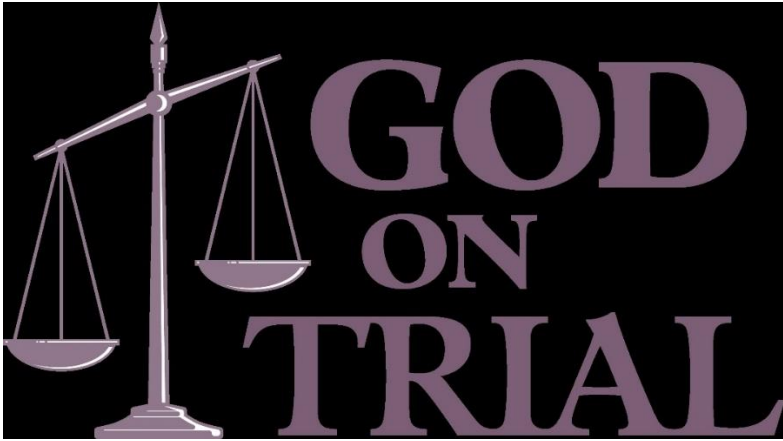


*Welcome to our Maundy Thursday
Worship Service
St. John's Lutheran Church
Neillsville, WI
March 28, 2024*



***"Welcome Visitors & Members!"** To those who are visiting us, we extend our sincere welcome; to our friends who know us we renew our welcome; to those who seek a church home we invite you to be part of our family and enjoy fellowship with our Savior.*

To assist you in worship, please be aware that personal listening devices are available for anyone to use. Please talk to the ushers.

Holy Communion

*St. John's Lutheran Church practices member communion. We ask, therefore, that only those who are members of St. John's or another WELS/ELS congregation partake of the sacrament. **To help you prepare for communion, you may want to read page 156 in the front of the red hymnal or pages 295-296 in the blue hymnal.***

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper using the regular style of distribution at the rail. If there are any members who don't feel comfortable coming up to communion, please let Pastor or one of the ushers know. We will be happy to serve you the Lord's Supper where you are sitting. Please don't hesitate to ask.

Introduction

Maundy Thursday (from the Latin mandatum, meaning "command" John 13:34), recalls Christ's command to love one another as he loved us. To motivate such love, Christ instituted Holy Communion. In this sacrament we receive the forgiveness of sins through Jesus' actual body and blood by the power of God's Word connected with bread and wine.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

136 'Twas on that Dark, that Doleful Night



1 'Twas on that dark, that dole - ful night
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan,
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin;
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end,
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate;



When pow'rs of earth and hell a - rose
He took the bread and blessed and broke.
Re - ceive and eat the liv - ing food."
In mem - ry of your dy - ing friend;
We show your death; we sing your name



A - gainst the Son, our God's de - light,
What love through all his ac - tions ran!
Then took the cup and blessed the wine:
Meet at my ta - ble and re - cord
Till you re - turn and we shall eat



And friends be - trayed him to his foes.
What won - drous words of grace he spoke!
" 'Tis the new cov - 'nant in my blood."
The love of your de - part - ed Lord."
The mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: ST. CROSS (LM) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

Invocation

P: Come, let us bow down in worship

C: let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

P: for he is our God

C: and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father,
I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.
In what I have done and left undone,
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.
I am truly sorry for my sins.
I repent of them.
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

Silence for meditation

P: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**C: Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to change for the better my sinful life.**

P: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Exhortation

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

Responsive Prayer

P: Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross.

C: Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this Sacrament to our eternal good, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 12:21-30

²¹Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go and take lambs for yourselves according to your family size, and slaughter the Passover lamb. ²²You shall take a bundle of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and paint the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you are to go out of the door of your house until morning. ²³When the LORD passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you.

²⁴"You shall observe these instructions as a perpetual regulation for you and your descendants. ²⁵When you enter the land that the LORD will give you just as he said he would, you shall observe this ceremony. ²⁶So when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ²⁷you will say, 'It is the sacrifice of the Passover to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt. When he struck the Egyptians, he spared our houses.'"

The people bowed down and worshipped. ²⁸The Israelites went and did all this. They did just as the LORD had commanded Moses and Aaron.

²⁹At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on his throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon, even all the firstborn of the livestock. ³⁰During the night Pharaoh got up—he, all his servants, and all the Egyptians—and there was a loud outcry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not someone dead.

Psalm 116 (CW Supplement)

Refrain

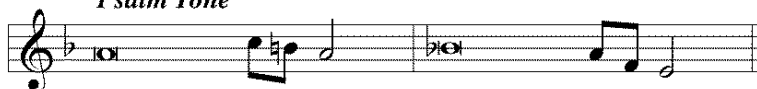


I will lift up the cup of sal - va - tion and



call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm Tone



I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.

The LORD is gracious and righteous;
when I was in great need, he saved me.

Refrain

For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

How can I repay the LORD
for all his goodness to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of 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.**

Refrain

New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a communion of the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a communion of the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Verse of the Day: 1 Corinthians 11:26-*As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Gospel Lesson: John 13:1-15,34-

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved those who were his own in the world, he loved them to the end.

²By the time the supper took place, the Devil had already put the idea into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God. ⁴He got up from the supper and laid aside his outer garment. He took a towel and tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶He came to Simon Peter, who asked him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered him, "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand."

⁸Peter told him, "You will never, ever, wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹"Lord, not just my feet," Simon Peter replied, "but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus told him, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet, but his body is completely clean. And you are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹Indeed, he knew who was going to betray him. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After Jesus had washed their feet and put on his outer garment, he reclined at the table again. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me Teacher and Lord. You are right, because I am. ¹⁴Now if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵Yes, I have given you an example so that you also would do just as I have done for you.

