

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Lohman (Stringtown), Missouri  
Phone (573) 782-3191 Cell: (573) 818-2112  
Brian Whittle, Pastor  
Email: [stjohnstringtown@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnstringtown@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stjohnstringtown.org](http://www.stjohnstringtown.org)  
Facebook: [fb.me/stjohnstringtown/](https://fb.me/stjohnstringtown/)

March 28, 2024    †    Holy Thursday

## MY CLOSE FRIEND

Have you ever been betrayed by someone close to you? You are not alone. King David prayed in Psalm 41:9, “Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.” To have a heel lifted against you is to receive a tremendous kick. It is a kick that sends you reeling and knocks the breath out of you—much like the feeling of being betrayed by a trusted friend. When trust has been broken, you can pray David’s words as your own and put your trust in the One whose betrayal they prophesy. For your Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took the pain and shame for you.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

HYMN                    “Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” (*LSB* 625)

*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.

## 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.

*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.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 12:1–14*

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

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

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

<sup>14</sup>“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.

## PSALM

*Psalm 41*

**P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

**C** In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;

**P** the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

**C** You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

**P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

**C** As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”

**P** My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”

**C** And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

**P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.

**C** They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”

**P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

**C** But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!

**P** By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.

**C** But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

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

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

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

*John 13:1b*

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

#### HOLY GOSPEL

*John 13:1–30*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>Now 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. <sup>2</sup>During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him, <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup>rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. <sup>5</sup>Then 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. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup>Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with Me." <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus 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." <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray Him; that was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

<sup>12</sup>When 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? <sup>13</sup>You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. <sup>18</sup>I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate My bread has lifted his heel against Me.' <sup>19</sup>I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am He. <sup>20</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives the one who sent Me."

<sup>21</sup>After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in His spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." <sup>22</sup>The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom He spoke. <sup>23</sup>One of His disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table close to Jesus, <sup>24</sup>so Simon Peter motioned to Him to ask Jesus of whom He was speaking. <sup>25</sup>So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" <sup>26</sup>Jesus 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. <sup>27</sup>Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." <sup>28</sup>Now no one at the table knew why He said this to him. <sup>29</sup>Some 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. <sup>30</sup>So, 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.

Nicene Creed

LSB, p. 191

SERMON HYMN “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” (*LSB* 445)

SERMON

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

*LSB*, p. 192

PRAAYER 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.**

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE *LSB*, p. 194

SANCTUS *LSB*, p. 195

LORD'S PRAYER *LSB*, p. 196

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *LSB*, p. 197

PAX DOMINI *LSB*, p. 197

## DISTRIBUTION

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Come, Let Us Eat” (LSB 626)

“Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise” (LSB 680)

“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared” (LSB 622)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB, p. 199

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

## HYMN

“Oh, How Great Is Your Compassion” (LSB 559)

## + 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

- <sup>1</sup> My God, My God, why have You for- | saken Me?\*
- Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of  
My | groaning?
- <sup>2</sup> O My God, I cry by day, but You do not | answer,\*  
and by night, but I | find no rest.
- <sup>3</sup> Yet You are | holy,\*  
enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- <sup>4</sup> In You our fathers | trusted;\*
- they trusted, and You de- | livered them.
- <sup>5</sup> To You they cried and were | rescued;\*
- in You they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm and | not a man,\*  
scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- <sup>7</sup> 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.
- <sup>25</sup> From You comes My praise in the great congre- | gation;\*  
My vows I will perform before those who | fear Him.
- <sup>26</sup> The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek Him shall | praise the LORD!\*  
May your hearts live for- | ever!
- <sup>27</sup> 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.
- <sup>28</sup> For kingship belongs | to the LORD,\*  
and He rules over the | nations.
- <sup>29</sup> 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.
- <sup>30</sup> Posterity shall | serve Him;\*  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;
- <sup>31</sup> they 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 and Divine Service, Setting Three from *Lutheran Service Book*.  
Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard  
Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News  
Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.