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April 9, 2020 † Maundy Thursday

Prelude 430 My Song Is Love Unknown

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

- 1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
 My beauty are, my glorious dress;
 Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
 With joy shall I lift up my head.

- 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
 Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
 Fully absolved through these I am
 From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

- 3 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
 Which at the mercy seat of God
 Pleads for the captives' liberty,
 Was also shed in love for me.

- 4 Lord, I believe, were sinners more
 Than sands upon the ocean shore,
 Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
 For all a full atonement made.

- 5 When from the dust of death I rise
 To claim my mansion in the skies,
 This then shall be my only plea:
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Public domain

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

Kneel/Stand

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 Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

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.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in Your wondrous Sacrament You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Bring us back together again soon that we may 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.

+ Service of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 12:1–14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This 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.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 116:12–19; antiphon: v. 17

¹²What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all his bene- | fits to me?

¹³I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the LORD,

¹⁴I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all his | people.

¹⁵Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of his saints.

¹⁶O LORD, I am your | servant,*
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have | loosed my bonds.

¹⁷I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

¹⁸I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all his | people,

¹⁹in the courts of the house | of the LORD,*
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse

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

Holy Gospel

John 13:1–17, 31b–35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now 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. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then 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. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷Jesus

answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When 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? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. . . .

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. ³²If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. ³³Little 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.' ³⁴A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵By 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.

Sit

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

Stand

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.

Brief silence

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 may walk in Your ways and do the good You desire. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, give to us faithful pastors who will preach Your Word in season and out, and give us ears and hearts willing to hear and heed Your voice. Raise up godly men to serve us as pastors, and raise up godly men and women to serve as teachers and in other offices for Your service. Bless those preparing for full-time church work in our colleges and seminaries as well as those considering church-work careers. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deliver us, O Lord, from temptation, and lead us to know and do what is holy and right according to Your Word and commands. Bless those preparing for Baptism and those being catechized into the faith, that they would be steadfast in faith in Christ, our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P In the midst of enemies that threaten and a world filled with conflict, give to us wise leaders, O Lord, that we may be preserved from harm. Guide those who make and administer our laws, and give to all judges and magistrates knowledge to render justice with mercy. Bless the members of the armed forces who defend us here and abroad. Protect all healthcare workers and first responders to be able to continue to serve the public good. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Preserve the sick, relieve the suffering and grant to the dying Your peace, O Lord. Hear us on behalf of all those who have asked us to pray especially Jackie, John, Brennan, Marilyn, Chaplain Jim, and Melanie. Give them healing in accordance with Your will, strength to bear up under the burdens of this mortal life, and comfort and

hope in trial. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You promise that nothing shall separate us from Your love, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Comfort the members of the family and all who mourn the sudden death of Kelton. Grant that we may ever be prepared for Your final summons when we will depart and be with Christ in blessedness and glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P As generously as You have given to us, O Lord, teach us to be generous in giving, that the poor may not suffer want nor Your Church be deprived of the resources to serve Your purpose both here and across the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Bless us, O Lord, as again we walk in the footsteps of Jesus to the cross. Help us to ponder well the love He has shown us by His suffering and death, and make us so confident of the resurrection to everlasting life that this supper may fulfill the Passover promise and feed us upon the foretaste of the eternal feast to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P You know, O Lord, what we need, and You have promised never to abandon us. Help us to endure in faith and, with a joyful countenance, receive the blessings of Your grace and the answers to our prayers; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

- 1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see,
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;

Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

- 2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

- 3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

- 4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

Text: Public domain

Sit

+ 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.

¹My God, my God, why have you for- | saken me?*

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my |
groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not | answer,*
and by night, but I | find no rest.

³Yet you are | holy,*

enthroned on the praises of | Israel.

⁴In you our fathers | trusted;*

they trusted, and you de- | livered them.

⁵To you they cried and were | rescued;*

in you they trusted and were not | put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,*

scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.

⁷All who see me | mock me;*

they make mouths at me; they | wag their heads;

⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let him de- | liver him;*

let him rescue him, for he de- | lights in him!”

⁹Yet you are he who took me | from the womb;*

you made me trust you at my | mother’s breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast | from my birth,*

and from my mother’s womb you have | been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me,

for trouble | is near,*

and there is | none to help.

¹²Many bulls en- | compass me;*

strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round me;

¹³they open wide their | mouths at me,*

like a ravening and roaring | lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are | out of joint;*

my heart is like wax;

it is melted with- | in my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks | to my jaws;*

you lay me in the | dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs en- | compass me;*

a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my | hands and feet—

¹⁷I can count | all my bones—*

they stare and gloat | over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments a- | mong them,*

and for my clothing they | cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be | far off!*

O you my help, come quickly | to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul | from the sword,*

my precious life from the power | of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the | lion!*

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my | brothers;*

in the midst of the congregation I will | praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify him,*

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of | Israel!

²⁴For 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.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congre- | gation;*

my vows I will perform before those who | fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall | praise the LORD!*

May your hearts live for- | ever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn | to the LORD,*

and all the families of the nations

shall worship be- | fore you.

²⁸For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*

and he rules over the | nations.

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 him- | self alive.

³⁰Posterity shall | serve him;*

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people | yet
unborn,*

that he has | done it.

All leave the church in silence.

Acknowledgments

Holy Thursday from Lutheran Service Book

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Notes about the service of confession and absolution, and the Lord's Supper:

You may have noticed that once I began livestreaming services, I no longer use the declarative form of the absolution that I typically use, "in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you . . . " Instead, I announce that "To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit."

I felt that perhaps I should explain. The absolution is a sacred thing; it comes from God Himself. I do not believe that it should come from a recording, but from the lips of someone who has heard the confession, even if that confession does not list specific sins. For this reason, I will not pronounce the 1st person (I forgive) absolution over the livestreamed service.

If you take great comfort in hearing me tell you that *your* sins are "forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," that is easily remedied even in this age of social distancing. Strange as this may sound, if you call me, I will absolve your sins over the phone. Or come by and we can stand a distance apart for me to forgive your sins. I do not want the very important steps to curb the tide of the coronavirus to prevent you from the certainty of God's mercy and grace.

While I am on the subject, I will also explain that we are not communing right now because of the very nature of communion. The word "communion" means "together with". On the one hand, as we receive the Lord's body and blood, we are "together with" Him. Additionally, He calls us together as a community for this meal.

Lutherans have always stood against "private masses", held for individual people. We have allowed the communion of shut-ins as a borderline exception, often taking them bread and wine that have been consecrated in the community. Nonetheless, the Pastor normally speaks the Word of Institution again, in the hearing of the recipient.

Until this community can come together again, we will not commune as individuals. This is a decision not made lightly by Pastor and Elders.