

Holy Thursday, occurring on the eve of our Lord's crucifixion, begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ's Passover, commonly known as the Triduum. The service on this day culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ's Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy. The Service for Holy Thursday consists of four parts; the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution; the Service of the Word; the Service of the Sacrament; the Stripping of the Altar.

The Lord's Supper is a confession that we are united in holding to all the doctrines of God's Word. Those who do not know and hold to the doctrinal commitment of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are requested to attend the Adult Instruction Class for membership before communing at Faith Lutheran Church.

Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

(Pastor and Congregation enter in silence)

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Greeting

- \mathbf{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.
- \mathbf{P} Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.

Sit

■ Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and 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 sins." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with the wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

■ Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- **C** 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.
- **P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.
- **C** Amen.
- **P** Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?
- **C** Yes.
- **P** Let it be done for you as you believe.
- In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.
- P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in + peace.
- **C** Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in this wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may so receive the sacred mystery of Your body and blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1–14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴"This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual



He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;* the LORD is gracious and | merciful.

C He provides food for those who | fear him;* he remembers his covenant for- | ever.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Psalm 111:4-5

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant 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.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Tract

C He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;* the LORD is gracious and | merciful.

He provides food for those who | fear him;* he remembers his covenant for- | ever.

My flesh is true food, and my blood is | true drink.* Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and | I in him.

Holy Gospel

John 13:1–15, 34–35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you....

³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon Hymn: "O Lord, We Praise Thee"

Thee, and 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless a - dore Thee, 2 Thy ho - ly bod _ in to death was giv - en, y 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor In thanks - giv - ing fore Thee. be Thou with Thy bow -No great - er Life to win for us in heav en. fol - low Christ our That we Sav _ ior And live to -Thy blood didst nour - ish bod - y and Our weak souls that May love than to Thee could bind us; this feast there this geth - er here love and u - nion Nor de - spise this in 0 6 they may flour ish: 0 Lord, have mer cy! of re mind us! Ο Lord, have mer cy! blest Com - mu nion! Ο Lord, have mer cy! _ ø Thy That May bod - y, Lord, born of Mar our Lord, Thy Thee Thy kind - ness did con - strain That so Let not Thy good Spir it for - sake us; Grant that -• 0 sins and sor - rows did car - ry, blood should bless and sus - tain me. And Thy blood for us plead Thou hast paid; All our debt Give Thy Church, Lord, to see heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; 0 4 tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer In all cy! Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer cy! Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer cy! Tune: Public domain Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110342550

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy;

C hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to 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.

C Amen.

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.

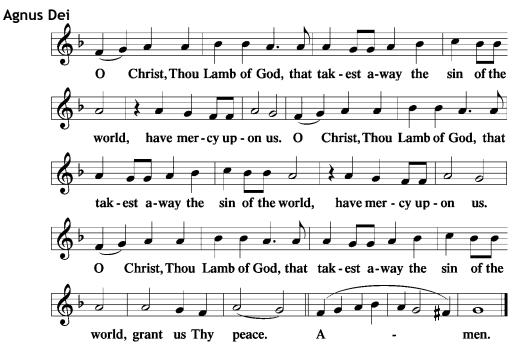
The Words of Our Lord

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 sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

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



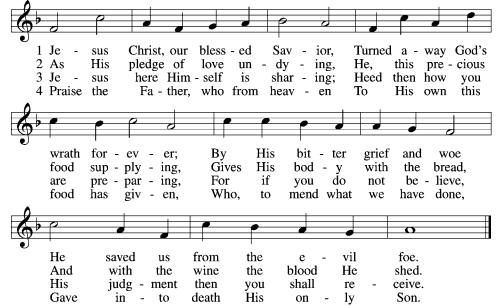
Sit

Distribution

Suggested silent prayer for right reception of the Lord's Supper: O Lord, my God, in Holy Baptism You have called me to be a Christian and granted to me the remission of sins. Make me ready to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins, and grant me a grateful heart that I may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Suggested silent prayer in thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament: Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to me in this holy Sacrament. Keep me in Your faith and favor that I may live in You even as You live in me. May Your body and blood preserve me in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear me for the sake of Your name. Amen.

Distribution Hymn: "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"



- 5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken That this food is to be taken By the sick who are distressed, By hearts that long for peace and rest.
- 6 Agony and bitter laborWere the cost of God's high favor;Do not come if you supposeYou 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.

8 "For what purpose was My dying If not for your justifying? And what use this precious food If you yourself were pure and good?"

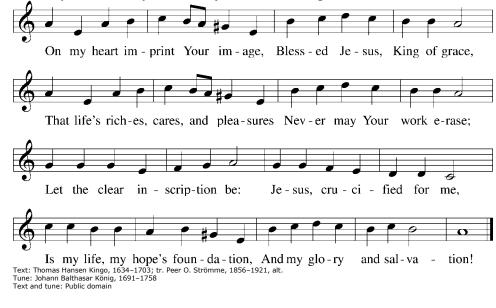
- 9 If your heart this truth professes And your mouth your sin confesses, You will be your Savior's guest, Be at His banquet truly blest.
- 10 Let this food your faith so nourish That its fruit of love may flourish And your neighbor learn from you How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1– 2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt. Tune: Gelstliche Lieder auffs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug, alt. Text (sts. 3, 6, 8, 10): © 1980 and 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110342550 Text (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9) and tune: Public domain

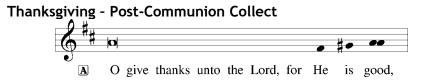


Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good! Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr. Tume: Emskirchner Choral-Buch, 1756, Leipzig Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110342550 Tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: "On My Heart Imprint Your Image"

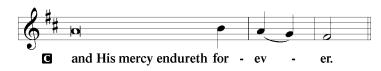


Stand



LSB 199ff

LSB 422



A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Stripping of the Altar

The communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

- Image: My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?*
 Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my | groaning?
- C ²O 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.
- C ⁴In you our fathers | trusted;* they trusted, and you de- | livered them.
- To you they cried and were | rescued;* in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- **C** ⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,* scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- P ⁷All who see me | mock me;* they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;
- **C** ⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;* let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!"
- 9Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;* you made me trust you at my | mother's breasts.
- C ¹⁰On you was I cast | from my birth,* and from my mother's womb you have | been my God.
- I¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble | is near,* and there is | none to help.

С

- C ¹²Many bulls en- | compass me;* strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;
- ¹³they open wide their | mouths at me,* like a ravening and roaring | lion.
 - ¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are | out of joint;* my heart is like wax; it is melted with- | in my breast;

| P | ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;* you lay me in the dust of death. |
|---|--|
| C | ¹⁶For dogs en- compass me;* a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— |
| P | ¹⁷ I can count all my bones—* they stare and gloat over me; |
| C | ¹⁸ they divide my garments a- mong them,* and for my clothing they cast lots. |
| P | ¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off!* O you my help, come quickly to my aid! |
| С | ²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword,* my precious life from the power of the dog! |
| P | ²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion!* You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen! |
| С | ²² I will tell of your name to my brothers;* in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: |
| P | ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glo- rify him,* and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! |
| C | ²⁴For 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. |
| P | ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congre- gation;* my vows I will perform before those who fear him. |
| С | ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!* May your hearts live for- ever! |
| P | ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,* and all the families of the nations shall worship be- fore you. |
| C | ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,* and he rules over the nations. |
| P | ²⁹ 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 him- self alive. |
| C | ³⁰ Posterity shall serve him;* it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- ation; |
| P | ³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,* that he has done it. |

All leave the church in silence.

Acknowledgments

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