

Maundy Thursday

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The season of Lent begins with the Great Confession of Ash Wednesday in preparation for the journey of Lent and is concluded here with the Great Absolution in preparation for the celebration of the passover of Christ from death to life.

^{ss}
Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for self-examination.

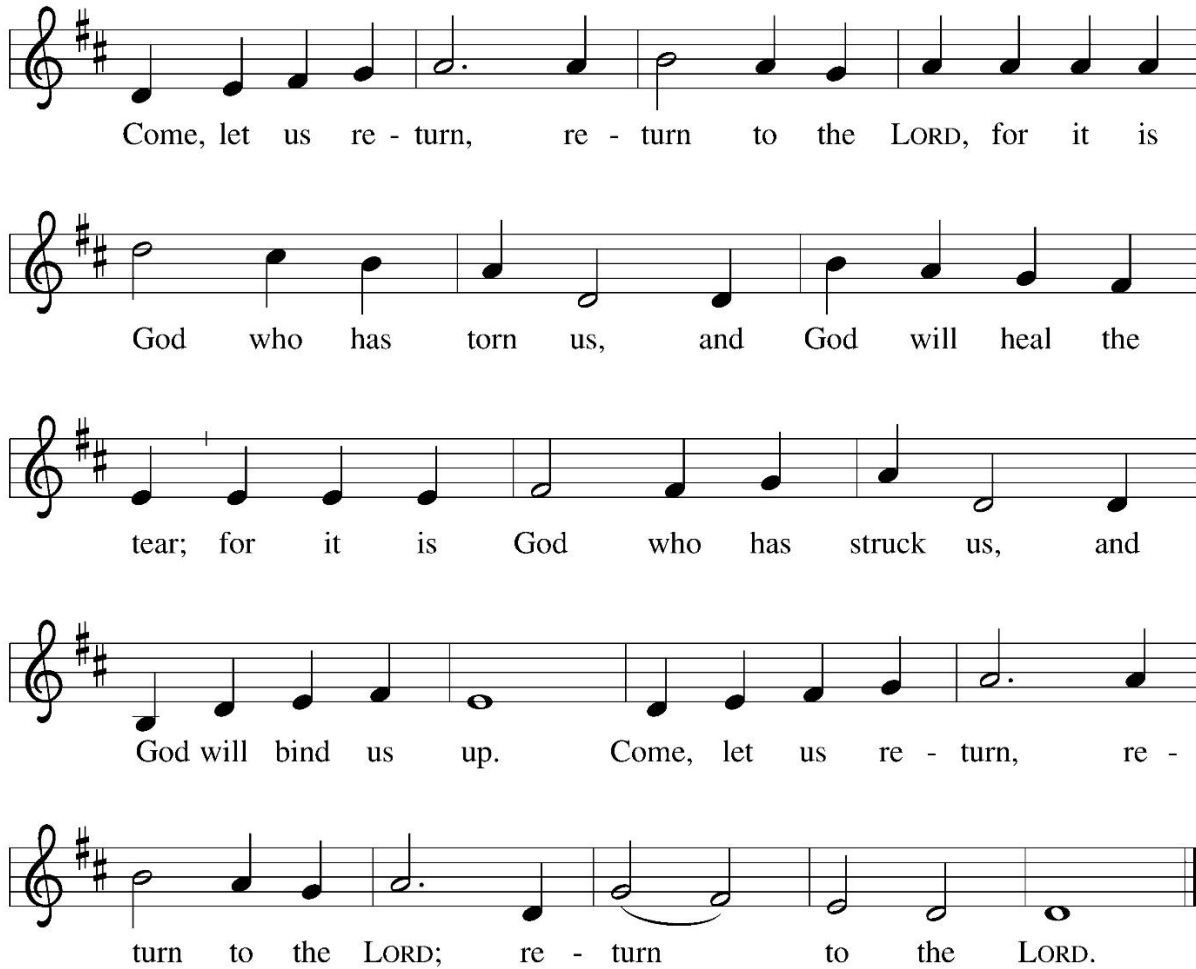
Almighty and merciful God,
I, a troubled and penitent sinner,
 confess to you all my sins and iniquities
 with which I have offended you
 and for which I justly deserve your punishment.
I am sorry for them and repent of them
 and pray for your boundless mercy.
For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son,
Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me,
 a poor, sinful being; forgive my sins,
 give me your Holy Spirit
 for the amendment of my sinful life,
 and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

