



April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Due to the solemn celebration of this week, there is no Prelude, Musical Offering, and Postlude. Only hymns are accompanied. Our worship concludes with the stripping of the altar. Today marks the first of the three holy days called the Triduum. Therefore at the end of our worship the Benediction is omitted.

The Congregation gathers in silence.

Proclamation of the Word

“Jesus: Our Covenant”

Luke 22:7–20

Processional Hymn

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

- ♪ Today Your mercy calls us To wash away our sin. However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been, However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.
- ♪ Today Your gate is open, And all who enter in Shall find a Father’s welcome
And pardon for their sin. The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.
- ♪ Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits; His blessed angels gather
Around the heav’nly gates. No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.
- ♪ O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door, What should we do without You
When heart and eye run o’er? When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 915-Text: Oswald Allen 1816-78; Public Domain.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Psalms 32:1, 5

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our transgressions and sins to the Lord, our God, in the presence of one another.

When we look into the mirror of Your perfect law, we are reminded that we are no better than our ancestors. We rebel against You like the Israelites on the way to the Promised Land. We are like King David, committing sins we think no one will know about. You know us. You know our transgressions and sins against You and one another. We humbly come to You seeking forgiveness. Sprinkle our hearts and make them clean. Forgive our sins by the blood of Jesus that was given and shed for us.

Renew a right spirit within us for Jesus’ sake. *A Time of Silence*

Blessed people of God, you have confessed your transgressions to the Lord. He forgives your iniquity and will remember your sin no more. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O Lord, on this night You poured out the new covenant in Your blood. Grant that we may so receive the 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.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Epistle

Hebrews 10:15–25

¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

Gradual Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

♪ My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

~On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

♪ When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. ~On Christ,...

♪ His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;

When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. ~On Christ,...

♪ When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,

Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! ~On Christ,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 575- Text: Edward Mote 1797-1874; Public Domain.

Holy Gospel Please Stand

Luke 22:7–20

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” ⁹They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” ¹⁰He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

O Lord,

Have mercy upon us.

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted”

- ♪ Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, See Him dying on the tree!
‘Tis the Christ, by man rejected; Yes, my soul, ‘tis He, ‘tis He!
‘Tis the long-expected Prophet, David’s Son, yet David’s Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: ‘Tis the true and faithful Word.
- ♪ Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning, Was there ever grief like His?
Friends thro’ fear His cause disowning, Foes insulting His distress;
Many hands were raised to wound Him, None would intervene to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that justice gave.
- ♪ Ye who think of sin but lightly Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly, Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed, See who bears the awful load;
‘Tis the Word, the Lord’s anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.
- ♪ Here we have a firm foundation, Here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation, Is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded Who on Him their hope have built.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 451 -Text: Thomas Kelly 1769-1855; Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn 1850;
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Nicene Creed

Offering

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn

Music: “On my Heart Imprint Your Image,” Hymn 422

- ♪ Holy, holy, holy Jesus, Blessed Lord and King of all.
In Your pow’r and might come free us From the devil’s lies and thrall.
Let our proclamation be Sweet hosannas unto Thee.
As we journey through Lent’s wasteland, Hold us in Your scarred, yet graced hand.

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Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Agnus Dei Hymn

Music: "On my Heart Imprint Your Image," Hymn 422

♪ Lamb of God, for sinners given, In Your nail-pierced hands is balm.
Lamb of God, for sinners riven, In Your cross is peace and calm.
Let this proclamation rise: "I am baptized into Christ,"
Is my ward and my protection, And my death and resurrection.

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Distribution Hymn

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

♪ I come, O Savior, to Thy table, For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able To satisfy and make me whole:
~Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood Be for my soul the highest good!
♪ Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; So I, a sinner, come to Thee. ~Lord,...
♪ Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy Lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful shepherd art. ~Lord,...
♪ Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now Thy guest. ~Lord,...
♪ What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace. ~Lord,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 618 - Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder 1677-1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal 1941;
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Prayer of the Church

Stripping of the Altar

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

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

⁷All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

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

¹⁶For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—

- ¹⁷I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!
²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
²²I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.
²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.
²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.
³⁰Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

The Benediction is omitted. All leave in silence.

Our worship continues tomorrow evening (Good Friday).