



MAUNDY
Thursday

✘ **Maundy Thursday** ✘
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
April 17, 2025

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red "Record of Fellowship" books.**

THE RINGING OF THE BELL (*Please remain seated*)

✘ **SERVICE OF CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** ✘

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.

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 sins, humbly confess them, 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 sinful nature 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 upon 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 wine of many grapes and one the bread is 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.

Stand

C O almighty God, merciful Father, 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. 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 and 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.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

✘ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✘

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem – Adult Choir – “Lamb of God”

Epistle

Hebrews 10:15–25

¹⁵The Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶“This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with

our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 22:7-20

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-second chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Offering

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

- 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!

- 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!

- 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!

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SERMON

THE PRAYERS

- P Holy Father, we come to You with praise and thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Through Him we beg You to accept and bless the prayers and offerings we bring. Do not consider what we truly deserve, but grant us Your forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Remember, Lord, Your holy Church. Watch over her and guide her. Grant her peace and unity throughout the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Remember, Lord, our Synod President, our District President, all pastors, teachers, deaconesses and servants of the Church. Grant them to hold and teach the faith that comes to us from the blessed apostles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Remember, Lord, our president, our public servants, and all in our armed forces. Guide, bless, protect and uphold them in honor. Bring all nations into the ways of peace and justice. In Your kindness and love, grant us seasonable weather and an abundance of the fruits of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Remember, Lord, all who suffer for Your name, all who are in prison, the hungry and ill-clad, the poor and the lonely, those who travel and all who cry out to You in their time of need. Take them under Your tender care and grant them deliverance from their afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Remember, Lord, all who are gathered here before You. We pray for our well-being and redemption. Order our days in Your peace, deliver us from the danger of eternal death and number us among Your chosen flock that we may sing our hosannas without end. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P Grant that we may receive worthily this sacramental mystery, the new testament of our divine Redeemer, for He is truly the Lamb of God, who gave Himself once and for all, as a holy, spotless

and perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin and for the life and salvation of the whole world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Join our prayers and praises with those of Your faithful people of every time and every place and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest until He comes again in power and great glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever!

C Amen.

✠ 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 INSTITUTION

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 ✠ 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 is my ✠ blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

THE PEACE

P The ✠ peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS (PLEASE REFER TO THE HYMNAL)

435 - Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

637 - Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

563 - Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

✕ THE STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✕

(The stripping of the altar [removing all ornaments, linens, and paraments] is an ancient custom of the Church done on Maundy Thursday. It is symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the hands of the soldiers and of His being deserted by His disciples.)

PSALM 22 *(Prayed responsively)*

- P** My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
- C** **O my God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night, and am not silent.**
- P** Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.
- C** **In You our fathers put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.**
- P** They cried to You and were saved; in You they trusted and were not disappointed.
- C** **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.**
- P** All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:
- C** **"He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let Him deliver him, since He delights in him."**
- P** Yet You brought me out of the womb; You made me trust in You even at my mother's breast.

- C From birth I was cast upon You; from my mother's womb You have been my God.**
- P Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
- C Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**
- P Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.
- C I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.**
- P My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; You lay me in the dust of death.
- C Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.**
- P I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.
- C They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**
- P But You, O Lord, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me.
- C Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.**
- P Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
- C I will declare Your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise You.**
- P You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor Him! Revere Him, all you descendants of Israel!
- C For He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

- P From You comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear You will I fulfill my vows.
- C The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord
will praise Him -- may your hearts live forever!**
- P All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and
all the families of the nations will bow down before Him,
- C For dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the
nations.**
- P All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to
the dust will kneel before Him -- those who cannot keep
themselves alive.
- C Posterity will serve Him; future generations will be told
about the Lord.**
- P They will proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn -- for
He has done it.

PSALM 88 (*Prayed responsively*)

- P O Lord, the God who saves me, day and night I cry out before
You.
- C May my prayer come before You; turn Your ear to my cry.**
- P For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave.
- C I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like
a man without strength.**
- P I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom You remember no more, who are cut off from Your care.
- C You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths.**
- P Your wrath lies heavily upon me; You have overwhelmed me
with all Your waves.

- C You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape;**
- P My eyes are dim with grief. I call to You, O Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to You.
- C Do You show Your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise You?**
- P Is Your love declared in the grave, Your faithfulness in Destruction?
- C Are Your wonders known in the place of darkness, or Your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?**
- P But I cry to You for help, O Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before You.
- C Why, O Lord, do You reject me and hide Your face from me?**
- P From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death; I have suffered Your terrors and am in despair.
- C Your wrath has swept over me; Your terrors have destroyed me.**
- P All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me.
- C You have taken my companions and loved ones from me; the darkness is my closest friend.**

✘ ✘ ✘

After the stripping of the altar has been completed, all may leave the Church in silence. Our Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow, Good Friday, with the Adoration of the Crucified and Solemn Communion at 1:00pm and the Tenebrae Service of Darkness with Holy Communion at 7:00pm

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher	Rev. Patrick Niles
Presiding Minister	Rev. Patrick Niles
Organist	Sandy Kasten
Communion Assistants	Randy Holler & David Ames
Student Assistant	(A) Alex Ehanev

✘ The Great and Holy Week ✘

**✘ Good Friday worship with Holy Communion
April 18th, 1:00pm and 7:00pm (Tenebrae)**

**✘ Easter Vigil worship with Holy Communion
April 19th, 5:30pm (No Bible class)**

**✘ Easter Sunday worship with Holy Communion
The Resurrection of Our Lord
April 20th, 6:00am, 8:00am and 10:30am (No Bible class)**

Easter Breakfast - 7:00am -- 10:00am

No Service on Wednesday, April 23rd