

MAUNDY THURSDAY

APRIL 1, 2021

The name for this day, Maundy Thursday, comes from the Latin *Dies Mandati*, “Day of the Commandment.”

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN 135 – The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

1 The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,

We celebrate with one accord;

It is our comfort in distress, Our heart’s sweet joy and happiness.

2 He blotted Out with his own blood

The judgment that against us stood;

He full atonement for us made, And all our debt he fully paid.

3 That this forever true shall be He gives a solemn guarantee;

In this his holy supper here We taste his love, so sweet, so near.

4 His Word proclaims and we believe That in this supper we receive

His very body, as he said, his very blood for sinners shed.

5 A precious food is this indeed—It never fails us in our need—

A heav’nly manna for our soul Until we safely reach our goal.

Pastor: Jesus said to his disciples, "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."

CONGREGATION: We eagerly desire our Savior's presence
among us as we review this sacred day in salvation
history.

Pastor: The presence of Word and Sacrament assure us that our Lord and Savior is present among us.

CONGREGATION: May his Gospel in Word and Sacrament
strengthen our faith and increase our joy. May our
worship glorify his name.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, this day was a solemn day for you and is now a sacred day for us. As we meditate on what you said and did in the upper room, help us hear your Word with understanding and celebrate your supper with a genuine appreciation for what it cost you and what it means for us. Deepen our desire to reflect your commitment to us in our devotion to you, for your name's sake.

Congregation: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 12:1-14

THE PSALM: Psalm 116

Pastor: I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

CONGREGATION: Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

Pastor: The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow. Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me!"

CONGREGATION: The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

Pastor: The LORD protects the simple-hearted; when I was in great need, he saved me.

CONGREGATION: Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

Pastor: For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living. How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?

CONGREGATION: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 14:12-26

HYMN 312 (Verses 1-4): 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 your are present ev'rywhere And 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, and there is naught you cannot do, For you,
Lord, are almighty.**

THE MESSAGE: 1 Corinthians 10:14-17

14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? 17 Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

Yes!

1 We are participating in the body and blood of Christ.

2 We are one body.

3 We flee from idolatry.

PRAYER - LORDS 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.

OFFERING

HYMN 312 (Verses 5-8): Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

**5 Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is ev'rywhere 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.**

ORDER OF PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our Lord Jesus Christ has instituted the Sacrament of the Altar for the special comfort and strengthening of those who are properly prepared, as he instructs us through the Apostle Paul, "Whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

For this reason, those who intend to partake of the Sacrament are cautioned to examine, or test themselves beforehand. The Scriptures also state the purpose of this self-examination: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves"(2 Corinthians 13:5). An honest self-examination will determine our attitude toward sin as well as our attitude toward the Savior from sin.

Although a self-examination prior to attending the Lord's Supper may include many questions, only four are truly essential. Let us consider each of them.

1. DO I BELIEVE THAT I AM A SINNER?

As we ponder this question, we ought to consider the Ten Commandments and compare our lives to these standards. God's Word states that one of the purposes of the commandments is to reveal our sin to us.

CONGREGATION: "Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin."

Pastor: We also ought to consider what God requires of us in regard to these commandments. "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." As we consider our lives and all that God's Word says about us, we must honestly concur with the Scripture which declares....

CONGREGATION: "There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins." We deserve God's anger and punishment in this life and for all eternity.

2. DO I BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR MY SINS?

The second question is important for the person who has pondered his sin. As we consider our own answer to this question, let's hear again the assurance of God about what our Savior has done for us: "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am the worst."

CONGREGATION: "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. AM I DETERMINED THAT WITH THE HELP OF GOD I WILL CHANGE WHAT IS WRONG IN MY LIFE?

Our forgiveness is never based on or conditionalized by our promise to stop sinning or to improve our sanctified living. However, God's forgiveness will bear fruit in our lives. Forgiven sinners will be motivated by the Holy Spirit to hate sin. Forgiven sinners will not want to repeat their sins again. So St. Paul inquires, "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!" The assurance that our sin is forgiven will be followed by a new and better life. Martin Luther writes, "The penitent should, above all, look forward. To probe and ponder how bad you have been is not enough if you do not ponder and probe much more how good you desire to become!" Let us heed the encouragement of the Scriptures.

CONGREGATION: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.."

4. DO I BELIEVE THE PROMISES OF JESUS REGARDING THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR?

The final question involves the meaning of the Sacrament itself. Christ has promised that in this Sacrament he gives his body and blood together with the bread and wine. As he said, "This is my body....this is my blood." His apostle also certifies this truth: "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?" It is crucial that all communicants recognize and accept the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament for God says, "For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."

We should also believe the Lord's promises concerning the benefits of the Lord's Supper. Christ promises: "This is my body given for you....this is my blood shed for you....for the forgiveness of sins." We ought to firmly believe that in this Sacrament our Savior gives us his body and blood for the full forgiveness of all our sins.

Pastor: What moves you to desire Holy Communion?

CONGREGATION: The command and promise of Christ my

Lord moves me. The burden of sin that lies heavy upon me causes me to hunger and thirst for Holy Communion.

HYMN 135 (Verses 6-9): The Death Of Jesus Christ, Our Lord

CONSECRATION/DISTRIBUTION

THE LORD'S SUPPER – Out of obedience to the command of our Lord and as an expression of Christian love for everyone concerned, we practice close communion. **We invite all who are communicant members of Prince of Peace or visitors who belong to our W.E.L.S. fellowship to receive the Lord's Supper with us.** If you have no church membership or belong to a different fellowship, faith, or even a different Lutheran church body, we ask that you please refrain from communing.

God's Word teaches us to regard Communion as an outward expression of unity in all areas of faith. (1 Corinthians 1:10, Romans 16:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:17.) God's Word warns us that any communicant who does not recognize that the body and blood of Christ really are present in the Sacrament brings judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Scripture also requires each communicant to examine himself (1 Corinthians 11:28) before receiving the Lord's body and blood together with the bread and wine.

PRAYER

Pastor: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 316: O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

**1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed On me thy body and thy blood.**

**2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart—How blest am I!
How good thou art!**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Good Friday – April 2, 1:00 pm worship service

Easter Sunday – April 4, 9:30 am worship service