



Rethinking Religion

OUR APPETITES

Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

WHAT IS MAUNDY THURSDAY?

Maundy Thursday receives its name from the Latin phrase *novum mandatum*, which means, "new command." It refers to Jesus' words which he spoke to his disciples on this night, "A new command I give you: Love one another" (John 13:34). The institution of the Lord's Supper on that night displays the depth of Jesus' love for us and gives power to the Church to live out his command.

WHY GO TO COMMUNION?

"We go because we are poor, miserable people. We go exactly because we are unworthy. Say to God, 'I would like to be worthy. But I come, not upon any worthiness, but upon your Word, because you have commanded it.' In the second place, there is also a promise. For here stand the kind and precious words, 'This is my body, which is given for you. This is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' Therefore consider and read yourself into the word 'you.'" (Adapted from Martin Luther's Large Catechism)

FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

THANK OFFERING

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

As our Savior on this night commanded us to love one another as he has loved us, we praise him for also giving us his body and blood in the Holy Supper for the forgiveness, life, and salvation we need to do so.

CHOIR

Holy Art Thou

Stand

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. We should not doubt this absolution but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion, first instituted on this night, the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant

that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

RECONCILIATION

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

HYMN

528 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate sts. 2, 5

(short musical intro)



2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, food for bod - y,
5 Christ, the way that leads un - fail - ing to the Fa - ther's



food for soul; Christ, the man - na, dai - ly giv - en,
home on high; Christ, the truth that frees the cap - tive,



nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
Christ, the life that can - not die; me - di - a - tor



food of heav - en, fore - taste of the feast to be; quench our
to the Fa - ther, sac - ri - fice and great High Priest: lead us



thirst with liv - ing wa - ter spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
to your heav'n - ly man - sions, there to share your wed - ding feast.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinatti, 1825, ed. William Moore

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Tune: Public domain

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, your Son was betrayed by Judas, abandoned by his disciples, and arrested by his enemies to fulfill your plan for our salvation. Forgive us when we abandon you by our sin and strengthen us through your Word and through the sacrament of your Son's body and blood that we may always cling in faith to your

gospel promises in every adversity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

The Word

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:21–30

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take lambs for yourselves according to your family size, and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²You shall take a bundle of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and paint the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you are to go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴"You shall observe these instructions as a perpetual regulation for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you just as he said he would, you shall observe this ceremony. ²⁶So when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷you will say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Passover to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck the Egyptians, he spared our houses.'"

The people bowed down and worshipped. ²⁸The Israelites went and did all this. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, even all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰During the night Pharaoh got up—he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians—and there was a loud outcry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not someone dead.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Corinthians 11:26

**Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

GOSPEL

Mark 14:12–26

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, 'Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

continued...

¹⁸While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, "Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, "Surely not I?"

²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about 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."

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "Take it. This is my body."

²³Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



HYMN OF THE DAY

417 *It Was a Dark and Dismal Night*



1 It was a dark and dis - mal night when pow'rs of
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, in mem - 'ry
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate; we show your



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his
eat the liv - ing food." Then took the cup and
of your dy - ing friend; meet at my ta - ble
death; we sing your name till you re - turn and



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.
ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of grace he spoke!
blessed the wine: "This is my all - a - ton - ing blood."
and re - cord the love of your de - part - ed Lord."
we shall eat the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

I Want to Partake of...

CONFESSION OF FAITH

In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther summarizes what the Bible teaches about the institution, blessings, power, and proper reception of the Lord's Supper, also called Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Altar.

What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul record Jesus' words when he said, "This is my body... This is my blood."

What blessing do we receive from such eating and drinking?

That is shown us by these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?

It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

Who, then, properly receives this sacrament?

Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.

OFFERING

"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).

Stand

The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we also bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. See p.295 in the hymnal for preparation.

PREPARATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us prepare and lift up our hearts. Do you believe that you are sinful and in need of forgiveness?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe that in this sacrament Jesus gives you his body and blood?

Yes, I believe.

Do you believe, therefore, that in this sacrament you receive forgiveness of your sins, life, and salvation?

