

AS WE GATHER

The quarantine (literally, forty days) of Lent, a time of repentance, began on Ash Wednesday with an extended prayer and confession of sins, and with this reminder: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The forty days (not including Sundays, which are considered "little Easters") come to their conclusion now in the three holy days, or Triduum, of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Therefore, these days center around the only sacrifice that gives us absolution, the forgiveness we so desire: the body and blood of the Lord's Supper that proclaim the glorious substitutionary suffering and death of our Lord on the cross and interment in the tomb. Only in this way can a person know and believe what there is to be so happy about on Easter Sunday!

Gathering Song **Lenten Love Song** *(Solo Deb Berg)*

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song **Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord LSB 637**



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: During this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil, everything that prevents us from trusting in God and loving one another. Especially since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night on which He instituted this blessed Sacrament, it is proper that we examine ourselves since 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.

Since we confess that we are incapable of delivering ourselves, our Lord Jesus Christ came to fulfill God's Law for us and deliver us by taking on Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was instituted by our Lord in order that we may receive and

more confidently believe His forgiveness and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living. Therefore whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, faithfully believing the Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

When He says, "Do this in remembrance of Me," He means that we are truly to believe that we receive His body and blood, which was sacrificed for us on the cross and raised again to give us forgiveness and life eternal. We also are enabled to receive His command to love one another as He has loved us. As He washed His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

People: Amen.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: 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.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

People: Yes.

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe.

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.

People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord, in Your 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.

People: Amen.

About Today

Holy Thursday begins the great three days that commemorate how God accomplished our salvation in Jesus Christ. The first part of the service is confession and forgiveness, the culmination of the Lenten season of repentance. Holy Thursday then recalls two central events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. First is the Lord's Supper. The Gospel tells of the Holy Thursday night when, during the Passover meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is My body." He then took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My blood of the new covenant." The old covenant involved regular repeated animal sacrifice. This new covenant involves the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus' blood, which fulfilled the old covenant once for all. We now share this Meal regularly in remembrance of Jesus' all-availing sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The second central event recalled tonight is the abandonment of Jesus by all who loved Him. This is remembered by the action of

stripping the altar while Psalm 22 is sung or read. This reminder of how Jesus was forsaken also assures us that Jesus is with us at times when we feel forsaken.

Scripture Reading

Luke 22: 7-62

(Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, is betrayed, and arrested)

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹²And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹And he 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." ²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²²For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

²⁴A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁸"You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

³⁵And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." ³⁶He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment." ³⁸And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

³⁹And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." ⁴¹And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴²saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." ⁴³And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

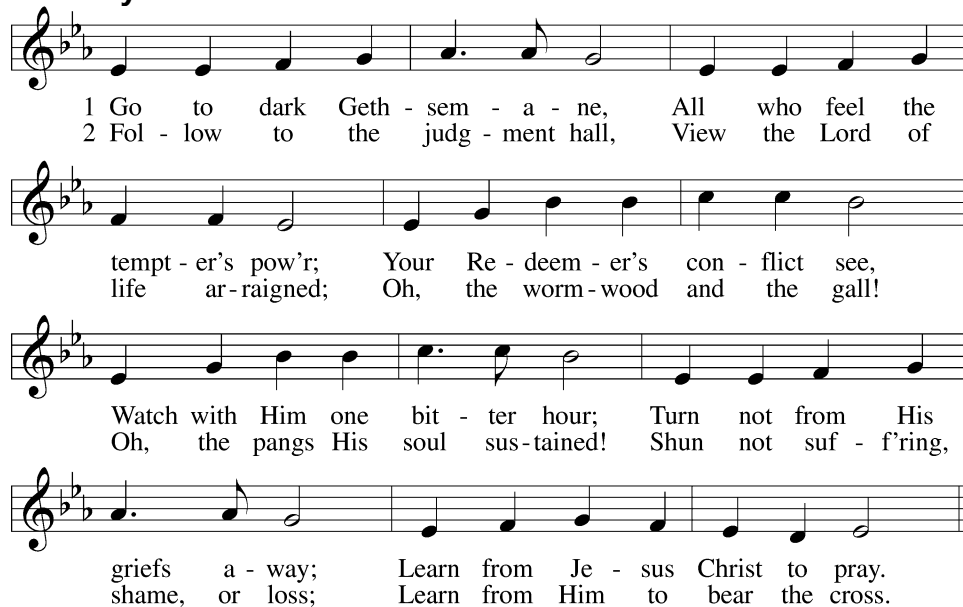
⁴⁷While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" ⁴⁹And when those who were around him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. ⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests and officers of the temple and elders, who had come out against him, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs?" ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

⁵⁴Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. ⁵⁵And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. ⁵⁶Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." ⁶²And he went out and wept bitterly.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Song of the Day Go to Dark Gethsemane LSB 436 vv1-2



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar-raigned; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
Oh, the pangs His soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Silencing Screwtape: Sloth or Diligence

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed – Nicene Creed

People: 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.

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: O Lord Jesus, our Suffering Servant, on this Maundy Thursday, we ask that you would help us carry out your commandment uttered on this day, to love one another as you have loved us. Fill us with the desire to humbly serve the needs of those around us and to be compassionate toward everyone we encounter, even those who have been outcast or abandoned. Innocent Lord, who suffered for us,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Ever-wise Jesus, guide us to make decisions that are in line with your will and pleasing in your sight. Speak to us of your desires as we pray and fill us with confidence to follow through with the plans that you have for us, no matter how difficult they may appear to be. Innocent Lord, who suffered for us,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: All-accepting Lord, help us not to be so quick to judge those whom society has deemed worthless or unworthy or deserving of death. Make us able to judge for ourselves based on what you have taught us, strengthen us to be forgiving and caring to the least and the lost and even those who have cause harm to others, and remind us always that you are the ultimate judge over all of us. Lord, who suffered for us,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Listening Lord, bend your ear to us as we pray, and help us to be better listeners to the people around us who serve as your voice of counsel to us in our decision-making. Let us never turn a deaf ear to those who are trying to help us. Help us to weigh our options and consider the consequences of our decisions. Help us come to a conclusion that is in line with your design and purpose for us. Innocent Lord, who suffered for us,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Provider of salvation, on this holy night on which you instituted the sacrament of Holy Communion, help us to come to the table reverently to receive your body and blood in bread and wine so that our sins might be forgiven. Renew us and refresh us through this sacred meal so that we can move forward in our lives and serve you with greater energy. Innocent Lord, who suffered for us,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing the Peace

Offering Give Thanks LSB 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks, give thanks.

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Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

The Words of Our Lord [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[*1 Cor. 11:26*]

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [*Revelation 22:20*]

Lord's Prayer [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: **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.**

Distribution

Nearer My God To Thee

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees
Let us break bread together on our knees
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me

Let us drink the cup together on our knees
Let us drink the cup together on our knees
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me

Let us praise God together on our knees
Let us praise God together on our knees
When I fall on my knees
With my face to the rising sun
O Lord have mercy on me

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Sending Song Chief of Sinners Though I Be LSB 611 vv 1,2, 5



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Stripping of the Altar Psalm 22

[The church is darkened. Assistants remove Communion vessels, paraments, candles, banners, flowers, and any other adornments on the altar and in the chancel.]

The Psalm is read by the pastor.

All leave the church in silence.

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