



*I will
lift up*
THE CUP
OF SALVATION
*and call upon
the name of*
THE LORD.

- PSALM 116:13



Grace
LUTHERAN CHURCH



amazinggrace
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 2023

For five weeks of Lent we have been preparing for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. This week we have walked with Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We witnessed his passion as he cleansed the temple on Monday. We heard his wisdom as taught in the temple on Tuesday and finished the day in Bethany as Mary anointed him. On Wednesday scripture is silent but we know that enemies were more determined than ever to take his life, and that brings us to Thursday...

“On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover? He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.” (Matthew 26:17-19)

THE INVOCATION AND WELCOME

M: The grace of our Lord [+] Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

M: Maundy Thursday is the first service of “The Triduum” or “service of three holy days.” Maundy Thursday is derived from the Latin words, “Dies Mandati,” which means “Day of the Commandment.”

In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism and within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life through the Means of Grace. We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34)

HYMN

CW21 Blue #416 (vs.1-3): "When You Woke That Thursday Morning"

The hymn writer, Jaroslav Vajda, vividly recounts the events of Maundy Thursday as they may have looked from the perspective of our Savior.



1 When you woke that Thurs-day morn-ing, Sav-ior, teach-er,
2 Nev-er so a-lone and lone-ly, long-ing with tor-
3 What was there that you could give them that would nev-er



faith-ful friend, thoughts of self and safe-ty scorn-ing, know-ing
ment-ed heart to be with your dear ones on-ly for a
be out-spent, what great gift that would out-live them, what last



how the day would end; Lamb of God, fore-told for
qui-et hour a-part: sin-less Lamb and fall-en
will and tes-ta-ment? "Show me and the world you



a-ges, now at last the hour had come when but One could
crea-ture, one last pas-chal meal to eat, one last les-son
love me, know me as the Lamb of God: do this in re-



pay sin's wa-ges: you as-sumed their dread-ful sum.
as their teach-er, wash-ing your dis-ci-ples' feet.
mem-brance of me, eat this bod-y, drink this blood."

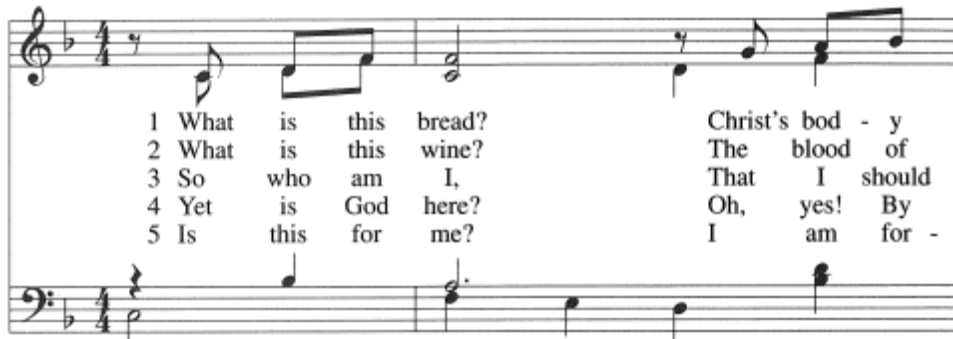
Message (Pastor Thad Bitter)

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus 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.”

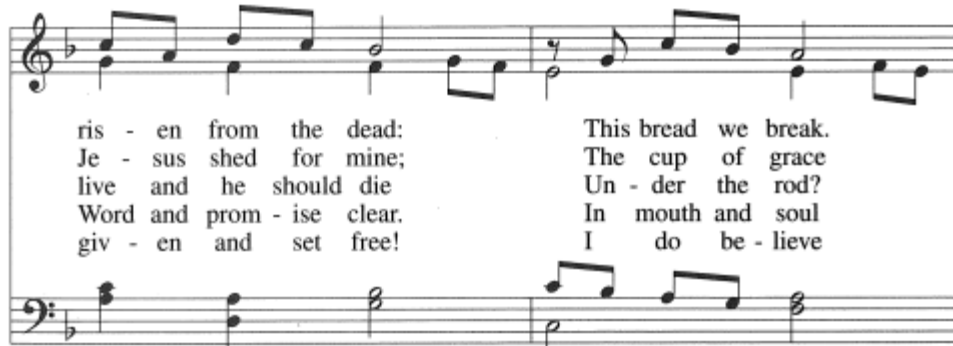
²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

HYMN

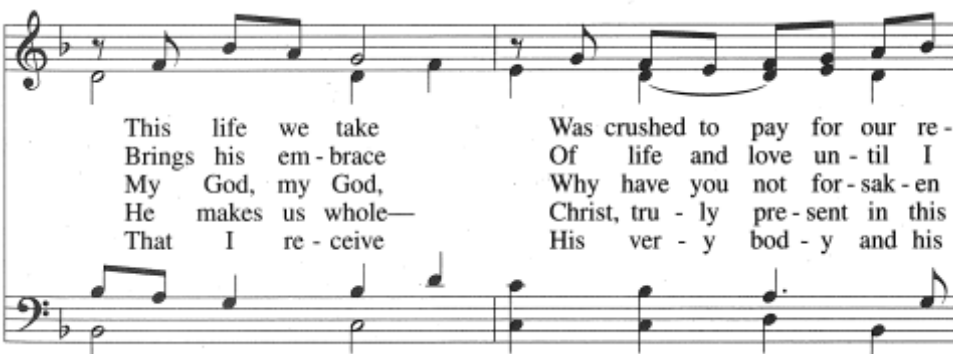
CWS #742 (vs.1-3): “What Is This Bread?”



