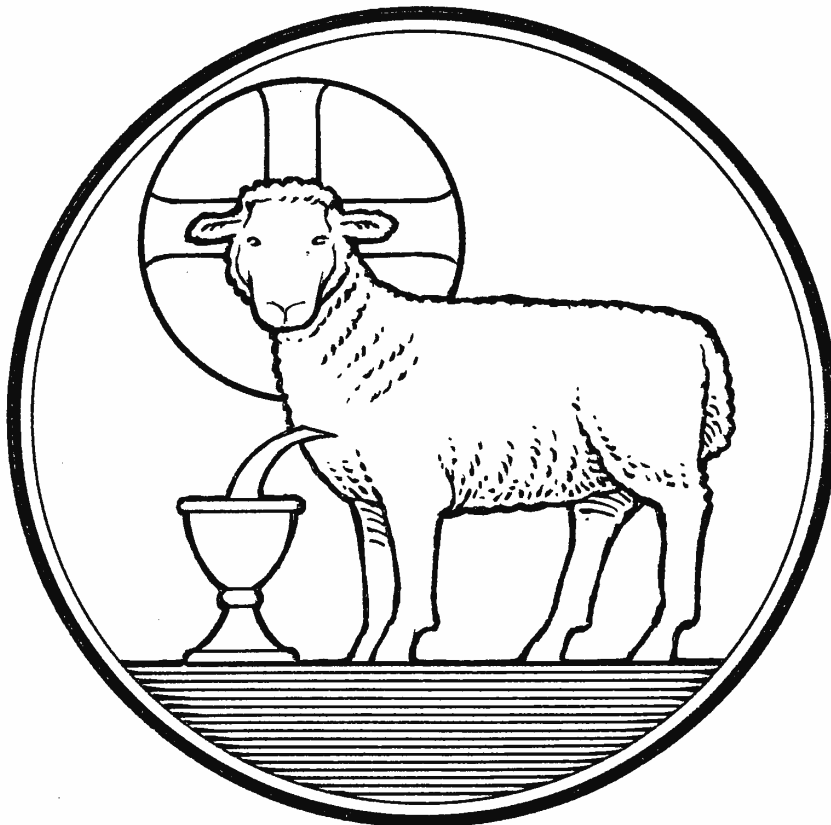


*April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025*  
*Maundy Thursday*



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI—SYNOD  
308 Byrne Street  
Smithville, TX 78957  
512-237-2108

**Pastor David Woelmer**



**Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church!** We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for his Divine Service. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

**In our readings today:** “The LORD’s Passover” (Ex. 12:11) and “the blood of the covenant” at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:8) are preeminent types of the Lord’s Supper. The blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, now covers us, and we keep His Supper “as a feast to the LORD” (Ex. 12:13–14). In Him, we see “the God of Israel” (Ex. 24:10), and yet He does not lay His hand on us to punish us. As disciples of Jesus, we recline at the table with Him to eat and drink in peace (Mark 14:18). The apostles, who received the New Testament in His blood “on the night when he was betrayed,” delivered the same to His Church, which we also now receive in remembrance of Him (1 Cor. 11:23–26; Mark 14:22–25). So He has “loved his own who were in the world,” and He loves us “to the end” (John 13:1). As He thus feeds us in love, let us love one another, just as He has loved us (John 13:34). For “we who are many are one body” because “we all partake of the one bread,” which is the body of Christ (1 Cor. 10:17).

**Holy Communion** is a sacred gift from Christ to His Church. In this meal, He gives His true body and blood under bread and wine into our mouths in order to forgive our sins and strengthen our union with Him and with one another (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Christians receive this Sacrament trusting Jesus’ own words, repenting of all their sin, and confessing the faith taught in Holy Scripture together in unity (Matthew 5:23-24; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:17-26). For this reason, and because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-34), we ask that those who have not yet been instructed and those who are not members of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to speak with the pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

#### **A Prayer Before Worship**

*O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen*

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP BELL**

#### **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

### **BLESSED MAUNDY THURSDAY AND THE TRIDUUM**

*Maundy Thursday, occurring on the eve of our Lord’s crucifixion, begins the celebration of the holy three days of Christ’s Passover, commonly known as the Triduum.*

