

Maundy Thursday / Holy Thursday

April 6, 2023

Our Mission...

To joyfully share the Abundant Life in Jesus' cross with all people today, embracing His hope for tomorrow.



WELCOME to Trinity Lutheran Church!

Jesus gives new life wherever His Gospel is preached! If you are a visitor, we welcome you in Jesus' name. Please come again to join us in worship and become acquainted with our family in Christ.

Visitors ~ please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church.

Friendship Registers ~ Red Worship folders are in the center aisles of the pews. Please sign in each Sunday.

Sunday school for three-years-old through High School are held at 8:30 am in the lower level.

Adult Bible Class is held in the Stahlecker Room / Library at 8:30 am each Sunday.

Hospital visitations ~ Please let Pastor know if you or a loved one will be in the hospital.

Rest rooms (2) are located on the same floor as the Sanctuary, across from the mailboxes. One is handicapped accessible and has a Baby Changing Station.



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CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 1:28; 11:17–34.

FOR THOSE with YOUNG CHILDREN...

In Matthew 19, Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”* Jesus wants your little ones present with Him during our worship service. So do we.

While children may often fidget and fuss during the service, we consider the noise that they make to be a form of sacred music – the song of God's children learning more and more what it means to be Christians. And it is for this reason that we invite the children to stay with us for the entire service. We also suggest the following steps to help them learn.

- Sit toward the front where it is easier for them to see what is happening.
- Sing the liturgy and hymns, boldly. The more engaged you are, the more quickly they will learn to follow along.
- Explain to them what is happening throughout the service.

If you feel that your children are being too disruptive, please feel free to sit in the Narthex. There are also activity books and “quiet time” bags in the back for your children. Ask an Elder or usher for assistance.

Finally, if your attempt to get through the service today was a disaster, come back next week. The more consistently you show up, the easier it will get. And, whenever you come, just like Christ, we will always be overjoyed to have you and your little ones with us.

Maundy Thursday / Holy Thursday
April 6, 2023

Water and Blood

On this night when our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed into the hands of sinful men, we receive the blessings of forgiveness and new life as we partake of the Lord's Supper. Looking ahead to the death of Jesus on Calvary's cross, we remember with the apostle John that both water and blood flowed from Jesus' side as He was pierced by the spear of a Roman soldier (John 19:34). The flowing water reminds us of the mystery of our Baptism, as God the Father cleanses us of our sin and makes us His children. The flowing blood reminds us of the deep love of the Savior, who allowed Himself to die a horrific death so that we may experience a glorious resurrection, and it points to the Sacrament of our Lord's body and blood. May the blessings of Jesus flow into our lives as we gather to worship Him.

WELCOME

HYMN of INVOCATION

The Royal Banners Forward Go ~ LSB 455



1 The roy - al ban - ners for - ward go;
 2 Where deep for us the spear was dyed,
 3 Ful - filled is all that Da - vid told
 4 On whose hard arms, so wide - ly flung,



The cross shows forth re - demp - tion's flow, Where He, by
 Life's tor - rent rush - ing from His side, To wash us
 In sure pro - phet - ic song of old, That God the
 The weight of this world's ran - som hung, The price of



whom our flesh was made, Our ran - som
 in the pre - cious flood Where flowed the
 na - tions' king should be And reign in
 hu - man - kind to pay And spoil the

in His flesh has paid:
 wa - ter and the blood.
 tri - umph from the tree,
 spoil - er of his prey.

*Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, c. 530–609; (sts. 1–4):
 tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (sts. 5–6): tr. The Hymnal 1982*

Tune: Paul D. Weber, 1949; Text: Public domain

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5 O tree of beauty, tree most fair, Ordained those holy limbs to bear:
 Gone is thy shame, each crimsoned bough Proclaims the King of Glory now.

△ 6 To Thee, eternal Three in One, Let homage meet by all be done;
 As by the cross Thou dost restore, So guide and keep us evermore.
 Amen.

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 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 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.

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 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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 T peace.

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.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

- P** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- C** **He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**
- P** He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- C** **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,**
- P** for You are with me;
- C** **Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**
- P** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
- C** **You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**
- P** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
- C** **and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**
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.

EPISTLE READING

1 John 5:5–12

⁵Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. ⁷For there are three that testify: ⁸the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. ⁹If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. ¹⁰Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Mark 14:12–26

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

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

¹²On 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?" ¹³And 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, ¹⁴and 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?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And 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." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For 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."

