



# **Holy Thursday**

**April 9, 2020**

***St. Matthew Lutheran Church***

***Hazen, North Dakota***

***As part of our Holy Week worship life, we observe, in part, an ancient custom of the Early Christian Church. Beginning with the evening worship on Holy Thursday and continuing through Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil, these services were considered to be one service and called the Triduum (The Three Days). Even though people go home to rest and carry out their necessary responsibilities, they are encouraged to remember that at least in spirit, they are still "worshiping" and remembering the events of Holy Week. No benediction concludes this service as an indication that the service continues for two more days.***

***As the time draws nigh for our Lord to sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world, He does a remarkable thing. He offers His disciples a foretaste of the forgiveness He would soon offer the entire world. In, with, and under the bread and the wine is the true body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for the forgiveness of all of their sins—and ours. He offers that foretaste also to us today of the feast to come.***

Although we are not receiving the Sacrament at this time, we consider the great gift God has given us and that we believe he will bless us with when this pandemic comes to a close. We do, sharpen our desire for His blessed meal and means of grace. Know that his grace comes to you in the Word of promise that you are forgiven. Whether we are able to meet in person or not; God extends his grace and the forgiveness of sins to you.

**+ PREPARATION +**

## **Hymn**

***"When You Woke That Thursday Morning"***

***LSB 445***

**St. 1: 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.

St. 2: 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.

St. 3: 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."

St. 4: 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.

St. 5: 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.

## Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

P: “Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!

C: **It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”** (*Matthew 26:24*)

P: We, too, have betrayed the Son of Man when we act carelessly and selfishly in the presence of our Holy God. Therefore let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: O God,

C: **We confess to You that we have sinned. We have betrayed You in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have acted carelessly and selfishly in Your presence. Yet, we know that our Lord, Jesus Christ died to take our sins upon Himself, and through Him we have the assurance of forgiveness. For the sake of Your Son Jesus have mercy and forgive us.**

P: Our merciful God has heard our plea for forgiveness and has offered His only Son to die for our forgiveness. Therefore in the stead and by the command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

## Introit

*Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 17*

P: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

C: **and call on the name of the Lord.**

P: What shall I render to the Lord

C: **for all his benefits to me?**

P: I will lift up the cup of salvation

**C: and call on the name of the Lord,**

P: I will pay my vows to the Lord

**C: in the presence of all His people.**

P: Precious in the sight of the Lord

**C: is the death of His saints.**

P: O Lord, I am Your servant;

**C: I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.**

P: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

**C: and call on the name of the Lord.**

P: I will pay my vows to the Lord

**C: in the presence of all His people,**

P: in the courts of the house of the Lord,

**C: in Your midst, O Jerusalem Praise the Lord!**

**C: 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.**

P: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving

**C: and call on the name of the Lord.**

### Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace that we receive through Jesus Christ's body and blood, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For peace in our church, neighborhood, and world, let us pray to the Lord,

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**P:** Let us pray...Lord, Jesus Christ, You dined with Your disciples one final time, giving them everlasting gifts in bread and wine. Give us, we pray, those same gifts; forgiveness, salvation, and communion with You as we remember Your very body and blood when we will again, receive the Sacrament. In Your holy, precious name we pray.

**C:** **Amen.**

**First Reading** *(The Passover)*

*Exodus 12:1–14*

**P:** The first reading for Holy Thursday is from Exodus, chapter twelve.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, “This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. 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. 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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, 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.

“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. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 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. 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. 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.

“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:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle Reading**

*1 Corinthians 11:23–32*

**P:** The Epistle Reading is from First Corinthians, chapter eleven.

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, 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.” 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.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. 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.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel**

John 15:1 -4

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **Holy Gospel**

*(Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet)*

*John 13:1–17, 31b–35*

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

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

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. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 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, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 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. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." 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." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" 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." For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

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? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. 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. 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. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. 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.' 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. 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.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Hymn** *"O Lord, We Praise Thee"*

*LSB 617*

St. 1: O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,  
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.  
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish

Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,  
That our sins and sorrows did carry,  
And Thy blood for us plead

In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

St. 2: Thy holy body into death was given,

Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee  
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.

All our debt Thou hast paid;

Peace with God once more is made:

O Lord, have mercy!

St. 3: May God bestow on us His grace and favor

That we follow Christ our Savior

And live together here in love and union

Nor despise this blest Communion!

O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;

Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;

Give Thy Church, Lord, to see

Days of peace and unity:

O Lord, have mercy!

**Sermon** *“Foretaste of the Feast to Come”*

*“And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”*

*(Heb 11:39-40)*

*“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.” (Matt 26:29)*

## Apostles Creed

**☩ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the  
dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

### Offering

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13*

### Psalm 91

**P** <sup>1</sup>He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**C** <sup>2</sup>I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”

**P** <sup>3</sup>For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler

and from the deadly pestilence.

**C**<sup>4</sup> **He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

**P**<sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,

**C**<sup>6</sup> **nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

**P**<sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.

**C**<sup>8</sup> **You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.**

**P**<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—

**C**<sup>10</sup> **no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.**

**P**<sup>11</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

**C**<sup>12</sup> **On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

**P**<sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

**C**<sup>14</sup> **“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver  
him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my name.**

**P**<sup>15</sup> When he calls to me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.

**C**<sup>16</sup> **With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”**

## **Stripping of the Altar**

*John 13:31*

[At this time, the altar is stripped bare, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for Good Friday. This is a reminder of the abandonment our Lord endured in the next several hours as Holy Thursday came to an end. Jesus would be stripped of his clothes and ultimately his life, in payment for our sins. No benediction concludes this service as an indication that the worshipful reflection continues for three more days. The congregation sings the hymn during the stripping of the altar.]

## **Closing Hymn**

### ***“What Wondrous Love Is This”***

***LSB 543***

St. 1: What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

St. 2: When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down Beneath God’s righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

St. 3: To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

St. 4: And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

*(Minister and worshipers leave in silence.)*