

WITNESSES TO CHRIST



Maundy Thursday Vespers

April 14, 2022

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Pastor Kirk Peters

Judas Iscariot

Betrayed by Judas, one of His twelve disciples. Betrayed by Judas for thirty pieces of silver. Betrayed by Judas with a kiss—imagine that, a kiss! Betrayed by Judas in a garden east of Jerusalem called Gethsemane. Betrayed! Jesus was betrayed for us. After betraying Jesus, Judas plunges into the depths of despair. He does not return to Jesus to seek forgiveness. But this Thursday, the night Jesus is betrayed, reminds us of the forgiveness, life, and salvation that Jesus provides for us in the Lord’s Supper. May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we journey ever closer to the cross.

Confession and Absolution

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

Invocation

- 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.**

Confessional Address

- 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 one another. 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 for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.

C 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.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1–14

P The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the twelfth chapter.

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell 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. ⁴And 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. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and 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.

⁷“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. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In 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. ¹²For 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. ¹³The 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.

¹⁴“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.

C Thanks be to God.

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!

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.

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the eleventh chapter.

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

²⁷Whoever, 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. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But 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.

Verse

John 13:1b

C Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

Holy Gospel

John 13:21–30

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

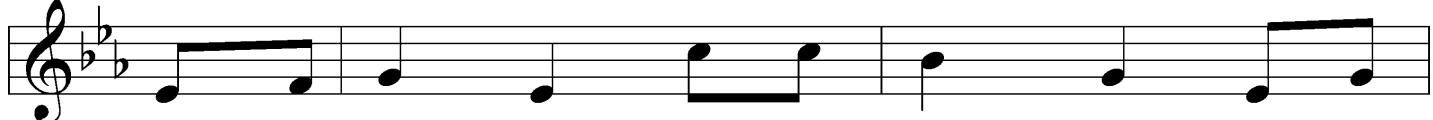
C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, “Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. ²³One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, ²⁴so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. ²⁵So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, “Lord, who is it?” ²⁶Jesus answered, “It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it.” So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. ²⁷Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” ²⁸Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. ²⁹Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, “Buy what we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

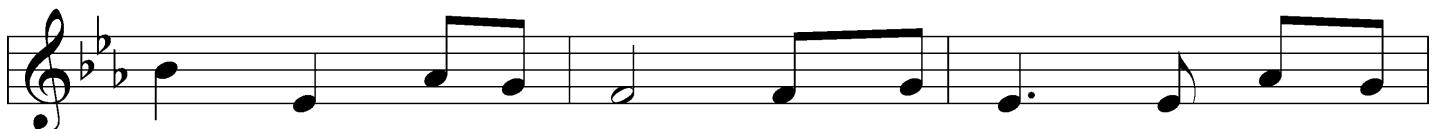
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

445 When You Woke That Thursday Morning



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
2 Nev - er so a lone lone - ly, Long - ing
3 What was there that You could give them That would
4 One in faith, in love u - nit ed, All one
5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



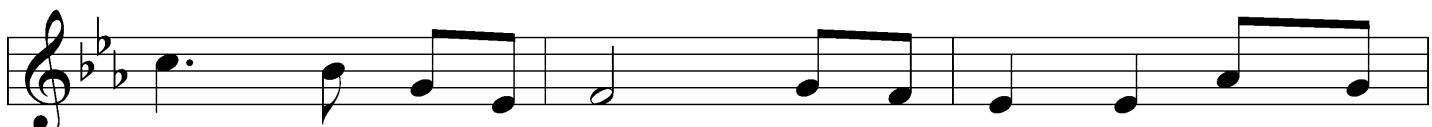
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty
with tor - ment-ed heart To be with Your dear ones
nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -
bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -
vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;
on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part;
live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.
rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at
Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last
“Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
One with You and one an - oth - er In a
When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's
pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their
as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,
Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.
of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.
mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

Nicene Creed

**C 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.**

Prayer of the Church

P On this holy night in which our Lord gathered His disciples in the Upper Room, we come to You, O Lord, in His name with the concerns of our hearts for ourselves and all people.