Yes, I believe.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

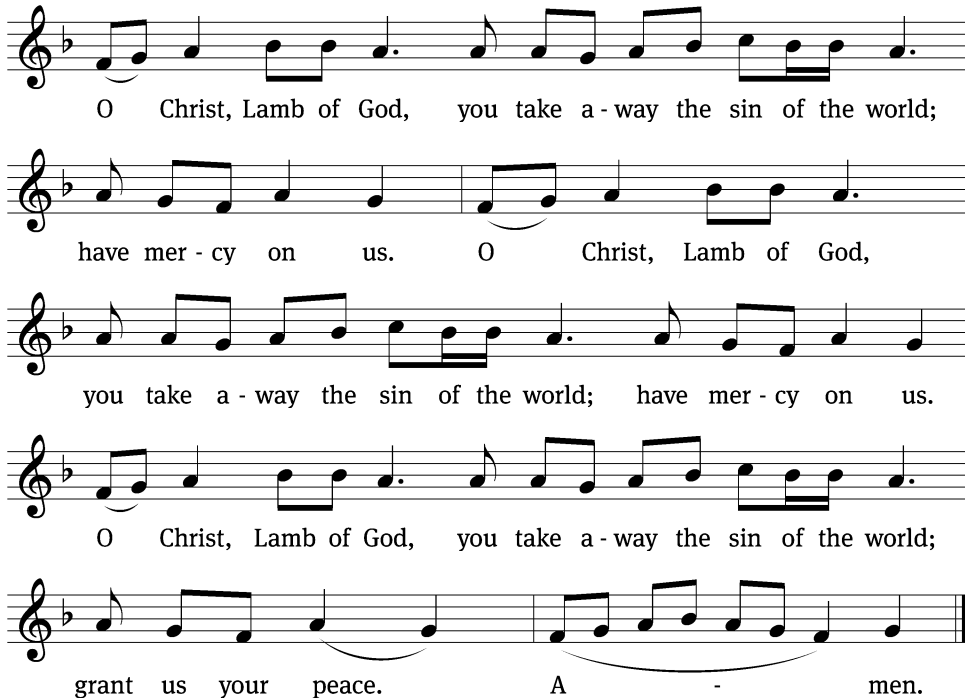
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION

"The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:16,17). Please follow the directions of the ushers during distribution.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

660 *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*



1 Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
 2 This is the hour of ban - quet and of song;
 3 I have no help but yours nor do I need
 4 Mine is the sin but yours the right - eous - ness;



here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
 this is the heav'n - ly ta - ble spread a - new.
 an - oth - er arm but yours to lean up - on.
 mine is the guilt but yours the cleans - ing blood.



here grasp with firm - er hand e - ter - nal grace,
 Here let me feast and, feast - ing, still pro - long
 It is e - nough, O Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace:



and all my wea - ri - ness up - on you lean.
 the brief bright hour of fel - low - ship with you.
 my strength is in your might, your might a - lone.
 your blood, your right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God.

- 5 Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 the feast, though not the love, is past and gone.
 The bread and wine remove, but you are here,
 nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.
- 6 Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
 the Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, *abr.*, *alt.*
Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

661 Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere
4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,



and drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.
has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.
and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.
gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood,
He gave his life for great - est and for least,
Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends,
Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow,



with souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.
him - self the of - f'ring and him - self the priest.
gives all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.
in this great feast of love be with us now.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, *alt.*; Latin, 7th cent., *abr.*
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois
Text and tune: Public domain

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

668 *Jesus Comes Today with Healing*



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, knock - ing at my
2 Christ him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, yet in bread and
3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, gives him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
wine a - bid - ing in this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
Sav - ior ho - ly, blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
me this hour — in this or - di - nar - y sign.



He him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, and I hear his
gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, and the cup, the
ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, who to bit - ter
On my tongue his pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept his



in - vi - ta - tion: "Come and taste the bless - ed feast."
pre - cious to - ken of his sa - cred cov - e - nant.
death was giv - en, hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
grace, be - liev - ing that I taste his love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God's boundless favor,
whose own feast of love I savor,
bidden by his gracious call.
Wedding garments he provides me,
with a robe of white he hides me,
fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
comfort in my tribulation,
balm to heal the troubled soul.

God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
cleanses me from sin and error,
makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: tr. David W. Rogner, b. 1960; Heinrich Puchta, 1808–1858
Tune: adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758; Johann Löhner, 1645–1705
Text: © 2003 David W. Rogner. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 736889
Tune: Public domain

Stand

PRAYER

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.

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

932 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The sup - per is end - ed; O be now ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us



shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
u - nite us as one in his life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us; his love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

Accompanists

Pastor Brock Groth

Irene Bakken

Micah Gray

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HOLY WEEK CONTINUES AT ST. PAUL'S

Friday, March 29, @ 1:30 & 7:00 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Saturday, March 30, @ 10:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt @ St. Paul's School
Sunday, March 31, @ 6:30 am	Easter Worship
@ 7:15 am	Easter Breakfast
@ 9:00 am	Easter Worship





WiFi: SPLC_Guest
Password: gracealone

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