the wondrous Sacrament of Holy

Communion You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that, whenever we receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood, the fruits of Your redemption may continually be shown in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING:** *Exodus 24:3-11*

<sup>3</sup>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."

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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

**ANTHEM:** “When You Prayed Beneath the Trees” *Choir*

**EPISTLE READING:** *1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

<sup>16</sup>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? <sup>17</sup>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

*Stand* ↑

**GOSPEL READING:** *Mark 14:12-26*

<sup>12</sup>And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” <sup>13</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>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?’ <sup>15</sup>And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” <sup>16</sup>And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup>And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. <sup>18</sup>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.” <sup>19</sup>They

began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?"

<sup>20</sup>He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. <sup>21</sup>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."

<sup>22</sup>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." <sup>23</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup>And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. <sup>25</sup>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."

<sup>26</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**Ⓟ** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Ⓢ** Thanks be to God

## **NICENE CREED:**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again**



according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit* ↓

### SERMON HYMN: 628 *LSB* "Your Table I Approach"



- 1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.  
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;  
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.  
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.  
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.  
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.  
6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

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**THE MESSAGE:** "Return to the Table" *Pastor Sundbom*

*Stand* ↑

## **PRAYERS:**

**P** Remembering Jesus' love shown in both the washing of His disciples' feet and in instituting the Lord's Supper, let us bring our prayers before the Father, trusting in His abundant mercy for us. For the Church, that, following Jesus' example of washing feet, we obey His command and love one another as He has loved us. And that, nourished by Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper, our lives reflect the One who first gave the Supper. In prayer,

**C we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For leaders throughout the world, for national, regional, and local leaders, that they choose to lead as servants rather than as lords. In prayer,

**C we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For those in our community who struggle with poverty, addiction, or unemployment, that You use us to serve them and love them as You loved and served them during Your earthly ministry. In prayer,

**C we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For those who are sick, hospitalized, recovering, or confined. Bless them with Your presence and heal them according to Your will. Use us to touch their lives in ways that reflect Your servant heart. In prayer,

**C we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** For this congregation, that You guide us toward being a people known in our community for serving others in love, as You loved

and served Your disciples by the washing of feet and giving them the food of Your body and blood. In prayer,

**C we return to You, O Lord.**

**P** You make us one in the body and blood of Christ, O Lord. Let both our individual prayers and these prayers of our worshiping community rise to You, for You promise to hear them and to give us what is good, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**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.**

**P** It is our duty and our delight at all times and in all places to give thanks to You, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has invited us to His Table of grace, where we receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. Grant that we humbly and reverently receive these gifts before us, thankful to be joining the company of heaven gathered at Your eternal feast as evermore they praise You, saying:

## **SANCTUS** *Holy, Holy, Holy*

**☐** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of you glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**☐** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for before the creation of time and space You planned to send Your Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. He turned to us in passionate love so that we might return to You for full pardon and peace. We therefore ask You in His name to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us to eat His body and drink His blood in true faith until we celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**☐** Amen.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**☐** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**☐** 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 OUR LORD

**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 cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PAX DOMINI – *The Peace of the Lord*

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*Sit* ↓

## DISTRIBUTION

*Please remain in your seat. An Elder will bring you the host and wine*

*Stand* ↑

## CONCLUDING PRAYER:

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, gracious God, for having received us as guests at Your Table. We pray that You would guide us at all times and in all places so that we may pass our earthly days in peace, assured of Your guidance and knowing Your pardon. By the power of the Holy Spirit, rule our hearts and minds that we may serve You constantly; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

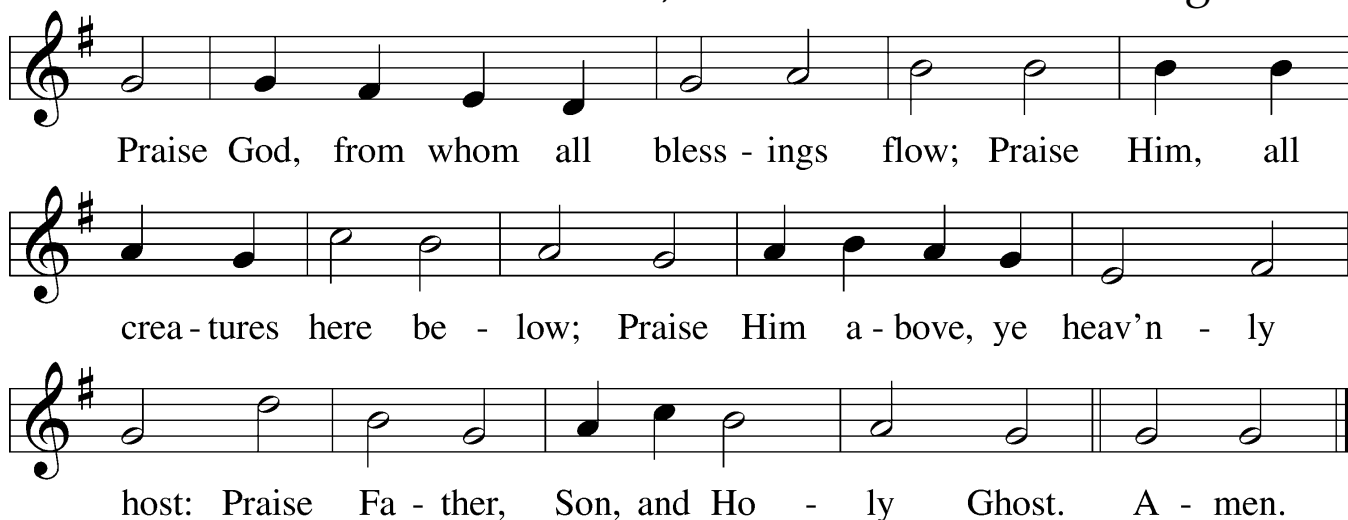
**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION:

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

**C** Amen.

**HYMN:** 805 *LSB* "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

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*Sit* ↓

**CLOSING:** "Benediction" *Choir*

## STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR:

*It is the night in which our Savior was betrayed. We remove the appointments of the chancel to symbolize the abuse He received. The candles shine no more as the Light of the World is taken to His death, the books are closed as the Word is silenced for a time, the paraments on the altar are removed as our Lord's body is laid bare, and the altar is left alone for the sacrifice to be remembered tomorrow. As this takes place, we hear Psalm 22 being read—a Psalm that anticipated the crucifixion of Jesus centuries before crucifixion was invented. We marvel at the love of Christ, whose body was broken and whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of all our sins.*

# *Those Who Serve This Evening:*

Proclaimer: Pastor Paul Sundbom

Organist: Marlyss Sekki

Special Music: *Choir*

## **Holy Week & Easter Sunday Schedule.**

***Good Friday:*** April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00pm Tenebrae (progressive darkness) Service

***Easter Vigil:*** April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00pm Worship w/Holy Communion

### **Easter Sunday: April 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:30am Education Hour

9:30am Worship Service w/Holy Communion

10:45am Education Hour

