



Holy Thursday

April 17, 2025 + 7:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church & School
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HOLY THURSDAY

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO SERVES AND FEEDS US

When Christians gather as the church, it is for what we normally call a “service.” In daily life a “service” is, of course, a person or group who provides something of value to others; for instance, a food service, a cleaning service, or a place for “servicing” your car. But when we gather as church for a service, who is doing the serving and who is being served? After all, with our eyes we only see one another singing and praying, making the sign of the cross, standing, sitting, kneeling, baptizing with water, and communing with bread and wine. It is easy for some to get the impression that this activity we call “worship” is a gathering where we are doing something for God. What is really going on of most importance is God’s doing, God’s serving us through the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This divine service was most dramatically shown in this night on which our Lord Jesus serves and feeds us.

Tonight, our mighty Lord, who has proved His power over demons, sickness, and even death, takes the humbler part. His loving service is shown, first, by taking the role of a servant washing His disciples’ feet. His greatest and chief service, however, He announced as He took charge of the ancient Passover meal, changing it from a mere memorial of what God has done in the Old Testament exodus of the past to its fulfillment in what He was about to accomplish in His innocent, bitter suffering and death on a cross. From now on, the fulfillment of the annual Passover feast is to be celebrated “often” as the chief means by which God literally connects us with our Lord’s crucified body and His precious blood that take away the sin of the world “as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup” (*LSB*, p. 162).

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

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

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.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSSIONAL ADDRESS

P During this Lenten season, we have heard our Lord’s call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving one another. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. 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 also 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.

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

Please Stand

- P** 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.
- 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** 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.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +
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.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1–14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:12–19

What shall I render | to the LORD*

for all His bene- | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*

and call on the name | of the LORD,

I will pay my vows | to the LORD*

in the presence of all His | people.

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*

is the death | of His saints.

O LORD, I am Your | servant;*

I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have | loosed
my bonds.

I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

I will pay my vows | to the LORD*

in the presence of all His | people,

in the courts of the house | of the LORD,*

in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 11:23–32*

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the eleventh chapter.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE

John 13:1b

Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

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

C **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. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

^{31b}When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. ³²If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him at once.

³³Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek Me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’ 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

HYMN

“Jesus, Greatest at the Table” (LSB 446)

SERMON – “The Hand of the Lord Who Saves and Feeds Us”

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Almighty God, as we conclude these holy forty days of Lent and enter the three days of our Lord's Passion, death, and rest in the tomb, we give You thanks that You have shown Him to be for us Your very hand of our creation and life; our victorious Lord over the adversary Satan and his hordes; our Great Physician, who heals our diseases; our Lord of Life, who raises us from death; and our all-powerful Lord in whom all things hold together whether on earth or in heaven. Tonight, as He demonstrated His love at His Last Supper, make us to be servants of love toward one another. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Defend Your whole church throughout the world, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen all pastors to rightly preach and administer Your Sacraments. Sanctify Your faithful people, making them perfect in faith, love, and in all good works. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Bless the missions of Your church, the newly established congregations, and those that reach out across the world with the light of Your truth and witness to Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead a peaceable life in all honesty and integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear offices of the authority of government in our land and help them to serve all people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** By Your Word and Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or adversity, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (see Matthew 5:22–24; Ephesians 4:1–3).

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LSB, p. 159

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Stand

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB, p. 160

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.

PROPER PREFACE

P 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 on this night long ago established His Supper, that life-giving food and drink that now this night and throughout our lives nourishes us in body and soul. 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

LSB, p. 161

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

LORD’S PRAYER

LSB, p. 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB, p. 162

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

LSB, p. 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB, p. 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“When You Woke That Thursday Morning” (*LSB* 445)

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” (*LSB* 640)

“The Word That Spoke in Darkness” (Tune LSB 518)



1 The Word that spoke in dark - ness And prom - ised com - ing
 2 The Sav - ior came to con - quer And meet His mis - sion's
 3 The Christ pro - claimed His vic - t'ry With ev - 'ry act of
 4 The Prince of Peace con - tin - ued With each new task com -



light Kept guid - ing through the a - ges Un - til the time was
 aim: Up - end - ing Sa - tan's ter - ror, Cre - a - tion to re -
 grace: The out - cast shown com - pas - sion And God's own ho - ly
 plete At cross and tomb and glo - ry Up - on His roy - al



right To take on flesh and fol - low The Fa - ther's good com -
 claim By walk - ing on the wa - ters So we by faith may
 face As Je - sus looked with fa - vor On all from ev - 'ry
 seat, De - liv - er - ance ac - com - plished Ex - act - ly as He



mand And dwell a - mong His peo - ple, The king - dom now at hand.
 stand With trust in Him whose res - cue Is of - fered by His hand.
 land Who need - ed life and heal - ing From His al - might - y hand.
 planned; Our King will raise in wel - come His pierced and ris - en hand.

Text: Lisa M. Clark Tune: English; Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text: © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CPH Lent License no. 110003744 Tune: Public domain

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

P 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.

Stripping of the Altar

The candles are extinguished, and we pray Psalm 22, which our Lord prayed from the cross. All items are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared. This reminds us of how our Lord endured being forsaken by the Father while suffering and dying on the cross, which remains our focus during the solemn services of Good Friday. As we pray the Psalm and observe this rite, ponder anew all that Jesus has done for you and your salvation because of His great love for you. Pastor prays the odd verses and the congregation prays the even verses.

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

³Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

⁵They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

(Pause)

⁷All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

⁹Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

¹⁰From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

(Pause)

¹³Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

¹⁷I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

¹⁸They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

(Pause)

¹⁹But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

²⁰Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

²¹Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

²²I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

(Pause)

²⁵From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

²⁶The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him-- may your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

²⁸for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him -- those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

³¹They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn-- for he has done it.

+ *At the conclusion of the Stripping of the Altar, please take a moment of silence, pondering what Jesus has done for you by His death and resurrection.*

*Due to the unified nature of the services of the **TRIDUUM**, the **BENEDICTION** is omitted this evening. It is spoken on Easter Sunday to conclude all the services of the Three Days.*

Acknowledgments

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Worship Assistants

Maundy Thursday, April 17th - 7:00p

Elder: Bruce Brooks
Acolyte: Sarah Burger
Organist: Teresa Leising

Usher: Steve Junge
Engineer: Eric Rosenthal
Altar Guild:
Shirley Helmbrecht

Good Friday, April 18th - 7:00p

Elder: Dan Oertwig
Acolyte: Eleanor Davis
Organist: Carol DeLoach

Usher: Andy Wollberg
Engineer: Jamie Marquardt
Altar Guild:
Ellen Hockemeier & Chelsea Junge

Easter Saturday, April 19th - 7:00p

Elder: Dan Oertwig
Acolyte: Miriam Gaunt
Organist: Carol DeLoach

Usher: Andy Wollberg
Engineer: Jamie Marquardt
Altar Guild:
Ellen Hockemeier & Chelsea Junge

Easter Sunday, April 20th

Elder: Eric Rosenthal
7am Acolyte: Jacob Halvorsen
9am Acolyte: Jarren Blattner
Organist: Nathan Fittje

Usher: Andy Wollberg
Engineer: Jared Nuttelman
Altar Guild:
Ellen Hockemeier & Chelsea Junge