Grant to us zeal for Your house, O Lord, and love for the things of Your kingdom, that Your Church may enjoy harmony and peace and confess Your Word with one voice before the world. Cover us with the blood of Christ and grant us Your Spirit that we walk in Your ways and do the good You desire. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, give to Your Church faithful pastors and servants of Your Word and bless us with willing ears to hear and believe and willing voices to speak in witness what Christ has accomplished for us and our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deliver us, O Lord, from temptation and fear that we would rejoice in what is good and right according to Your command and seek to live holy, righteous, and upright lives as Your children by Baptism and faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give us the blessing of good and faithful leaders who will act in accordance with Your Word, preserve us from harm, and grant us the liberty to live according to Your commands. Bless the members of the armed forces and all emergency personnel who act on our behalf. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give grace to the sick and to the suffering and give Your peace to the dying, [especially . . .], that they be strengthened in trial and comforted in sorrow. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sustain us by the grace of this Holy Communion, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood be strengthened in faith and comforted with the promise of the forgiveness of sins and the gift of everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us in the footsteps of Jesus that we may ponder Your love as we behold His cross and rejoice in what

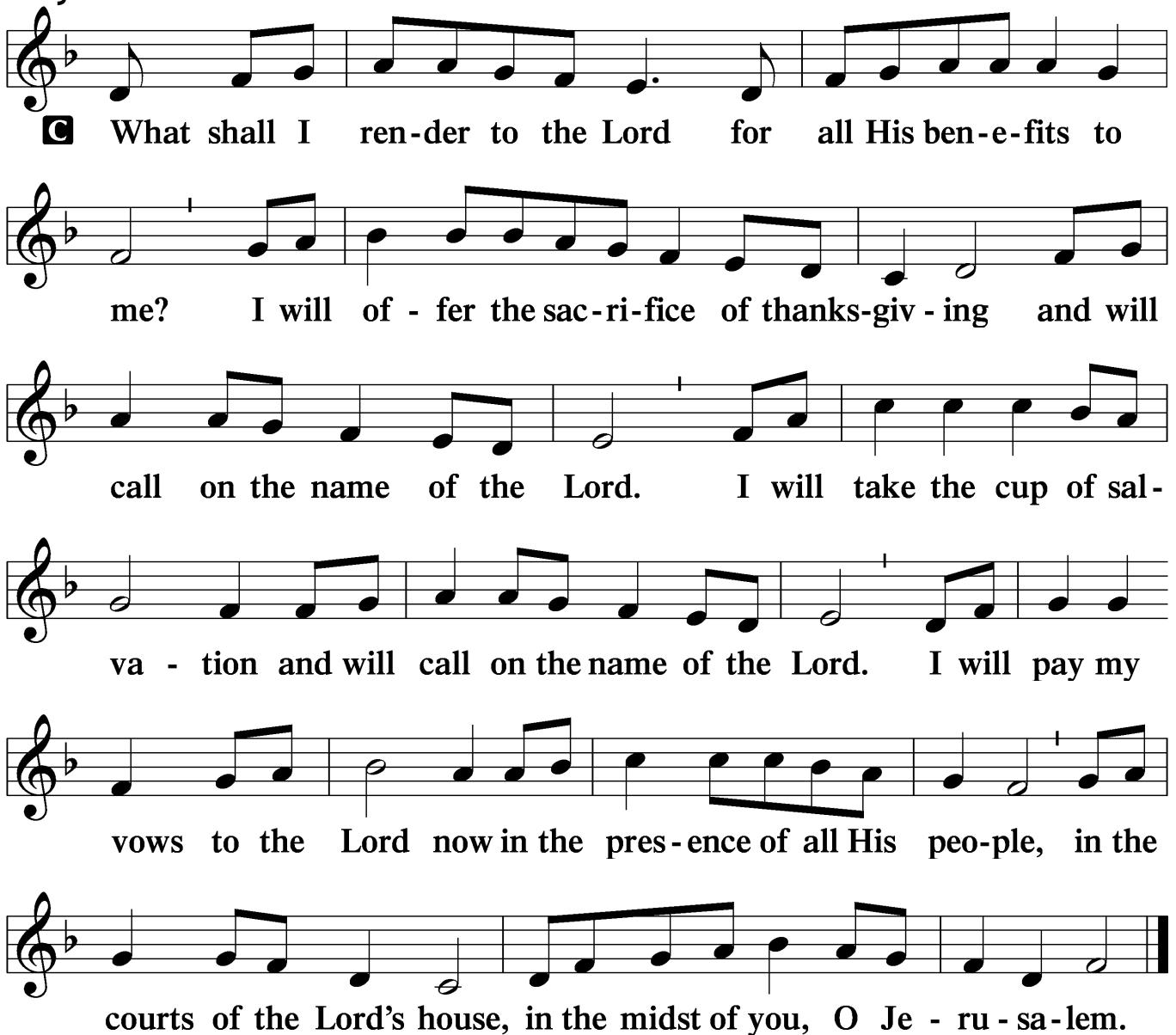
His suffering has accomplished. Bring us at last with those who have gone before us, that when Christ comes again, we who have received the foretaste of the feast would enjoy its fullness forevermore; with Christ, in Christ, and through Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, both now and forever.

C Amen.

Offering

Offertory

LSB 159



The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below each staff. The lyrics are:

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, 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 161

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive
those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 \ddagger 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 \ddagger 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a forte dynamic. The second staff starts with a piano dynamic. The third staff begins with a piano dynamic. The fourth staff ends with a forte dynamic. The lyrics are integrated into the music, with the first line starting with a bold 'C'. The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

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.

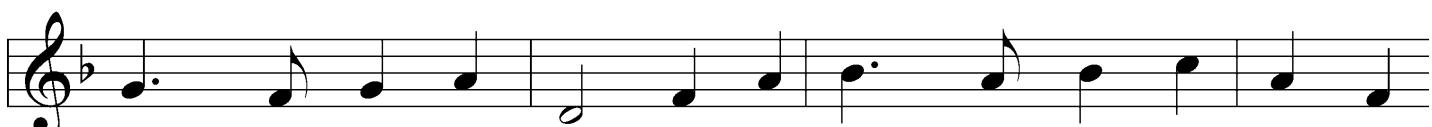
C Amen.

Distribution Hymns

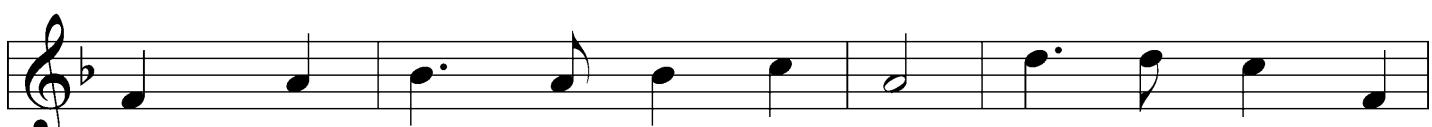
446 Jesus, Greatest at the Table



1 Je - sus, great - est at the ta - ble, The al -
2 Mar - vel how their Lord and teach - er Gent - ly
3 Je - sus took the role of ser - vant When up -
4 Can we fath - om such deep mer - cy? Do we
5 Je - sus gave to His dis - ci - ples A com -



might - y Son of Man, Laid a - side His out - er cloth - ing,
taught them not to vie As He hum - bly knelt be - fore them,
on that grue-some span, For all hu - man sin He suf - fered
see what God has done? Who can grasp this great re - ver - sal:
mand - ment that was new: "Show My love to one an - oth - er,



Poured some wa - ter in a pan; As the Twelve lay,
Dust - y feet to wash and dry, By His ten - der
As a vile and loath - some man; On the cross poured
Love that gives His on - ly Son? Christ, the sin - less
Do as I have done for you; All the world will



hushed in si - lence, He the ser - vant's task be - gan.
touch ex - press - ing True com - pas - sion from on high.
out like wa - ter To ful - fill the Fa - ther's plan.
for the sin - ners, For the man - y dies the One.
know you love Me As you love each oth - er too."

845 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let

God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart - and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love - each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry

by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

6 For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

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Tune: Ludus Chapin, 1760-1842
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602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me
2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;
4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!
New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.
The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.



Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim
Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;
For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;
Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.
The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,
Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood
Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in
His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One
Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love
Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us
Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His
Great love by which we live!

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165

Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.
Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Stripping of the Altar

The Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday.

Psalm

Psalm 22:1–31

- P** ¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?
- C** ²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.
- P** ³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
- C** ⁴In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- P** ⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- C** ⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.
- P** ⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- C** ⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

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

C ¹⁰**On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother's womb you have been my
God.**

P ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

C ¹²**Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

P ¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

C ¹⁴**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;**

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

C ¹⁶**For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—**

P ¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;

C ¹⁸**they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

P ¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

C ²⁰**Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!**

P ²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

- C** ²²**I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**
- P** 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!
- C** ²⁴**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.**
- P** ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- C** ²⁶**The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!**
- P** ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
- C** ²⁸**For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**
- P** 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.
- C** ³⁰**Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming
generation;**
- P** ³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a
people yet unborn, that he has done it.

All leave the church proper in silence.