



# Maundy Thursday

Ascension Lutheran Church

*"A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone"*

Maundy Thursday ~ April 6, 2023

## Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023

**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!

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

**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.

*(Grape juice is available for those who not drink alcohol and gluten free wafers are available upon request.)*

**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.**

**(P) = Pastor, (C) = Congregation, (A) = Reader/Assisting)**

## **+ THEME +**

### **“Signed in Blood”**

**As We Gather:** When Moses told the people at Mount Sinai what God wanted, they all said, “All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do” (Exodus 24:3). But they didn’t. And neither do we follow through on our commitments to God. Yet, because of the sacrifice of His Son, God has kept His covenant promises. He “signed,” celebrating the covenant with a meal shared by the leaders of Israel. We, too, partake of a foretaste of the coming feast as we go to the Lord’s Table today.

God sealed the covenant as Jesus’ tomb was sealed by the Roman authorities on Good Friday. In our Baptism we have been sealed for eternal life, united with our Lord in the Body of Christ, the Church. And on Easter, as our Savior was “delivered” from death and the grave, so we have been delivered from the punishment due us. Our worship today and through Easter is an opportunity to thank God for the covenant He has signed, sealed, and delivered through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **+ PREPARATION +**

### **PRELUDE**

# WELCOME

## HYMN

### When You Woke That Thursday Morning

- 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."
- 4 One in faith, in love united,  
All one body, You the head,  
When we meet, by You invited,  
You are with us, as You said.  
One with You and one another  
In a unity sublime,  
See in us Your sister, brother,  
One in ev'ry place and time.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Opening Scripture

*Hebrews 9; Psalm 111*

- P** Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
- C** **thus securing an eternal redemption.**
- P** Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
- C** **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**
- P** He sent redemption to His people;
- C** **He has commanded His covenant forever.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Hebrews 9:11–12*

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, we have come together intending to receive our Lord Jesus Christ's body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. The Sacrament provides comfort for troubled hearts and freedom from the wrath we deserve.

When we look at our lives and conduct, though, we find sin and rebellion. Worse, we cannot free ourselves by our own strength. "But when Christ appeared as a high priest . . . He entered once for all into the holy places . . . by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I confess that I am a poor, miserable sinner. I have sinned in my thinking, speaking, and acting. I deserve Your punishment here in time and hereafter in eternity. In Your boundless mercy, hear my sincere repentance and for the sake of Your Son's giving Himself over to suffering and death on my behalf, be 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. 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.

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**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.

## + THE WORD +

## Old Testament

*Exodus 12:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell 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. <sup>4</sup>And 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.

<sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and 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. <sup>7</sup>"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. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In 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. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>The 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. <sup>14</sup>"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."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 11:23-32*

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>25</sup>In 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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. <sup>27</sup>Whoever, 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. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup>But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be

judged. <sup>32</sup>But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 26:17-30 (ESV)*

**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.



## SERMON HYMN

### Your Table I Approach

- 1 Your table I approach;  
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart  
Prove hurtful to me there.
- 2 Lord, I confess my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find  
Forgiveness at Your hands.
- 3 Your body and Your blood,  
Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord,  
In blest reality.
- 4 Search not how this takes place,  
This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more  
Than what we think could be.
- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.  
Text: Public domain

**Sermon**  
**“TAKE PART”**

*Pr. Jim Sprengle*  
*1 Corinthians 11:23-32*

## 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** Father, on the night when He was betrayed, Christ Jesus humbled Himself to stoop down and bathe His disciples' feet, even the feet of the one who would betray Him. Grant us the fervent desire to embody this attitude of service and kindness to all that the love of Christ may abound through all our speech and actions. Hear our prayer and

**C** **humble us, O Lord.**

**P** On this night, Christ prayed that His disciples would be one in faith. He prayed for those who would hear His disciples' proclamation, that all would come to know that You sent Him into the world to be the light of the world. Just as Christ encouraged others to boldly proclaim the message of salvation, so also hear our prayer and

**C** **renew our witness, O Lord.**

**P** On this night, Your Son and our Savior gave us His last will and testament, giving us His true body and blood that we receive Him for the forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith. Give us truly penitent hearts that we receive this Sacrament worthily. Cleanse us and feed us with the precious body and blood of Your Son, that we live godly lives and boldly resound with the one true confession of faith with the whole company of saints, in heaven and on earth.

**C** **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## **+ 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**

### **Pax Domini**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **“In Remembrance”**

Words by R. Courtney/Music by Buryl Red

**Carlyn Staudt, soloist**

### **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**P** Let us pray.

Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed  
and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus  
Christ. Strengthen us through this Holy Meal in faith toward  
You and in caring love toward one another as we live out our  
callings.

With Your loving grace, hear our prayers and grant all that is best for us according to Your caring will. Grant us Your abiding peace as we await Your eternal kingdom. In the name of Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, we pray.

**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**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.

Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Church: 503-665-8821 • Childcare Center: 503-667-6750

Web Site: [www.alcportland.org](http://www.alcportland.org)

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.

## STAFF

**Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor**

[pastor@alcportland.org](mailto:pastor@alcportland.org)

**Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor**

[pastorekyah@alcportland.org](mailto:pastorekyah@alcportland.org)

**Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator**

[worship@alcportland.org](mailto:worship@alcportland.org)

**Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator**

[office@alcportland.org](mailto:office@alcportland.org)

**Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers**

[treasurer@alcportland.org](mailto:treasurer@alcportland.org)

**Wanda Cassetty, Council Secretary**

[council@alcportland.org](mailto:council@alcportland.org)

**Laura Potter, Property Management**

[property@alcportland.org](mailto:property@alcportland.org)

