

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

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"In Nomine Iesu"

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2023

For a thousand years the Hebrews celebrated the Passover to commemorate the “saving event” in their history. The ritual called for bitter herbs and wine, but mostly it called for a lamb. The paschal lamb reminded them how a lamb’s blood, painted on the lintels of their father’s doorways, saved their fathers from the angel of death one fateful night in Egypt; the herbs recalled their bitter suffering in the wilderness and through the centuries following.

In the peculiar way our Lord has of reaching in both directions at one time, He allowed the covenant people to draw their identity from the Passover/Red Sea experience, but He used the event as a “sign” of the salvation to come. The lamb of the Passover was sign for the true Paschal Lamb, Jesus Christ.

St. Paul’s welcomes our family and our guests. If you are a guest, please let us know by signing the guest register in the entryway and we would also appreciate you filling out the registration card found in your pew rack.

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Since this is also a sign of our common confession of faith, we welcome to the Lord’s Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. If you wish to commune for the first time at St. Paul’s, please speak to Pastor before the service.

Prelude
Welcome
Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell

Hymn *“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”* **LSB #435**

Invocation (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father.

C **Who created us.**

P And the Son

C **Who loved us to His death.**

P And the Holy Spirit

C **Who gives us life eternal. Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to Almighty God by examining our everyday life in the light of the “Christian Questions and Answers” in Luther’s Small Catechism.

C **As we renew our lives to the God who made us, who redeemed us, who has given us saving faith!**

Confession and Absolution

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask you:
Do you believe that you are a sinner?

C **Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.**

P How do you know this?

C **From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.**

P Are you sorry for your sins?

C **Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.**

P What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

C **His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation.**

P Do you hope to be saved?

C **Yes, that is my hope.**

P In whom then do you trust?

C **In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.**

P What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

C **He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.**

P How do you know this?

C **From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.**

P Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?

C **Yes, I believe it.**

P What convinces you to believe this?

C **The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.**

P What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?

C **We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**

P Why should we remember and proclaim His death?

C **First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.**

P Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?
C **That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.**

P We come before God with great sin, but His love for us is even greater. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Therefore, upon this your confession, I, an ordained servant of Christ, announce the Grace of God unto all of you. 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 the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

C **Amen.**

(be seated)

Choir Anthem *“Remember Me”* *by Deborah Govenor*

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3-11

³ Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11-22

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel (*please stand*)

Matthew 26:17-30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th chapter.

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

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴ 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.”²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you,²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

³⁰ 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.

Nicene Creed

All 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.

(be seated)

Hymn

“What Is This Bread”

LSB #629

Sermon

Presentation of the Offering

Prayer of the Church

P Lord Jesus Christ, You bore our sins in Your body and shed Your blood on the cross that we might live.

C **We bow before You in gratitude for Your goodness towards us.**

P We thank You for the gift of saving faith,

C **and we pray that it may be nourished by Your very body and blood.**

P O Lord, by Your mighty power You delivered Your chosen people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt.

C **You commanded them to observe the Passover feast to remember Your power and might.**

P By Your great love You delivered us, the new Israel, from slavery to sin and death,

C **and You give us this wondrous feast to make Your love real in our lives.**

P Be present among us, O God, with Your grace and favor,

C **and by the power of Your Spirit move us to serve You in love and obedience.**

P Where there are divisions in the Church,
the body of Christ,
C **we pray for healing and unity of spirit.**

P Help us to lift our eyes beyond our own selfish concerns.
C **Grant peace in our hearts, peace in Your Church,
and peace in the world according to Your good
and gracious will.**

P Into Your hands, we commend ourselves and all for
whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; for you live and
reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now
and forever.
C **Amen.**

Preface *(please stand)*

*(The following four sections are taken from Luther's Small
Catechism to help us grasp the meaning of the Lord's Supper
Jesus instituted for us.)*

P What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
C **It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus
Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by
Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to
drink.**

P What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
C **These words, "Given and shed for you for the
forgiveness of sins," show us that in the
Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation
are given us through these words. For where
there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and
salvation.**

P How can bodily eating and drinking do such great
things?
C **Certainly not just eating and drinking do these
things, but the words written here: "Given and**

shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.”

P Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

C **Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words “for you” require all hearts to believe.**

Proper Preface

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 displayed Your eternal love by giving His own body and blood as God’s Lamb, setting us free from slavery to sin, death, and the power of the devil. 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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



The Words of Our Lord

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."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

All **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.

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution *(be seated)*

All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains white grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain red wine. *(Gluten free wafers are also available from a communion assistant.)*

Distribution Hymns

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB #618

"Chief of Sinner Though I Be"

LSB #611

Post-Communion Prayer

P Lord God, as You have fed us with the living bread from

heaven, we ask that this holy body and blood of Your Son may sustain us throughout our journey on earth, until we reach that place where there is neither hunger nor thirst in Your glorious presence. This we pray through Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Symbolic Stripping of the Chancel

After giving the Lord's Supper, Jesus went to Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, where He prayed, was betrayed, and was arrested, thus starting the crucifixion process. Stripping the altar and chancel is a reminder of Jesus' humiliation at the soldiers' hands.

As we await the completion of God's plan of salvation, there will be no benediction at the end of the service, not until we have the Good News of His resurrection on Easter morning.

When all in front is bare,
you may leave the sanctuary in silence.
You will not be ushered out.

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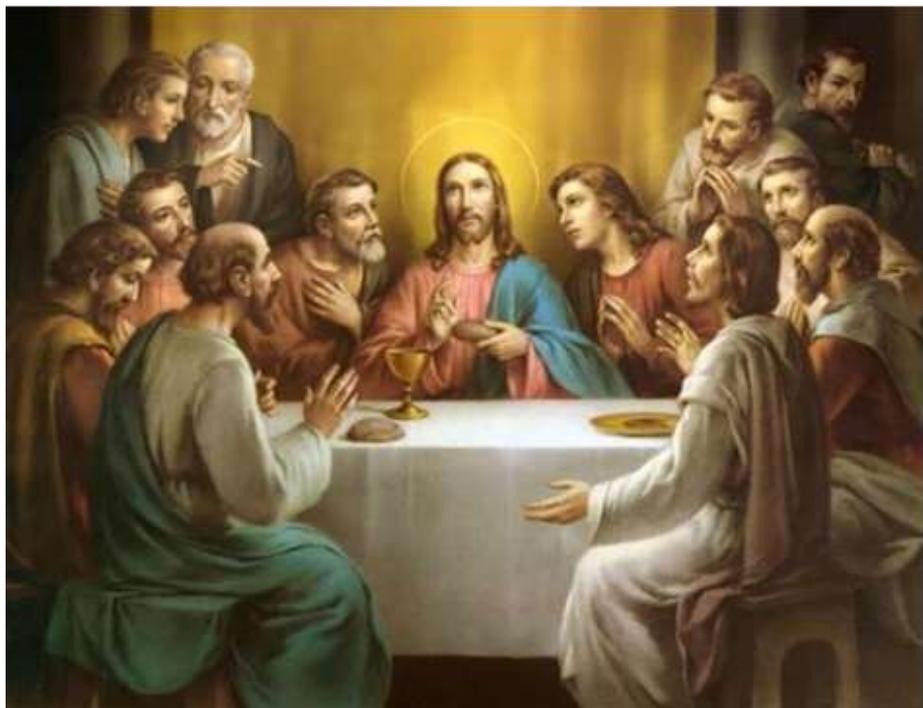


Good Friday

April 7
Worship
7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday!

April 9
Worship with Communion, 7:00 a.m.
Easter Breakfast Sponsored by St. Paul's Youth
Worship with Communion, 10:30 a.m.



Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,
“Take, eat; this is my body.”
And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,
“Drink of it, all of you,
for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”
Matthew 26:26-29