*“Maundy” comes from the Latin word “mandate” which means “command.” In John 13:34, Christ gives the command to love one another after He washes the disciples’ feet. Holy Thursday has come to be known as “Command Thursday” or Maundy Thursday. However, “Command Thursday” would leave us in our sin if Christ Jesus had not then backed up the new command with the holy meal of the new covenant in which we receive His Body and Blood. What a wonderful gift this night brings.*

*“Triduum” is another Latin word which means “three days.” It helps us to understand that the passion of Christ is all one piece. As we sing in the Great Litany, “by your bloody sweat, by your cross and passion, your death and burial, your resurrection and ascension...” The service on this day culminates the Lenten period of preparation for Christ’s Passion and Resurrection and leads into His sacrifice on our behalf. As such, the service, like that for Good Friday, exhibits a mood of restrained joy. The Service for Holy Thursday consists of four parts: The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution; the Service of the Word; the Service of the Sacrament; the Stripping of the Altar.*

*(Pastor and congregation enter in silence)*

Opening Hymn:

## Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty  
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -  
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the  
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in  
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through  
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'  
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.  
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.  
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise      6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,  
To claim my mansion in the skies,      Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
This then shall be my only plea:      For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
Jesus hath lived and died for me.      An everlasting ransom paid.

## Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**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.

*Sit*

**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 the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

**C Amen.**

*Stand*

**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.

**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.

**G** Amen.

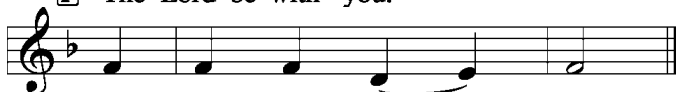
**P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace.

**G** Amen.

### Salutation

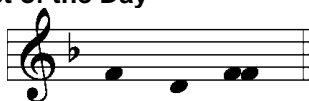


**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.

### Collect of the Day



**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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.



**G** A - men.

Sit

### Old Testament Reading

*Exodus 12:1-14*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, <sup>2</sup>"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. <sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>4</sup>And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, <sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

<sup>7</sup>"Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>8</sup>They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. <sup>9</sup>Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. <sup>10</sup>And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. <sup>11</sup>In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover. <sup>12</sup>For I will pass through the land of Egypt that

night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. <sup>13</sup>The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

<sup>14</sup>“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** (*The Gradual is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that responds to the Old Testament reading and transitions us toward the words of Jesus in the Gospel.*)

*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*

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup>Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup>Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup>For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. <sup>30</sup>That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup>But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. <sup>32</sup>But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

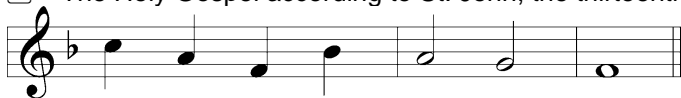
**G** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Holy Gospel**

*John 13:1-17, 31b-35*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter.



**G** **Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” <sup>8</sup>Peter said to

him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>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. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**G** 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day:

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

LSB 627



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's  
 2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious  
 3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you  
 4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe  
 food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,  
 are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,  
 food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.  
 And with the wine the blood He shed.  
 His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.  
 Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken<br/>         That this food is to be taken<br/>         By the sick who are distressed,<br/>         By hearts that long for peace and rest.</p> <p>6 Agony and bitter labor<br/>         Were the cost of God's high favor;<br/>         Do not come if you suppose<br/>         You need not Him who died and rose.</p> <p>7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,<br/>         And receive My grace and favor:<br/>         Those who feel no pain or ill<br/>         Need no physician's help or skill.</p> | <p>8 "For what purpose was My dying<br/>         If not for your justifying?<br/>         And what use this precious food<br/>         If you yourself were pure and good?"</p> <p>9 If your heart this truth professes<br/>         And your mouth your sin confesses,<br/>         You will be your Savior's guest,<br/>         Be at His banquet truly blest.</p> <p>10 Let this food your faith so nourish<br/>         That its fruit of love may flourish<br/>         And your neighbor learn from you<br/>         How much God's wondrous love can<br/>         do.</p> |
|---|---|

