



MAUNDY THURSDAY

GATHER AT THE TABLE OF GRACE

Ascension Lutheran Church

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2024

Maundy Thursday

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

For those wishing to commune at the Lord's Table with us today: The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23-30). Thus, attendance at the Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians, (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine, (3) confess and repent of one's sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament, and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins.

+ PREPARATION +

"HE'S GOT US COVERED"

AS WE GATHER: Sin gets heavy. Sin can be embarrassing. We try to ignore it, cover it up, or pretend it doesn't exist. None of those things get rid of our sin or its weight on us. God doesn't minimize, excuse, or relativize sin. He places our sin on Jesus and nails it to a cross. God forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. As we come to our Lord's Table tonight, God freely forgives us through the body and blood of Christ that comes to us in, with, and under the bread and wine.

PRELUDE

"Gathered In The Upper Room"

Words and Music by P. Mock/F. Lopez

Music inspired by G. Faure

Ascension Choir

WELCOME

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620

- 1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”
- 2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.
- 3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.
- 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.

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”, Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960, Text: © David W. Rogner. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

OPENING SCRIPTURES

32:1, 5

- P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- C** I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

- P** I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- C** **Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us confess our transgressions and sins to the Lord, our God, in the presence of one another.
- C** **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 each other. 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.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- Lord Jesus, it was on this night that You washed Your disciples’ feet and instituted the feast we know as the Lord’s Supper. Nourish our faith and our souls in this feast of Your body and blood, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

+ READINGS+

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (ESV)

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. ³³But 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.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 10:15-25 (ESV)

¹⁵The 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

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

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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

"When You Woke That Thursday Morning"

LSB 445

1 When You woke that Thursday morning,
 Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
 Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
 Knowing how the day would end;
 Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
 Now at last the hour had come
 When but One could pay sin's wages:
 You assumed their dreadful sum.

- 2 Never so alone and lonely,
 Longing with tormented heart
 To be with Your dear ones only
 For a quiet hour apart:
 Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
 One last paschal meal to eat,
 One last lesson as their teacher,
 Washing Your disciples' feet.
- 3 What was there that You could give them
 That would never be outspent,
 What great gift that would outlive them,
 What last will and testament?
 "Show Me and the world you love Me,
 Know Me as the Lamb of God:
 Do this in remembrance of Me,
 Eat this body, drink this blood."
- 5 One day all the Church will capture
 That bright vision glorious,
 And Your saints will know the rapture
 That Your heart desired for us,
 When the longed-for peace and union
 Of the Greatest and the least
 Meet in joyous, blest communion
 In Your never-ending feast.

"When You Woke That Thursday Morning", Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008, Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

SERMON

"A BLESSED PASSOVER"

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 22:7-20

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Due to the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, an offering will not be taken during the worship service. Plates are available in the back of the church should you desire to place an offering.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- [P]** Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord God, on this night we remember how You rescued Your people from slavery in Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. We are reminded of how You have rescued us from slavery to sin and are bringing us to Your heavenly kingdom. Nourish our faith and lead us to walk in Your ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Heavenly Father, You made covenants with Your people throughout the centuries. Yet, in these last days, You have made a new covenant with us through Your Son. Make this covenant known among us and all peoples of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord Jesus, You humbled Yourself and took on the role of a servant when You washed Your disciples' feet. You commanded them to love one another just as You loved them. Lead us to love others as You have first loved us. Stir us up to love and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Holy Lord, as we come to Your Table, forgive our sins through Your body and blood and wrap us in the robe of Your righteousness that covers all our sins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls, and all things; redeem us, O Lord, faithful God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

**We believe in the real presence of the body
and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.**

Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

PREFACE

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

*You may want to turn to the **Psalms** in the Pew Bible or beginning on page 313 of your hymnal for meditation. You may also want to “pray” **some of the Lenten hymns**, which are found from #90 - #122 in your hymnals.*

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for forgiving our transgressions, covering our sins, and no longer counting our iniquities against us. Nourish us with the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus, and lead us to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as we see the Day drawing near; 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

After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's last hours of life moved rapidly:

prayer in Gethsemane

betrayal by Judas

arrest, mock trial, painful beating,

the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Flowers are new life springing forth. In the passion and suffering of Christ, human life ebbs from Him. In recognition of this we remove these flowers from our altar.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our **candles** and remove them.

Our **offerings** represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The stand on our altar holds the Bible, God's Word of truth and salvation. Jesus is truth and salvation. He was removed from us, but only for a very short time.

We remove this **Bible** that represents the Word made flesh. Yet we remember His word: "I am with you always even to the end of the earth."

Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove **the elements and vessels of this Sacrament**.

Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The **coverings and paraments** are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

The **cross** is the symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ and all that He is in our lives. As Jesus' life was removed from Him on the cross, so we remove that symbol from before us. But we note that the cross at our altar is an empty cross signifying that Jesus is no longer on the cross and no longer in the tomb. We will see Him again. May His peace be with us. Amen.

(After the stripping of the altar has been completed, all may leave the church silently. Our Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 PM)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Ascension Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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