



*But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

# Holy Thursday

April 17, 2025

7:00 p.m.

## As We Gather

Holy Thursday, the night Jesus was betrayed, began with the disciples celebrating the Passover. Here, Jesus washed His disciples' feet, telling them to love one another, just as He loved them. He took a cup, gave it to His disciples to drink, and commanded them to remember Him by doing likewise. Then we go to the Garden of Gethsemane, where He was betrayed and arrested. On this day we remember the commands of Jesus and celebrate His coming to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

## Prelude

*Stand*

**Hymn**                      O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken                      439 *sts. 1, 2, 5*

## Salutation and Collect

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.

## Call to Worship

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Jesus said, *"I did not come to invite virtuous people, but sinners."* Merciful God, we do not dare to this table trusting in our own goodness and virtue. We come because we are sinful people and need forgiveness. We come because we are hungry for life and need to be fed.
- C** **Father, forgive us and feed us.**
- P** We come because Christ has invited us sinners. We come in gratitude and wonder to offer our very selves to You in worship and adoration.
- C** **Father, accept our praise;**
- A** **Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

## Old Testament Responsive Reading

Exodus 12:1-14

*(Moses tells us how the first Passover meal was instituted.)*

**P** The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron in Egypt:

**C** **“This month is to be the first month of the year for you.**

**P** Give these instructions to the whole community of Israel: On the tenth day of this month each man must choose either a lamb or a young goat for his household.

**C** **If his family is too small to eat a whole animal, he and his next-door neighbor may share an animal, in proportion to the number of people and the amount that each person can eat.**

**P** You may choose either a sheep or a goat, but it must be a 1-year old male without any defects.

**C** **Then, on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, the whole community of Israel will kill the animals.**

**P** The people are to take some of the blood and put it on the door posts and above the doors of the houses in which the animals are to be eaten.

**C** **That night the meat is to be roasted and eaten with bitter herbs with bread made without yeast.**

**P** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled, but eat it roasted while including the head, the legs, and the internal organs.

**C** **You must not leave any of it until morning; if any is left over, it must be burned.**

**P** You are to eat it quickly, for you are to be dressed for travel, with your sandals on your feet and your walking stick in your hand. It is the Passover Festival to honor Me, the Lord.

**C** **On that night I will go through the land of Egypt, killing every firstborn male, both human and animal, and punishing all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord.**

**P** The blood on the doorposts will be a sign to mark the houses in which you live. When I see the blood, I will pass over you and will not harm you when I punish the Egyptians.

**C** **You must celebrate this day as a religious festival to remind you of what I, the Lord have done. Celebrate it for all time to come.”**

**P** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

*(Paul gives us the background of the institution of "The Last Supper")*

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "*This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.*" For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves

**P** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Holy Gospel

Luke 22, John 13 (selected verses)

*(Jesus shares His last supper with His disciples.)*

**P** Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "*Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.*"

**C** "*Where do you want us to prepare for it?*" they asked.

**P** He replied, "*As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'* He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

**C** **They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So, they prepared the Passover.**

**P** The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**C** **He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"**

**P** Jesus replied, *“You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”*

**C** *“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”*

**P** Jesus answered, *“Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”*

**C** *“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”*

**P** Jesus answered, *“Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.”* For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place and he said to them, *“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”*

After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, *“Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

And he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, *“This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”*

**P** This is the word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

**Hymn of the Day**

Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

434

**Sermon**

An Invitation to Holy Communion

*Rev. Ermeling*

*(The Parable of the Wedding Feast.)*

*Matthew 22:1-14*

**P** Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: *“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.”*

**C** **Then he sent some more servants and said, “Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.”**

**P** But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

**C** Then he said to his servants, “The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.” So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

**P** But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, “How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?” The man was speechless.

**C** Then the king told the attendants, “Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

**P** For many are invited, but few are chosen.

## Offering

Stand

### Offertory



**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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

**P** We pause for a time of personal confession and reflection;

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Together we come before the Lord.

**A** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers, and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

**P** As a called and ordained servant of the Christ it is my joy to declare to you that the Almighty and Merciful Lord grants you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

**C** Thanks, be GOD!

## 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.

# ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

(We believe that the risen Christ is really present in the sacrament, and, under the form of the bread and wine, we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith and life. We also remember St Paul's words, "*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.*")

## **Preface and Words of Consecration**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**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 so to do.**

**P** On the night He was betrayed ---

**C** **He came to be like us that we might be more like Him.**

**P** He took bread ---

**C** **He came to share our life that we might know what true sharing and breaking is to be in our lives.**

**P** And when He had given thanks ---

**C** **We come to see the real Christ in the Supper: His forgetfulness of self against our self-centeredness; His humility against our foolish pride; His trust against our doubts and fears.**

**P** He broke it and gave it ---

**C** *"God so love the world that He gave His only-begotten Son...."*

**P** He gave it to His disciples ---

**C** *"Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."*

**P** Saying, Take! Eat! ---

**C** **Take forgiveness, love and the very miracle of Christ Himself. Take it as a gift offered.**





world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

*Sit*

### Distribution Hymns

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord	637
Your Table I Approach	628
Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray	623

*Stand*

### The Thanksgiving and Closing Prayer

- P** As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup:
- C** You do show the Lord's death until He comes!
  
- P** Dear Lord Jesus, we thank and praise You that You have again refreshed us with the gift of Your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless our participation that we may depart from Your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that we are reconciled to God. We ask this in Your name.
- C** Amen.
  
- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.
  
- P** Bless we the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.



## ✠ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

*(During the hymn, the altar is stripped of the Communion ware, the paraments, the candles, and all the altar appointments that are placed into the sacristy as a symbol of the abandonment our Lord endured in the hours that would follow and a reminder of how Jesus was stripped of His clothes and ultimately His life, in payment for our sins. **The congregation sits in silence if the hymn is completed before all items are removed.**)*

*There is no benediction or closing service music tonight.*

### Silent Recessional

- P** We leave the sanctuary in silence, praying,
- C** O Lord, not my will, but yours be done. Amen.

*PLEASE! – To enhance our worship experience, we ask that there be no talking until after you leave the building.*

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*"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"*