1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
2 What is this wine? The blood of
3 So who am I, That I should
4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
5 Is this for me? I am for -



ris - en from the dead: This bread we break.
Je - sus shed for mine; The cup of grace
live and he should die Un - der the rod?
Word and prom - ise clear. In mouth and soul
giv - en and set free! I do be - lieve



This life we take Was crushed to pay for our re -
Brings his em - brace Of life and love un - til I
My God, my God, Why have you not for - sak - en
He makes us whole - Christ, tru - ly pre - sent in this
That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and his

lease. sing! me? meal. blood. Oh, taste and see— Oh, taste and see— Oh, taste and see— Oh, taste and see— the Lord is peace. the Lord is King. the Lord is free. the Lord is real. the Lord is good.

Confession

Please stand

P: In the Lord's Supper, Christ is present by the power of His Word and offers us His body, given into death, and His blood, shed for the forgiveness of our sins. As we prepare to receive these great gifts, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

All: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. 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: And let His face shine upon us, as we trust in His forgiveness.

P: As you believe, so let it be. By the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

CWS #742 (vs.4-5): "What Is This Bread?"

RESPONSIVE READING

(Taken from Luther's explanation of the Sacrament of the Altar)

P: What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

C: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

P: Where is this written? The Holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul tell us; 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,

C: "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

P: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

C: "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."

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

C: Amen

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Thank you for honoring our practice of "close" communion. The Bible teaches that participating in the Lord's Supper is an expression of complete unity of faith (1 Cor. 10:17). We lovingly ask, therefore, that before joining in this, the highest act of fellowship, a unity of faith based on the Bible be established through membership in this congregation or in a sister congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We are most eager for you to join us in the unity of faith and confession we enjoy. If you would like to discuss "close" communion or any other spiritual matter with the pastor, please indicate this on the Friendship Register.

DISTRIBUTION SONG - CHOIR:

“O Lord, Have Mercy”
Music by Patrick M. Liebergen

O Lord, have mercy; Lord hear my plea.
O Lord, have mercy; Lord set me free.
Your crown of thorns You wore for me
When You died at Calvary,
Your side was pierced upon the cross,
Your life, it seemed, was lost.
O Lord, have mercy; Lord hear my plea.
O Lord, have mercy on me.

O Lord, I love You; You died for me.
O Lord, I love You; You set me free.
Your final hours were spent in pain
Yet Your spirit overcame,
You gave Your life as God's own Son,
And life's vict'ry it was won
O Lord, I love You; You died for me.
O Lord, have mercy on me.

O Lord, I praise You; I sing Your name.
O Lord, I praise You; Your love proclaim.
Your final breath did conquer sin
And for all did vict'ry win,
All glory be to You, O Lord,
Sing we now in one accord.
O Lord, I praise You; I sing Your holy name.
O Lord, Your love I proclaim.

O Lord have mercy; Lord, hear my plea.
O Lord, have mercy on me.

SONG

“In My Father’s Kingdom”
Fernando Ortega

TO GETHSEMANE

M: I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. (Matthew 26:29-30)

HYMN

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 of 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 suff'ring, pain, or loss;
Learn of 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 of Jesus Christ to die.

THE GARDEN?

Message (Pastor Joe Johnson)

HYMN

"Gethsemane Hymn"

Cantors (vs.1) Congregation (vs.2-3)

1. To see the King of heav - en fall In an - guish to His knees; The
 2. To know each friend will fall a - way, And hea - ven's voice be still, For
 3. What took Him to this wretch - ed place? What kept Him on this road? His

Light and Hope of all the world Now ov - er - whelmed with grief. What
 hell to have its venge - ful day Up - on Gol - go - tha's hill. No
 love for A - dam's cur - sed race, For ev - ery bro - ken soul. No

name - less hor - rors must He see, To cry out in the gar - den: "Oh,
 words de - scribe the Sa - vior's plight - To be by God for - sa - ken Till
 sin too slight to ov - er - look, No crime too great to car - ry, All

take this cup a - way from Me, Yet not my will but Yours; Yet
 wrath and love are sa - tis - fied, And ev - ery sin is paid, And
 min - gled in this poi - soned cup, And yet He drank it all; The

not my will but Yours." 2. To
 ev - ery sin is paid.
 Sa - vior drank it

3. What all.

Please Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

M: We now focus our attention on the altar which represents the presence of Christ with us. It has been a custom within the Christian Church to celebrate Good Friday worship with a bare altar. To ponder the significance of this custom, we will conclude our service tonight with a “Stripping of the Altar”. The objects and adornments which set on the altar during the course of normal worship will be removed one by one. As his life was stripped from him, so we strip our altar of the signs of his life to point to his purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

SONG

“Psalm 88”

Cantor: Jim Baer

Our Offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God’s greatest offering to the world and to us in sending his Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The Candles The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

The Missal Stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

Holy Communion Jesus’ offered body and shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

Paraments & Coverings Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves as both host and meal at his banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King’s body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

RECESSION OF THE CROSS

Please stand and face the cross in the front of the church. The lights in the church are darkened. Please turn toward the back of the church as the cross is carried past your pew.

Following the recession of the cross please stay and meditate for as long as you'd like. With the somber reality of the Good Friday the congregation is asked to maintain silence as they leave to reassemble for worship on the morrow.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP AT 7:00 PM

