



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

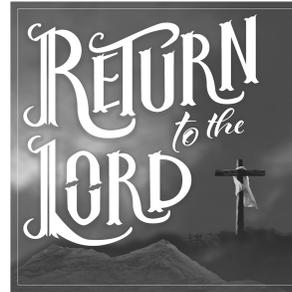
April 1, 2021

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Return to the Table

On this night known in the Church as Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to join Him once again at His Table. He knows our need for strengthening and reassurance. The place in which we gather is filled with the blessing of fellowship as we remember the new command of our Lord Jesus to love one another. Our Lord serves us in many ways, most singularly as the Host at His Table, where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Time and again we are invited to return to the Table, where truly we experience a foretaste of the feast to come.



ORGAN PRELUDE & RINGING OF THE TOWER BELL

628 Your Table I Approach

- 1 Your table I approach;
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart
Prove hurtful to me there.

- 2 Lord, I confess my sins
And mourn their wretched bands;
A contrite heart is sure to find
Forgiveness at Your hands.

- 3 Your body and Your blood,
Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord,
In blest reality.

- 4 Search not how this takes place,
This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more
Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessed 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.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Joel 2:13; Colossians 4:2; Philippians 4:5-6

- P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
C slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil.
P Seek the Lord while He may be found;
C call upon Him while He is near.
P Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
C let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalms 43:4; 124:8; 32:5

- P** I will go to the altar of God,
C to God my exceeding joy.
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 AND 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 Christ Jesus. Let us then make our confession to our God. 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. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1-4; antiphon: v. 5

- P** Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
- C** **I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**
- P** Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.
- C** **“O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!”**
- P** Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;
- C** **our God is merciful.**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- O God our Father, grant that, despite our failures and sins, we find redemption through our Savior Jesus Christ, and with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

FIRST READING *Exodus 24:3-11*

³Moses 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.” ⁴And 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. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then 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.” ⁸And 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.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

PSALM

Psalm 116:12-19

- C** **What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?**
- P** I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people.
- C** **Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.**
- P** O LORD, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.
- C** **I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.**
- P** I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people,
- C** **in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise 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.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶The 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?

¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 14:12-26

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus'] disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³And 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, ¹⁴and 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?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And 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." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For 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."

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

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

625 Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,
May I in grace possess You.
Let me with holy food be fed,
In hunger I address You.
Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.**

- 2 To pastures green, Lord, safely guide,
To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide,
Your wounded hand now feed me.
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak,
Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.**

- 3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight,
For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight
In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me
That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.**

4 I do not merit favor, Lord,
My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord,
O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me
That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

SERMON "Return to the Table" 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

PRAYERS

ORGAN OFFERTORY and Steward MINUTE

- Offering Prayer
(Tonight's Offering: The Lutheran Hour Broadcast)

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

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 Sov'reign, God of pow'r and Lord of might,
Your great glory fills creation, Earth below and heaven's height.
So we sing our glad hosannas Lord, to You, who reigns on high;
"Save us, Lord," your people clamor,
"Blessed is He who now draws nigh."

Prayer Of Thanksgiving

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Words of Our Lord

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, as You call us to repentance and to prayer, with faith and hope we turn to You, the source of mercy and love. Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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 PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Invitation - 626 Come, Let Us Eat

(congregation echoes pastor)

- Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,*
Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
Our Lord's body let us take together.
- Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,*
Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.
- In His presence now we meet and rest,*
In His presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Distribution of Holy Communion

622 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared
This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood,
And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed,
We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

- 2 Although You did to heav'n ascend,
Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold
Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see
Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,

- 3 Yet, Savior, You are not confined
To any habitation;
But You are present even now
Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand,
Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

- 4 We eat this bread and drink this cup,
Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood
Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true;
All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

- 5 Though reason cannot understand,
Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now
At once in many places.
I leave to You how this can be;
Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.

- 6 Lord, I believe what You have said;
Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust,
And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears
Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

- 7 Grant that we worthily receive
Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins,
May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace
And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

8 For Your consoling supper, Lord,
Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place
The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!
- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!
- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

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Response - 626 Come, Let Us Eat

(congregation echoes pastor)

- 4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,
Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

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 blessing of almighty God—our Father in heaven, His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

It is an ancient custom of the church to strip the altar bare on Holy Thursday, removing all the ornaments, lines, and paraments. This rite is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers. After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, beating, crowing with thorns, spitting, mockery, the trudge to Golgotha and shameful death. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar to symbolize His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death "for us men and for our salvation".

445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning

- 1 When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

- 2 Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples' feet.

- 3 What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
"Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood."

- 4 One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev'ry place and time.
- 5 One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

✠ **Soli Deo Gloria** ✠
To God Alone Be Glory



Our Holy Week Observation Continues...

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae
Tomorrow ♦ 7:00 p.m.



**Easter Morning Celebration
of the Resurrection of Our Lord**

Sunrise Service ♦ 7:00 a.m.

Festival Service ♦ 9:30 a.m.

Both services will be the same; both with Communion