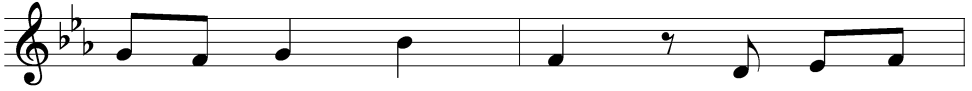
³⁴"A new commandment I give you: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so also you are to love one another.

Congregational Response: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

418 The Blood of the Lamb CW 21



1 The Fa - ther sees his chil - dren's chains. From Phar - aoh's
2 The lamb is slain as sun is set— a per - fect
3 As mid - night looms, the hour of death, God seeks the
4 Chil - dren of God, we too were slaves: our mas - ter—



land they cry in pain. To res - cue
lamb, with - out de - fect. They stain their
first - born, steals their breath, but pass - es
sin! Our end— the grave! But free - dom



them, he makes a way: the blood of the lamb.
doors with in - no - cence: the blood of the lamb.
o'er doors drenched in red: the blood of the lamb.
came in crim - son shades: the blood of the Lamb.

5 This perfect Lamb is Jesus Christ.
He gave himself as sacrifice.
His life poured out, the final price:
the blood of the Lamb.

6 The blood he spilled, the life he spent,
he gives us now in sacrament.
Eternal life on Christ depends:
the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Laurie F. Gauger, b. 1965

Tune: Sarah R. Lambrecht, b. 1975

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Sermon Text: Luke 22:7-20

Sermon Theme: God on Trial-Respite

⁷The day of Unleavened Bread arrived, when it was necessary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. ⁸Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it."

⁹They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?"

¹⁰He told them, "Just as you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters. ¹¹Tell the owner of the house, "The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" ¹²He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there." ¹³They went and found things just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴When the hour had come, Jesus reclined at the table with the twelve apostles. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷He took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸for I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹He took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰In the same way, he took the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is being poured out for you."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD...

...with our Offerings



The members of St. John's have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry, but please use this QR code to fill out a short form giving us a digital record of your attendance.

Visitors can also sign our guest register in the entryway by the drinking fountain.

...with Prayer

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ, God provided us with a Passover Lamb to save us from eternal death when he sent you into our world and sacrificed you on the cross for our sins.

C: Oh, work true repentance in our hearts, causing each of us to make sincere confession of our sins and to believe with joyful trust that he has forgiven us for your sake.

P: May your body and blood, given and shed for our sins and imparted to us here this evening in bread and wine in that Supper which commemorates your death,

C: ever nourish our faith, cheer our hearts, and strengthen our will to live godly and upright lives.

P: Gracious Lord, drive out all hypocrisy from our hearts, and grant to each one a heart truly set upon you and lips that make bold and honest declaration of your name to others.

C: Do not allow Satan to rob us of the treasures of heaven by tempting us to love the treasures and pleasures of this world.

P: As you went resolutely forth to meet the enemy, intent on doing the Father's will,

C: so may we be set to obey him in everything, so that what pleases him pleases us.

P: By your Spirit help us to watch and pray at all times and to be fully aware of the weaknesses of our flesh. And if the time of victory over our sinful flesh and the wicked world seems long in coming and the evil on every hand depresses us,

C: teach us to find joy and courage through believing your promises of everlasting salvation.

P: Precious Redeemer, may your face that once received the blows of the soldiers and that once reflected the burden of our sins and the anguish of hell be ever turned toward us in love and tenderness.

C: Let no one in this Christian congregation who has known you as Friend and Lord, as well as Savior, ever betray your love.

P: And may the dear blood once shed for us be for our sins the perfect cleansing power.

C: Hear us to the glory of your name, holy Redeemer. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

...with Reception of the Lord's Supper

Preparation for the Lord's Supper (adapted from Martin Luther's Small Catechism-The Sacrament of Holy Communion)

P: Who is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?

All: **Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."**

But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.

P: What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?

All: **That is shown us by these words, "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."**

Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation in this sacrament.

For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

P: How can eating and drinking do such great things?

All: **It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words, "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins."**

These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking.

And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

All: **Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.**

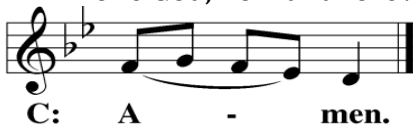
Words of Institution

Choir sings "Come to the Table"

Distribution (Maundy Thursday is a time for serious contemplation. While there will be no distribution hymn sung, you may want to follow along in the blue hymnals as our organist plays quietly a couple of new hymns in the following order: 669 & 416.)

Prayer

P: Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

667:8 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared CW 21



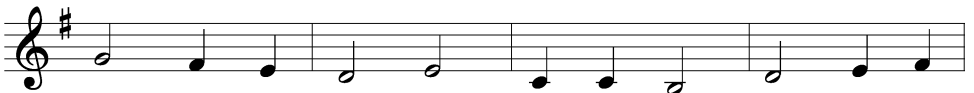
8 For your con - sol - ing sup - per, Lord, be praised through-



out all ag - es! Pre - serve it, for in



ev - 'ry place the world a - gainst it rag - es.



Grant that this sac - ra - ment may be a bless - ed



com - fort un - to me when liv - ing and when dy - ing.

Text: tr. Emanuel Cronenwett, 1841-1931, alt.; Samuel Kinner, 1603-1668

Tune: Peter Sohren, c. 1630-c. 1692, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain