

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



## Holy Thursday Service

*April 2, 2026 7:00 PM*

# Maundy Thursday

## Holy Thursday Service

### Corporate Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*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.**

*Sit*

**P** 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. 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 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.**

- P** Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*Kneel/Stand.*

**C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, 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.

*The pastor absolves all the penitents corporately from the altar.*

**P** 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.**

*After all have returned to their seats, the pastor speaks this blessing.*

**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.**

# Not All the Blood of Beasts

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 17



**A** Together, we sing Psalm 116 responsively:

*<sup>17</sup>I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.*

<sup>12</sup>What shall I render | to the LORD\*  
for all his bene- | fits to me?

**<sup>13</sup>I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD,**

<sup>14</sup>I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people.

**<sup>15</sup>Precious in the sight | of the LORD\*  
is the death | of his saints.**

<sup>16</sup>O LORD, I am your | servant;\*  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.  
You have | loosed my bonds.

**<sup>17</sup>I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.**



<sup>18</sup>I will pay my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of all his | people,  
<sup>19</sup>in the courts of the house | of the LORD,\*  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!

**C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

<sup>17</sup>I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving\*  
and call on the name | of the LORD.

## Kyrie

LSB 204



**C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## 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 24:3–11*

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

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

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Choir

"Is It I, Lord?"

*Kellner*

## Epistle

*Hebrews 9:11–22*

<sup>11</sup>When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup>he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. <sup>16</sup>For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup>Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup>For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, <sup>20</sup>saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." <sup>21</sup>And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup>Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**C** **Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

*John 13:1b*

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 26:17–30*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>17</sup>Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup>He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" <sup>19</sup>And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

<sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup>He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

<sup>26</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

<sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

<sup>30</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

LSB 206

**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  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**O Lord, We Praise Thee**

*LSB 617*



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -  
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!

May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our  
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy  
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that  
 sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see  
 In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - 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!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2-3): Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002371  
 Tune: Public domain

## Sermon



*Stand*

## Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray....
- C** Amen.

*Sit*

# Go to Dark Gethsemane

LSB 436



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the  
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of  
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing  
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb Where they laid His



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,  
life ar - raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!  
at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
breath - less clay; All is sol - i - tude and gloom.



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His  
Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,  
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"  
Who has tak - en Him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.  
hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Text and tune: Public domain

## Service of the Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

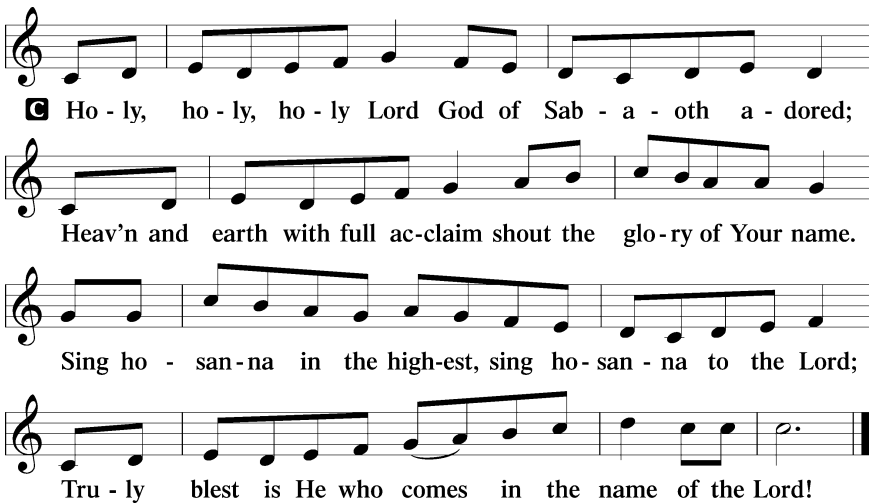
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

### **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 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  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** 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  $\text{†}$  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.

# Agnus Dei

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

## Distribution



## The Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  $\text{✠}$  in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **The Stripping of the Altar**

*Immediately following the Post-Communion Collect, the communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn service of Good Friday. The congregation may sit in silence and contemplate what is to come on Good Friday. At the conclusion of the stripping of the altar, all leave the church in silence. The Benediction is not spoken as the services of Holy Week (specifically Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, the "Triduum," or "Three Days") are all part of one service.*

*~ All leave in silence ~*

**Acknowledgments**

Holy Thursday from Lutheran Service Book

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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“Is It I, Lord?” Words and Music by Mark Kellner

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## Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!