

AS WE GATHER

Living Lord's Supper Presentation

In about 1498, Leonardo da Vinci completed his masterpiece “The Last Supper.” This famous painting shows Jesus seated at the table on Holy Thursday, surrounded by His twelve disciples. Although Judas the betrayer is positioned lower than the rest and darkened in features, Christ is full of light. Both the set of three windows that appear behind Jesus and the triangular shape of His body show how the triune God is made flesh in our Redeemer. All the gestures and expressions of the disciples are painted in such a way to capture the mixed moods of the night when our Lord was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Looking closely at the painting, every line is positioned in such a way to guide your eyes toward the center: Jesus, the Host of the feast, the centerpiece of da Vinci’s masterpiece! The Meal we gather to receive today is all about Jesus. The One who is the center of it all longs to gather His guests together to feast in His presence, both now and forevermore.

+ PREPARATION +

LSB 435 COME TO CALVARY’S HOLY MOUNTAIN sts. 1–3

- 1 Come to Calv’ry’s holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.
- 2 Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God
in light.
- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They that drink shall thirst no more.

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Luke 18:13

- P** By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this day to receive our Savior’s mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, “God be merciful to me, a sinner.”

In silent prayer, we reflect on God’s Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

- P** Together, let us pray:
- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ GOD WORD FOR US +

INTROIT

Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

P Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;

C **our God is merciful.**

P I love the LORD, because He has heard

C **my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

P Because He inclined His ear to me,

C **therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

P The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

C **I suffered distress and anguish.**

P Then I called on the name of the LORD:

C **“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

P Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;

C **our God is merciful.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in this sacred Meal You have left us a remembrance of Your suffering and death for our salvation.

C **As we eat with You in the kingdom of God, grant that our hearts and minds may be turned to You alone;**

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

C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11 NIV

³ When Moses went and told the people all the Lord's words and laws, they responded with one voice, "Everything the Lord has said we will do." ⁴ Moses then wrote down everything the Lord had said. He got up early the next morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain and set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of

Israel. ⁵ Then he sent young Israelite men, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the Lord. ⁶ Moses took half of the blood and put it in bowls, and the other half he splashed against the altar. ⁷ Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, “We will do everything the Lord has said; we will obey.”

⁸ Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹ Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up ¹⁰ and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky. ¹¹ But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

APOSTLES' CREED

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

OUR PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

☐ 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.**

OFFERING

LSB 617 O LORD, WE PRAISE THEE

1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.

Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:

O Lord, have mercy!

May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,

That our sins and sorrows did carry,

And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need:

O Lord, have mercy!

2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.

No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;

May this feast thereof remind us!

O Lord, have mercy!

Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee

That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.

All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is
made:

O Lord, have mercy!

3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
 That we follow Christ our Savior
 And live together here in love and union
 Nor despise this blest Communion!

 O Lord, have mercy!

Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
 Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
 Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity:
 O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546
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THE MESSAGE

It's All About Jesus!

THE LIVING LORD'S SUPPER

*WITH PASSAGES FROM LUKE 22, MATTHEW 10:2-4, MARK 3:16-19,
 ACTS 1:13, 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-24, MATTHEW 26:27-28, JOHN 13:25-
 27, AND MARK 14:26, 32*

LIVING LORD'S SUPPER

Cast

Bartholomew	George Aschenbeck
James the Lesser	Mike Byerley
Andrew	Billie Schlobohm
Judas Iscariot	Gilbert Jennett
Simon Peter	John Meitsetschlaeger
John, son of Zebedee	Pastor Richard Schuller
Jesus of Nazareth	Pastor Jerry McNamara
Thomas	Adrian Smith
James, son of Zebedee	Curtis Sitz

Philip	Fred Caton
Matthew	Wayne Blackmon
“Thaddeus” Judas	Mike McInnis
Simon the Zealot	Ken Kaspar

LIVING LORD'S SUPPER LEADERS

DIRECTOR: James Gersch ♦ NARRATOR: Milton Bade ♦ STAGE

DESIGN: Jim Keeling ♦ SOUND BOOTH: Ed Johnson

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**☐ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

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

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

LSB 618 I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: **Refrain**

**ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. **Refrain**

**ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. **Refrain**

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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LSB 576 MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. **Refrain**

**ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.**

2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**

3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! **Refrain**

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Text: Public domain

After Conclusion of Holy Communion, **the Living Lord's Supper resumes...**

Nunc Dimittis

***Lord, now You lettest Your servant depart in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.***

***My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have
prepared in the sight of every people:***

***A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people
Israel. Amen.***

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C ***Amen.***

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

((The Congregation stands and sings the following hymn as the chancel area is stripped of all furnishings in preparation for the Good Friday observance. The stripping of the Altar is an ancient feature of Maundy Thursday, symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the soldiers' hands. After the Pastor leaves the chancel area, all leave the sanctuary in silence. There is no organ postlude.))

LSB 436 GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

1 Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul
sustained!

Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the
cross.

3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.

"It is finished!" hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Text: Public domain

(The congregation departs from the sanctuary in silent reflection.)

Or if the Stripping Of The Altar is still ongoing, the follow Psalm is shared together:

PSALM

Psalm 22:1–10

P My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You
so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?

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

P Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C **In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered
them.**

P To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and
were not put to shame.

C **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and
despised by the people.**

- P** All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;
- C** **“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”**
- P** Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother’s breasts.
- C** **On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother’s womb You have been My God.**

(The congregation departs from the sanctuary in silent reflection.)

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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