

Maundy Thursday

The term Maundy in Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin, *mandatum*, meaning “commandment.” This refers to the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples on the first Holy Thursday after washing their feet. (John 13:1-12; 13:31-35). This same night, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper. We partake of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday to celebrate the institution of this gift from God. At the end of the service tonight the altar will be stripped, the crucifixes and crosses are removed or veiled, and the altar is left bare to prepare for the solemnity of the Good Friday service

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at Ascension Lutheran on each Sunday. We receive this Holy Sacrament in the glad confidence that our Lord Jesus, as His word says, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Our Lord invites to His table those who, repenting of their sins, believe His word that His body and blood are truly present for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized believers who hold our confession of faith and have examined themselves according to Scripture’s guidance (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), are invited to receive His Sacrament. If you are not yet baptized or are visiting us for the first time, we invite you to come forth during communion and fold your arms over your heart for a blessing. Pastor would be happy to discuss receiving Holy Communion at Ascension with you.

Holy Thursday

For Many Means for You

As We Gather

We have been reflecting a great deal on the phrase “for us.” Tonight, though, we will hear about the phrase “for many” as Jesus gives His own body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26–28). Jesus and the disciples are celebrating the Passover, but Jesus does something new. We hear echoes of how Moses and the elders saw God (Exodus 24:3–11), recognizing that the sacrifices of old will not satisfy (Hebrews 9:11–22). When Jesus says the phrase “for many,” He is clearly pointing the disciples to the fact that His death was not only for them alone but for the sins of the world. Because you are a part of the many, “for us” still holds true.

PREPARATION

Stand

Invocation

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

Opening Hymn - When You Woke That Thursday Morning *LSB*
445

Opening Sentences

Hebrews 9:11–12, 15, adapt.

- P** Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, He entered once for all into the holy places,
- C** **by means of His own blood, 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.

Confessional Address

- P** During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving each other. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. 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. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples’ feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. 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 the 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, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Confession and Absolution

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C 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.
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.**

WORD

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in this Sacrament, You graciously come to us as both host and Meal. Grant that we hear Your words "for many" as meaning "for you," for each of us gathered at Your Table this day; 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

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 9:12a, c, 15a; Psalm 111:9a

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.**

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–22

P The Epistle is from Hebrews, the ninth chapter.

¹¹When 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) ¹²he 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. ¹³For 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, ¹⁴how 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.

¹⁵Therefore 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. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For 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, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Verse

John 13:1b

P Having loved His own who were in the world,

C He loved them to the end.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 26:17–30

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷Now 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?” ¹⁸He 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.’” ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴The 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.” ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

²⁶Now 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.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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.”

³⁰And 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.

Sit

Sermon

Stand

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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song - Your Will Be Done

*Praise Team
 Congregation joins vs. 2*

Verse 2

How in that garden he persisted
 I may never fully know
 The fearful weight of true obedience
 It was held by him alone
 What wondrous faith to bear that cross
 To bear my sin what wondrous love
 My hope was sure when there my Saviour prayed
 Father not my will but Yours be done

Offertory

Psalm 51:10-12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -



Prayer of the Church

- P** As brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus, let us go to our heavenly Father in confident prayer.

Almighty God, You have called Your church to witness that, in Christ, You have reconciled us to Yourself.

- C** **Grant that, by Your Holy Spirit, we be emboldened to proclaim the Good News of our Savior so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

- P** O Lord God, in Holy Baptism You have granted us the remission of sins.

- C** **Make us ready to receive the holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins and grant us grateful hearts so that we may give thanks to You now and forever.**

- P** Lord, keep all nations under Your care. Bless the leaders of our land and around the world so that we may be at peace and a blessing to one another.

- C** **Grant that we choose trustworthy leaders, contribute to wise decisions for the general welfare, and serve You faithfully in our generation.**

- P** O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon all who are ill, alone, imprisoned, or in personal distress. Hear their prayers.

- C** **For Jesus' sake, restore, surround, free, and give comfort to them.**

- P** Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commit all for whom we pray for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be overcome. 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

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**

The Words of Our Lord *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ̄ bod - y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re - mem - brance of Me.” In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say - ing: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My ̄ blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me.”

