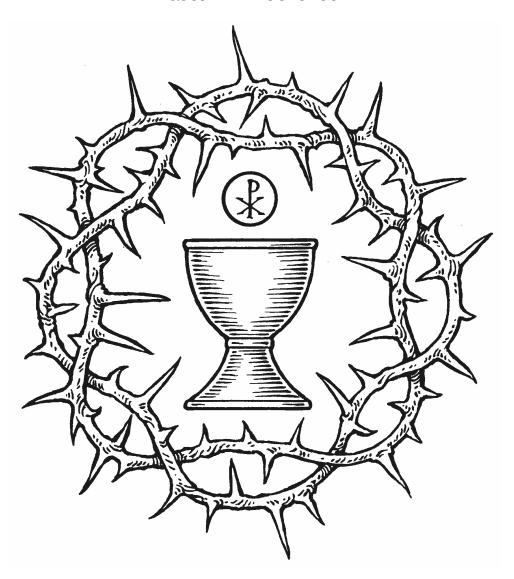
St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church Holy (Maundy) Thursday

Pastor Erik Sorenson



April 9, 2020

There are two names traditionally associated with this day in Holy Week. The more common name is Maundy Thursday. This name comes from the traditional Gospel reading (John 13:1-17, 31b-35) where, after washing the disciples feet, Jesus tells them, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." The Latin word for "commandment" is mandatum, from which we get "Maundy." The other name for this day is Holy Thursday. This name reminds us that this service takes place within Holy Week and begins the focus on our Lord's passion. It also points us to the institution of the Lord's Supper which we celebrate tonight as well, as this Sacrament is "holy," that is, set apart and sacred.

Just as we have fasted this Lenten season from our words and songs of praise, so too tonight we omit several ordinary parts of the service, such as the Introit, the Kyrie, the Lenten Verse, the Creed, the Offertory, and the Nunc Dimittis. We do this to reflect the penitential and reflective nature of this night and this week.

Finally, tonight is the beginning of the Triduum (literally "three days"). The Triduum is one continuous service which takes place Thursday through Saturday. We celebrate the Triduum as we meditate upon Christ's passion in real time. May God bless us during this Holy Week.

Corporate Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- **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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **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.
- 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.

Service of the Word

Salutation and Collect of the Day





C And al - so 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.



Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1–14

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

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

[Christ] entered once for all into the holy places, by means of his own blood,

thus securing an eternal redemption.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant,

so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

He sent redemption to his people;

he has commanded his covenant forever.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

After the reading:

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.



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Sermon The New Passover

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 160



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 LSB 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer LSB 162

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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

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 Hody, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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 Holood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



Distribution

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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

The stripping of the altar symbolizes Christ's own humiliation as He was stripped of His garments by the Roman soldiers prior to His crucifixion. In this way, the altar and the chancel area are prepared for Good Friday. Before the altar is stripped, Psalm 22 is read in its entirety, further preparing us for the crucifixion, where Jesus recited this very psalm.

Psalm 22

There is no Benediction, as this service continues tomorrow, Good Friday, at 7:00 PM. The congregation departs in silence.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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