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April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday

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Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary

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*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 until Easter and all leave in silence. The Congregation gathers in silence.*

### Invocation

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

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3–11

<sup>3</sup>Moses 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.” <sup>4</sup>And 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. <sup>5</sup>And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. <sup>7</sup>Then 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.” <sup>8</sup>And 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.” <sup>9</sup>Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, <sup>10</sup>and 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. <sup>11</sup>And 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

<sup>11</sup>But 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) <sup>12</sup>he 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. <sup>13</sup>For 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, <sup>14</sup>how 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.

<sup>15</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>16</sup>For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. <sup>17</sup>For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the

one who made it is alive. <sup>18</sup>Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. <sup>19</sup>For 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, <sup>20</sup>saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” <sup>21</sup>And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. <sup>22</sup>Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

**Gradual Hymn** *Alternate Tune: “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.

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**Holy Gospel** *Please Stand*

Matthew 26:17–30

<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.

### **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.

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### **Proclamation of the Word**

“Signed in Blood”

Exodus 24:3–11

### **Nicene Creed**

### **Offering**

### **Confession and Absolution**

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 the 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, we find sin and rebellion. Worse, we cannot free ourselves by our own strength. But when Christ appeared as our 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.

*A Time of Silence*

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.**

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

**Amen.**

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.**

## **Words of Our Lord**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Distribution Hymn**

“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;

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## **Prayer of the Church *Please Stand***

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

## **Stripping of the Altar**

Psalm 22

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

<sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

<sup>9</sup>Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

<sup>10</sup>On you was I cast from my birth,  
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.

<sup>12</sup>Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

<sup>13</sup>they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;

<sup>15</sup>my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup>they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

<sup>19</sup>But you, O LORD, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

<sup>20</sup>Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

<sup>22</sup>I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup>For 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.

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup>The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!  
May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.

<sup>28</sup>For kingship belongs to the LORD,  
and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>All 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.

<sup>30</sup>Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

<sup>31</sup>they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

*The Benediction is omitted. Our worship continues tomorrow evening (Good Friday).*