The assembly is seated. Individuals are welcome to come forward, one at a time, for personal absolution. The choir introduces the refrain, the assembly echoes, and when indicated by the leader.

Come Let Us Return

#S435

Refrain



Come, let us re - turn, re - turn to the LORD, for it is
God who has torn us, and God will heal the
tear; for it is God who has struck us, and
God will bind us up. Come, let us re - turn, re -
turn to the LORD; re - turn to the LORD.

Text: Mark Mummert, based on Hosca 6:1-3

Music: Mark Mummert

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Songs During Absolution/Personal Prayer

Please Use your cranberry hymnals for these hymns:

ELW 605 Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

When all who so desire such absolution have received it, the assembly stands as able and the Presiding Minister pronounces the absolution:

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore

declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***THE PEACE**

Having been reconciled to God, let us be reconciled to one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

GATHERING HYMN

That Priceless Grace

#591



1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
 2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
 3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
 4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious



grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
 blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
 death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
 word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
 Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
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***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. ¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 116:1-2, 12-19

Refrain

I will call up - on the name of the LORD,

call up - on the name of the LORD.

Psalm tone

I love the LORD, who has | heard my voice,
and listened to my | supplication,
for the LORD has given | ear to me
whenev- | er I called....

**How shall I re- | pay the LORD
for all the good things God has | done for me?
I will lift the cup | of salvation
and call on the name | of the LORD. R**

I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people.
Precious in your | sight, O LORD,
is the death | of your servants.

**O LORD, truly I | am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me | from my bonds.
I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and call upon the name | of the LORD. R**

I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD
in the presence of | all God's people,
in the courts of | the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, | O Jerusalem. R

SECOND READING

I Corinthians 11:23-26

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *I Give You a New Commandment*

The musical notation is written on two staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody starts with a quarter note on G4, followed by a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on C5. This is followed by a dotted quarter note on B4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on G4, and a quarter note on F4. The second staff continues with a quarter note on E4, a quarter note on D4, a quarter note on C4, and a quarter note on B3. The lyrics are: "I give you a new com - mand - ment, that you love one an - oth - er just as I have loved you." There are three numbered breath marks: "1*" above the first measure, "2" above the eighth measure, and "3" above the thirteenth measure.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe,

and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I Am.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. BRUCE DAVIDSON

Great god, Your Love Has Called Us

#358



1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your



love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty



though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that



heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953

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*NICENE CREED

WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD,
THE FATHER, THE ALMIGHTY,
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
OF ALL THAT IS, SEEN AND UNSEEN.
WE BELIEVE IN ONE LORD, JESUS CHRIST,
THE ONLY SON OF GOD,
ETERNALLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER,
GOD FROM GOD, LIGHT FROM LIGHT,
TRUE GOD FROM TRUE GOD,
BEGOTTEN, NOT MADE,
OF ONE BEING WITH THE FATHER;
THROUGH HIM ALL THINGS WERE MADE.
FOR US AND FOR OUR SALVATION
HE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,
WAS INCARNATE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE VIRGIN MARY
AND BECAME TRULY HUMAN.
FOR OUR SAKE HE WAS CRUCIFIED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE;
HE SUFFERED DEATH AND WAS BURIED.
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES;
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.
HE WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD,
AND HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END.
WE BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LORD, THE GIVER OF LIFE,
WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON,
WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON IS WORSHIPED AND GLORIFIED,
WHO HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS.
WE BELIEVE IN ONE HOLY CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH.
WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD,
AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME.
AMEN.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

On this night when Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

A brief silence.

Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially*).

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what else do we pray?

Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you want to give electronically, you may do so using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org, or by scanning the QR Code. For those physically present in worship, an offering plate is in the back of the sanctuary, on the usher's table.

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

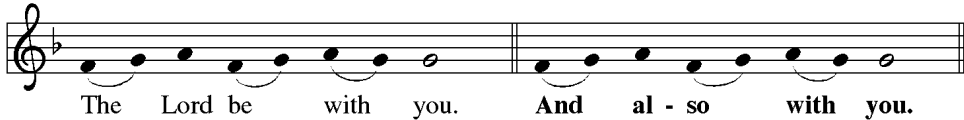
Refrain
 sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
 in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**O God, maker of heaven and earth,
 your steadfast love embraces all creation.
 You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
 and bring forth its bounty.
 Through these gifts of bread and wine,
 draw us into the death and life of your Son,
 who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
 We ask this in Jesus' name.
 Amen.**

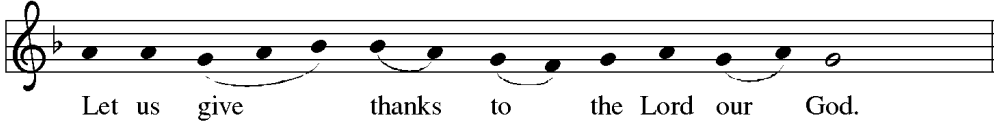
***DIALOGUE**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



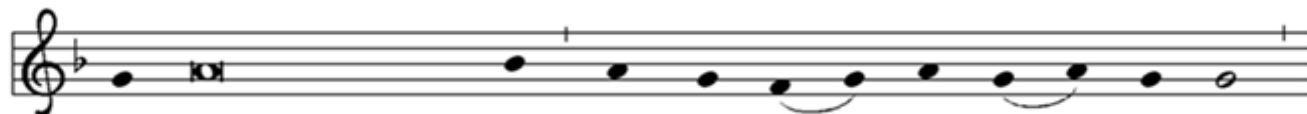
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



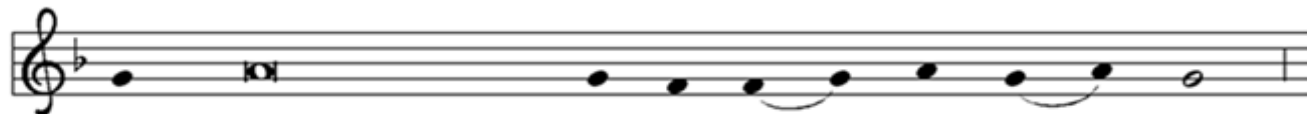
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;



whose suffering and death gave sal - va - tion to all.



You gather your people around the tree of the cross,



trans - form - ing death in - to life.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



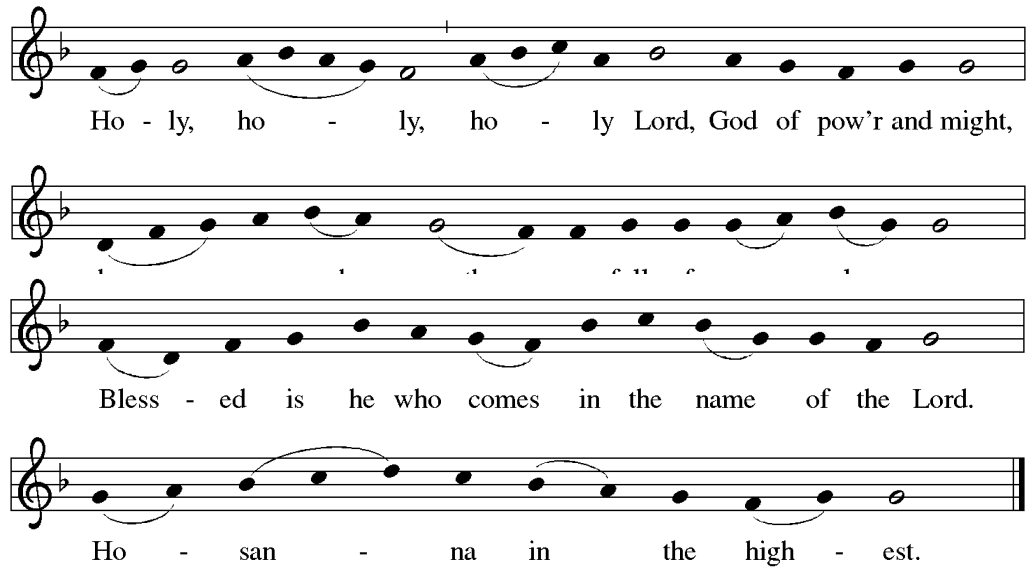
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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*Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