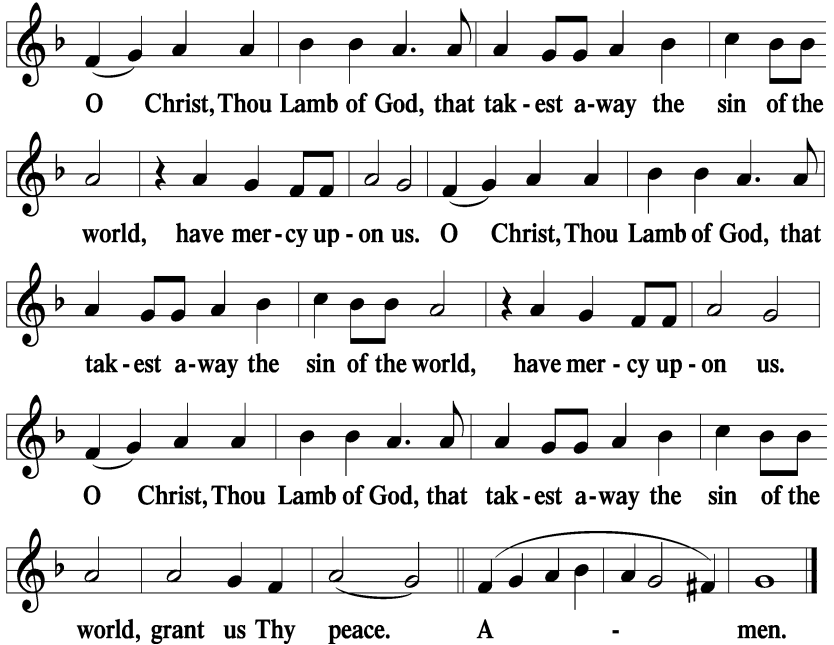
Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns - In Remembrance

Verse 1

In remembrance of Me eat
this bread
In remembrance of Me drink
this wine
In remembrance of Me pray
for the time
When God's own will is done

Verse 2

In remembrance of Me heal
the sick

In remembrance of Me feed
the poor
In remembrance of Me open
the door
And let your brother in let
Him in

Bridge

Take eat and be comforted
Drink and remember too
That this is My body
And precious blood shed for
you shed for you

Verse 3

In remembrance of Me share
my truth
In remembrance of Me show
my love
In remembrance of Me don't
look around

But in my Word, in my Word
Look in my Word for God
Do this in remembrance of
Me
Do this in remembrance of
Me
In remembrance of Me

Behold the Lamb**Verse 1**

Behold the Lamb who bears
our sins away
Slain for us and we
remember
The promise made that all
who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of
Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of
peace
Around the table of the King

Verse 2

The body of our Saviour
Jesus Christ
Torn for you eat and
remember
The wounds that heal the
death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us
one
So we share in this Bread of
Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of
love
Around the table of the King

Verse 3

The blood that cleanses
every stain of sin
Shed for you drink and
remember
He drained death's cup that
all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this Bread of
Life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of
grace
Around the table of the King

Verse 4

And so with thankfulness and
faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps
of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering
We proclaim Christ will come
again
And we'll join in the feast of
heaven
Around the table of the King

Communion Dismissal

- P** Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace ☩ and with joy.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Nothing But the Blood

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
O Savior, You gave Yourself into death so that we might have life; we give thanks that You have forgiven our sins and strengthened us through this Sacrament. Give us hearts to give thanks with all that we think, say, and do today and always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

- P** This is the night on which our Savior was betrayed. We remove the appointments of the chancel to symbolize the abuse He received. The candles shine no more as the light of the world is taken to His death, the books are closed as the Word is silenced for a time, the paraments on the altar are removed as our Lord's body is laid bare, and the altar is left alone for the sacrifice to be remembered tomorrow.

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

G ¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are | out of joint;*
my heart is like wax;
it is melted with- | in my breast;

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

G ¹⁶For dogs en- | compass me;*
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my | hands and feet—

P ¹⁷I can count | all my bones—*
they stare and gloat | over me;

G ¹⁸they divide my garments a- | mong them,*
and for my clothing they | cast lots.

P ¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!*
O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

G ²⁰Deliver my soul | from the sword,*
my precious life from the power | of the dog!

P ²¹Save me from the mouth of the | lion!*
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

G ²²I will tell of your name to my | brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise
you:

P ²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,*
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!

G 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.

P ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;*
my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

G ²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall | praise the LORD!*
May your hearts live for- | ever!

P²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations
shall worship be- | fore you.

G²⁸**For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
and he rules over the | nations.**

P²⁹All 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 him- | self alive.

G³⁰**Posterity shall | serve him;*
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- |
ation;**

P³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to
a people | yet unborn,*
that he has | done it.

Please depart in silence.

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