Sermon "Jesus Knew That His Hour Had Come"



## Votum

**P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**C** Amen.

Stand

## Offertory

LSB 192



**C** 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 -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

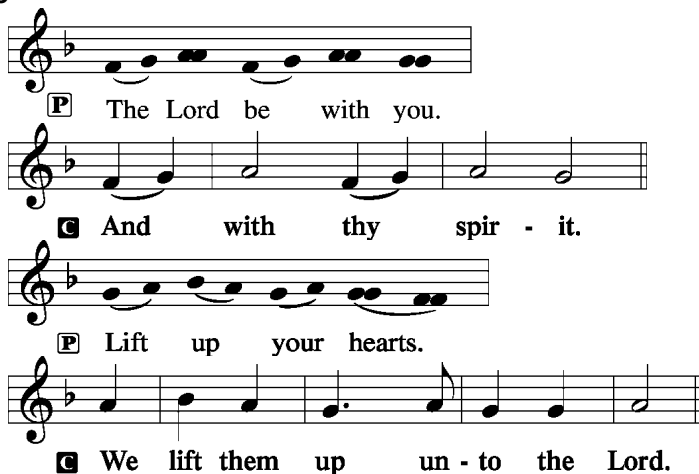
**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194



**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.

**P** It is truly meet, 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 195*



**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.



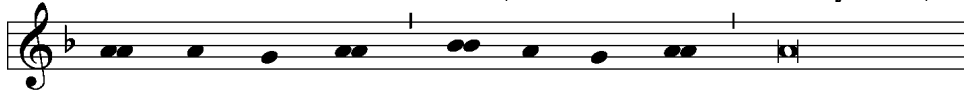
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 196*



**P** Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it

is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;  
 and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who  
 tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to  
 temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.  
**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** 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  $\text{✠}$  body, 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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### Pax Domini

