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April 1, 2021 † Maundy Thursday

RETURN TO THE TABLE

On this night known in the Church as Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to join Him once again at His Table. He knows our need for strengthening and reassurance. The place in which we gather is filled with the blessing of fellowship as we remember the new command of our Lord Jesus to love one another. Our Lord serves us in many ways, most singularly as the Host at His Table, where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Time and again we are invited to return to the Table, where truly we experience a foretaste of the feast to come.

+ 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

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 also 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

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

EXHORTATION

P Having now heard the Word of God, let us make confession of our sins:

P Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

-Then declare so by saying: I do confess.

C **I do confess.**

Verily, you should confess; for Holy Scripture declares: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

P Do you heartily repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed?

-Then declare so by saying: I do repent.

C **I do repent.**

Verily, you should repent, as did the penitent sinners: King David, who prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and others.

P Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

-Then declare so by saying: I do believe.

C **I do believe.**

Verily, you should so believe, for Holy Scripture declares: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

P Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit you will henceforth amend your sinful life?

-Then declare so by saying: I do promise.

C **I do promise.**

Verily, you should so promise, for Christ, the Lord, says: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

P Finally, do you believe that through me, a called servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of all your sins?

-Then declare so by saying: I do believe.

C **I do believe.**

As you believe, even so may it be unto you.

After this confession, Pastor will individually absolve those who desire. Those who wish to do so may come forward and kneel at the chancel, where Pastor will declare Christ's forgiveness for them. Then, they should return to their pews after being absolved. Pastor will make a corporate absolution as well for those who do not desire the individual absolution.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11

P A reading from Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter.

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.”⁴ And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.”⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹ Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up,¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness.¹¹ And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:12–19

¹² What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all His bene- | fits to me?
¹³ I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the LORD,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all His | people.
¹⁵ Precious in the sight | of the LORD*
is the death | of His saints.
¹⁶ O LORD, I am Your | servant;*
I am Your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have | loosed my bonds.
¹⁷ I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.
¹⁸ I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all His | people,
¹⁹ in the courts of the house | of the LORD,*
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 be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

P A reading from First Corinthians, the tenth chapter.

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE FOR HOLY THURSDAY

John 13:1b

C Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

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

¹² On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, [Jesus'] disciples said to Him, "Where will You have us go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹³ And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'" ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ And when it was evening, He came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me, one who is eating with Me." ¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and to say to Him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with Me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

²² And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is My body."

²³ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵ Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

LSB, p. 158

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 Remembering Jesus' love shown in both the washing of His disciples' feet and in instituting the Lord's Supper, let us bring our prayers before the Father, trusting in His abundant mercy for us.

For the Church, that, following Jesus' example of washing feet, we obey His command and love one another as He has loved us. And that, nourished by Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper, our lives reflect the One who first gave the Supper. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For leaders throughout the world, for national, regional, and local leaders, that they choose to lead as servants rather than as lords. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For those in our community who struggle with poverty, addiction, or unemployment, that You use us to serve them and love them as You loved and served them during Your earthly ministry. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, [*including . . .*]. Bless them with Your presence and heal them according to Your will. Use us to touch their lives in ways that reflect Your servant heart. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For this congregation, that You guide us toward being a people known in our community for serving others in love, as You loved and served Your disciples by the washing of feet and giving them the food of Your body and blood. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P In remembrance of those who during their lives loved and served You and are now embraced in Your love forever, help us to follow their example of love and service, as we await that day when we join them in the eternal feast of heaven. In prayer,
C **we return to You, O Lord.**

P You make us one in the body and blood of Christ, O Lord. Let both our individual prayers and these prayers of our worshiping community rise to You, for You promise to hear them and to give us what is good, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LSB, p. 159

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

LSB, p. 160

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.**

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 on this night long ago established His Supper, that life-giving food and drink that now this night and throughout our lives nourishes us in body and soul. 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, p. 161

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB, p. 161

- P** Thanks and praise we give to You, O Lord, for returning to Your people again and again in mercy. When Adam and Eve walked away, You came to them with the promise of a Savior. When the world forgot Your ways, You saved Noah and his family in the flood. When the Israelites complained in the wilderness, still You provided manna and quail. When so many of the kings were unfaithful, You sustained a faithful remnant. At just the right time, You sent Jesus, Your only-begotten Son, to suffer, die, and be raised, so that the whole world might return to You.

As we return to the Table this night, where we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, bring us near to You, guide us, sustain us, until we join together around Your eternal Table with angels, saints, and all the company of heaven at the feast where death is swallowed up forever and tears from all faces are wiped away. 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

LSB, p. 162

- 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

LSB, p. 162

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 cup is the new testament in My ✠ 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

LSB, p. 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB, p. 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

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

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” LSB 617

SERIES HYMN

“Break Your Hearts” (*See insert*)

Stand

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

A 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.

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. The lights may be darkened. While this is done, Psalm 22 may be sung or spoken.

PSALM

Psalm 22

¹ My God, My God, why have You for- | saken Me?*

Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of
My | groaning?

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

- ³ Yet You are | holy,*
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- ⁴ In You our fathers | trusted;*
they trusted, and You de- | livered them.
- ⁵ To You they cried and were | rescued;*
in You they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶ But I am a worm and | not a man,*
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- ⁷ All 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!”
- ⁹ Yet You are He who took Me | from the womb;*
You made Me trust You at My | mother’s breasts.
- ¹⁰ On You was I cast | from My birth,*
and from My mother’s womb You have | been My God.
- ¹¹ Be not far from Me,
for trouble | is near,*
and there is | none to help.
- ¹² Many bulls en- | compass Me;*
strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round Me;
- ¹³ they open wide their | mouths at Me,*
like a ravening and roaring | lion.
- ¹⁴ I 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;
- ¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and My tongue sticks | to My jaws;*
You lay Me in the | dust of death.
- ¹⁶ For dogs en- | compass Me;*
a company of evildoers encircles Me;
they have pierced My | hands and feet—
- ¹⁷ I can count | all My bones—*
they stare and gloat | over Me;
- ¹⁸ they divide My garments a- | mong them,*
and for My clothing they | cast lots.
- ¹⁹ But You, O LORD, do not be | far off!*
O You My help, come quickly | to My aid!
- ²⁰ Deliver My soul | from the sword,*
My precious life from the power | of the dog!

- 21 Save Me from the mouth of the | lion!*
- You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild | oxen!
- 22 I will tell of Your name to My | brothers;*
- in the midst of the congregation I will | praise You:
- 23 You 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!
- 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.
- 25 From You comes My praise in the great congre- | gation;*
- My vows I will perform before those who | fear Him.
- 26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
- those who seek Him shall | praise the LORD!*
- May your hearts live for- | ever!
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember
- and turn | to the LORD,*
- and all the families of the nations
- shall worship be- | fore You.
- 28 For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
- and He rules over the | nations.
- 29 All 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.
- 30 Posterity shall | serve Him;*
- it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;
- 31 they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people
- | yet unborn,*
- that He has | done it.

All leave the church in silence.

Acknowledgments

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