²²And 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." ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, 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."

²⁶And 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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN of the DAY

One House Abides Unending

1 One house a - bides un - end - ing, One Mas - ter
 2 The wealth of all cre - a - tion We squan - dered
 3 With end - less hun - ger driv - en The grave cried
 4 Ex - change our ash for beau - ty, A - noint our



fears no fall, One Lord pro - vides, at - tend - ing The
 at our birth. The heirs of con - dem - na - tion Sowed
 out for more, But Je - sus Christ has giv - en Safe
 grief with joy; Dear Lord, who paid our du - ty, All



dai - ly want of all. When ru - in would al -
 tears in blight - ed earth. But light, the world's first
 pas - sage through its door: His flow - ing blood our
 grace for us em - ploy. Feed us the sav - ing



lure them Whose one es - tate was need, One Fa - ther
 trea - sure, The Mas - ter worked a - new In prom - ise,
 rai - ment, The flood to purge our shame; The liv - ing
 man - na Lest on the way we fail And sweet - en



would se - cure them In will, in trust, in deed.
 and in mea - sure No mor - tal eye could view.
 God the pay - ment That buys for us His name.
 our Ho - san - na To ho - ly Eas - ter's hail.

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Tune: Welsh; Tune: Public domain

SERMON

Reverend Jonathan G. Schultz

NICENE CREED

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

1 Timothy 2:1-4

- P** Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You that You have gathered us together on this night when Your Son instituted the Supper we are privileged to receive.
- C** Grant that the promised treasures of Your Word remind us of the mercy You give to us by the water and the blood.

- P** Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C** **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P** Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C** **Encourage our hearts and minds as we hold fast to Your Word, knowing that all You accomplished during Holy Week was done for our salvation.**
- P** Holy Spirit, make us one through this sacred Meal we now prepare our hearts to receive, that in the communion of saints we may be strengthened in our fellowship with Christ Jesus and with one another.
- C** **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Psalm 116:12-13, 17:19

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE of the SACRAMENT

pages 160-166

PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22



C And al - so with you.

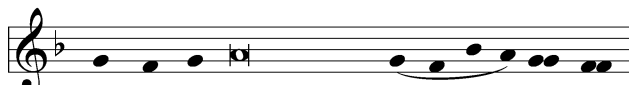


P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136




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 accomplished the salvation of mankind by the tree of the cross that, where death arose, there life also might rise again and that the serpent who overcame by the tree of the garden might likewise by the tree of the cross be

overcome. 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 ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament.

Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. 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.

THE WORDS of OUR LORD*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

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.

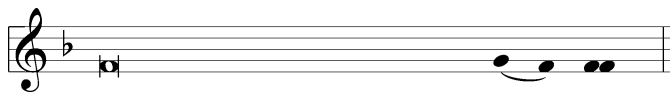
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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*Matthew 6:9-13*

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.**

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord**John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God**John 1:29*

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**ADULT CHOIR***Eat This Bread*

Text (sts. 1–2): Stephen P. Starke, 1955; (sts. ref. 3–5): Robert J. Batastini, 1942; (sts. ref. 3–5): Taizé Community

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923–94

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord ~ LSB 637

1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart ~ LSB 641

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Refrain

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916–97

Tune: Robert E. Kreuz, 1922–96

Text and tune: © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Publications.

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POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P 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.

HYMN to DEPART

Go to Dark Gethsemane ~ LSB 436 stzs 1-3

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, All who feel the
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, View the Lord of
 3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; There, a - dor - ing



tempt - er's pow'r; Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
 life ar - raign'd; Oh, the worm - wood and the gall!
 at His feet, Mark that mir - a - cle of time,



Watch with Him one bit - ter hour; Turn not from His
 Oh, the pangs His soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete. "It is fin - ished!"



griefs a - way; Learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
 shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
 hear Him cry; Learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

*Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854**Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901**Text and tune: Public domain***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.

PSALM*Psalms 22*

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken 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 delivered 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 deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights 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 encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround 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 within 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 encompass 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 among 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, glorify 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 congregation;
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 forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before 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 himself alive.

³⁰Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.

All leave the church in silence.

*Join us tomorrow evening for our continuing journey to the cross
as we remember our Savior's suffering and death
on the cross of Calvary*