*The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*APPROACH TO THE TABLE

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you;
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcome to receive the bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, given and shed for the sake of the world. Wine, with a grape juice alternative, is offered by pouring chalice. Take a small cup from the tray. Receive the bread in your open palm. Hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may stand there to drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the bowl provided. For those who desire it, gluten-free bread is available; indicate your desire to the presiding minister.

For those who would like to participate, but not to receive bread or wine, please come forward for a blessing. Indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you. If you are unable to come forward and would like Communion brought to you

in your seat, let the usher know.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now

ACS#930



1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you



feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in



life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

Stay with Me

#348



Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and



pray. Watch and pray.

MEDITATION

When the meal is finished and cleared, we pause to contemplate all that God does for us in Jesus—the one whose Body and Blood make us into Christ’s body for each other and for the world.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the Meal, Jesus was arrested, stripped, mocked, and jailed before the trials of Good Friday. While Psalm 88 is chanted, the Altar and entire Chancel area of Kimes are stripped of all adornment and will stand bare until the celebration of Easter. The bareness of the worship space reminds us of Jesus’ emptying in death for us.

PSALM 88

Lord, I Cry to You

S446

A cantor sings the verses; the assembly is invited to join in singing the Refrain.

Refrain

LORD, I cry to
LORD, I cry to you, I cry to you, I cry to
you, LORD, I cry to you,
you, I cry to you, I cry to you, I cry to
O LORD, I cry to you. (oo or mm)
you, I cry to you. (oo or mm)

Text: Psalm 88
Music: Zebulon M. Highben
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THE ASSEMBLY MAY REMAIN FOR PRAYER OR DEPART IN SILENCE.
THE LITURGY OF THE THREE DAYS CONTINUES
TOMORROW & SATURDAY AT 7:00PM.

Good Friday Great Vigil of Easter (Saturday)

LEADING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

PREACHING	THE REV. BRUCE DAVIDSON
ASSISTING MINISTER	MERRI BROWN
LECTOR	ELAINE GERHART
MUSICIAN	RALPH WELLINGTON
ALTAR GUILD	ELIZABETH BECK AND STEHPHANIE CHARA
HANDLING THE STRIPPING	GORDON AND ELAINE GERHART
USHER	CAMERON BROWN
HOSPITALITY, COORDINATING SOUP SUPPER	GORDON GERHART

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Biblical Texts: *Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.*

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MSB1 S435 *Come Let Us Return*
Text: Mark Mummert, based on Hosca 6:1-3
Music: Mark Mummert
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ELW 591 *That Priceless Grace*
Text: Emmanuel F.Y. Grantson, b. 1949
Music: Ghanaian traditional
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

ELW 348 *Stay With Me*
Text: Taizé Community

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

ELW 336 *Lamb of God, You Only Son*
Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: Twila Paris
Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

ACS 930 *Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now*
Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
Music: Edward Miller, 1731-1807. Adapt.

ELW 348 *Stay with Me*
Text: Taize Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications

MSB1 S446 *Lord, I Cry to You*
Text: Psalm 88
Music: Zebulon M. Highben
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