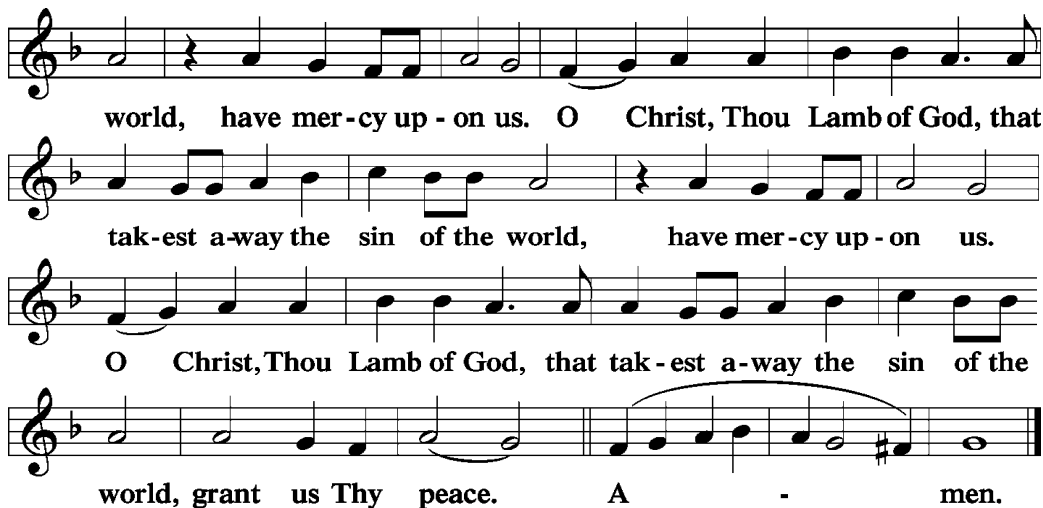
LSB 197

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

### Agnus Dei

LSB 198

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



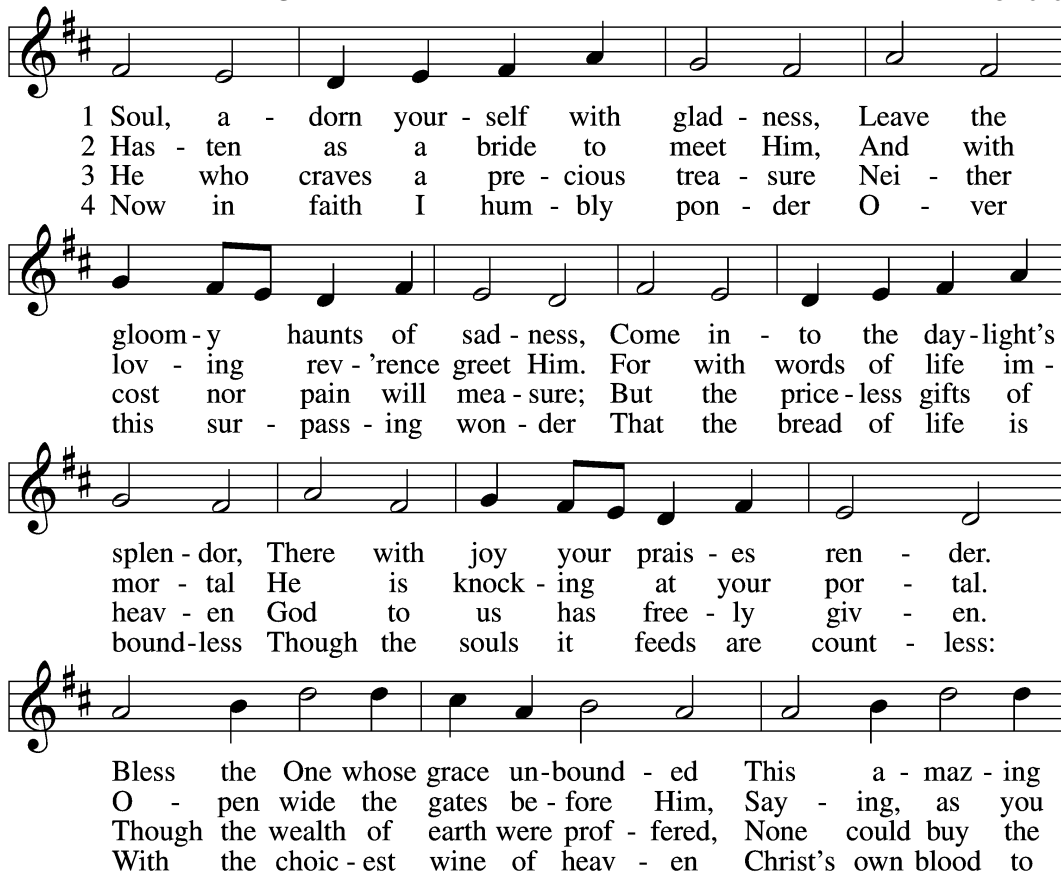
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
 O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
 world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

**Distribution**

**Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness**

LSB 636



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with  
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther  
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver  
 gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's  
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -  
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of  
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is  
 splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.  
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.  
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:  
 Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing  
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you  
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - ered, None could buy the  
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and  
there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -  
gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you  
us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.  
riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.  
la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,  
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
Peace beyond all understanding,  
Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You;  
Love incarnate, I adore You;  
Worthily let me receive You  
And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,  
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
Jesus, joy of my desiring,  
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker,  
Let me be a fit partaker  
Of this blessed food from heaven,  
For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,  
You once left Your throne in heaven  
On the cross for me to languish  
And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness  
And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
By this blood redeemed and living,  
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,  
Let me gladly here obey You.  
By Your love I am invited,  
Be Your love with love required;  
By this Supper let me measure,  
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
Through the gift of grace You give me  
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Stand

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

**G** Amen.

Sit

*The candles are extinguished*

### Stripping of the Altar

*(The removal of the communion vessels, candles, linens and paraments signifies that our Lord was forsaken by His disciples, humiliated at the soldiers' hands, and forsaken by the Father. After the Last Supper, less than twenty four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we will strip our altar of the signs of life to symbolize His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us).*

### 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.

*All leave the church in silence.*

*(There is no benediction because this service continues with the service on Good Friday.)*