



April 2, 2026

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.

Processional Hymn *Please Stand* Music: “Stricken, Smitten” Hymn 451 “When You Woke”

♪ 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.

♪ 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.

♪ 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.”

♪ 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.

♪ 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 445 -Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda 1919-2008; Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, Paderborn 1850;
Setting: Paul G. Bunjes 1914-98; ©1982 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

I will go to the altar of God,

To God my exceeding joy.

Psalms 43:4

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

Confession Address

Confession and Absolution

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.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

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.

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.

Amen.

Prayer

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3–11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. 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.

The Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–22

¹¹But when 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 blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify 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.

Psalmody

Psalm 116:12–19

What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 26:17–30

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.

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

♪ Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

♪ Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

♪ Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

♪ Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 436—Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“A Blood Bath and a Feast to Remember”

Exodus 24:3–11

Nicene Creed

Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:

Preface *Please Stand*

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 Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus *Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"- Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423*

♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord God, Heav'n and earth Your glory show.
With the life and breath You've given We Your name praise here below
Sing hosanna, blest is He who Comes to us, our Savior dear.
Sing hosanna in the highest, Sing hosanna far and near.

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:26 & Revelation 22:20

O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei *Music: "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"- Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423*

♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, our Savior, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Jesus, Lamb of God, Redeemer, Savior from the world above,
Jesus, Lamb of God our Savior, take our sins from us away.
Comfort us by Your sweet presence. Grant us peace to us today.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"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, abr.; Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005255

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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).*