

Maundy Thursday Service Thursday, April 9, 7PM

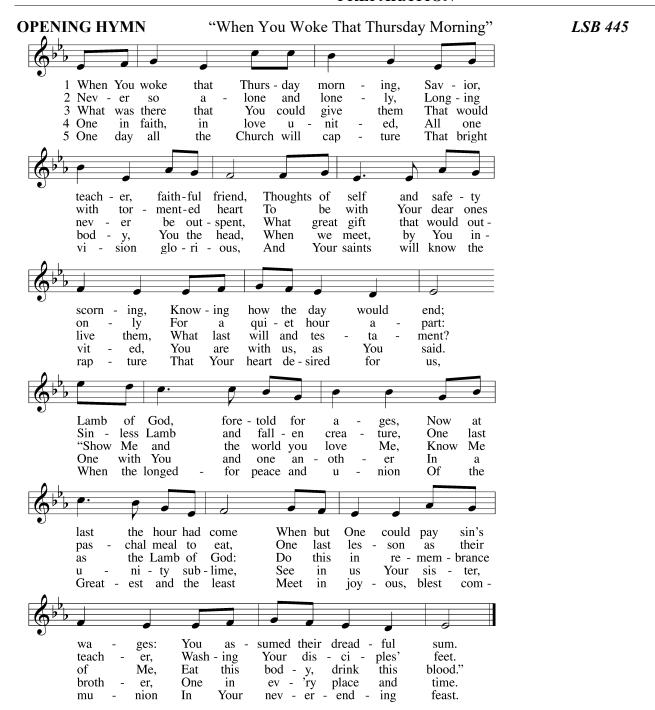


AS WE GATHER

Maundy (Holy) Thursday begins the great three days that commemorate how God accomplished our salvation in Jesus Christ. The first part of the service is confession and forgiveness, the culmination of the Lenten season of repentance. Maundy Thursday then recalls two central events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. First is the Lord's Supper. The Gospel tells of the Maundy Thursday night when, during the Passover meal, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is My body." He then took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My blood of the new covenant." The old covenant involved regular repeated animal sacrifice. This new covenant involves the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus' blood, which fulfilled the old covenant once for all. We now share this Meal regularly in remembrance of Jesus' all-availing sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. The second central event recalled tonight is the abandonment of Jesus by all who loved Him. This is remembered by the action of stripping the altar. This reminder of how Jesus was forsaken also assures us that Jesus is with us at times when we feel forsaken.

WELCOME

PREPARATION



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INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

INTROIT Psalm 116:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

Pastor Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

People I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Pastor Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

People The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Pastor Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

People Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor People of God, we struggle against sin, death, and the power of the devil. We have intensified the struggle begun at Baptism to daily die with Christ and also to rise daily in Christ to live anew. In this struggle we have been reminded again that we are weak and Christ is strong. We need the forgiveness of our sins in order to live as the people God has called us to be. Assured of God's love for us through our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sin against God and our neighbors, so that we enter these three days, so central to our faith, reconciled to God and to one another.

People Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor The Word of God is living and active. Words of forgiveness spoken in the name of Jesus do what they say. Come, receive the forgiveness won for you by the blood of Jesus. In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus I forgive you all your sins.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 24:3-11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." ⁴And 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. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then 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." ⁸And 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."

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

Pastor O Lord, have mercy on us.

People Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING *Hebrews 9:11-22*

¹¹When 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) ¹²he 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. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how 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.

¹⁵Therefore 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. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For 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, ²⁰saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹And in

the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Pastor O Lord, have mercy on us.

People Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17–30

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.

People Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁷Now 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?" ¹⁸He 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." ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

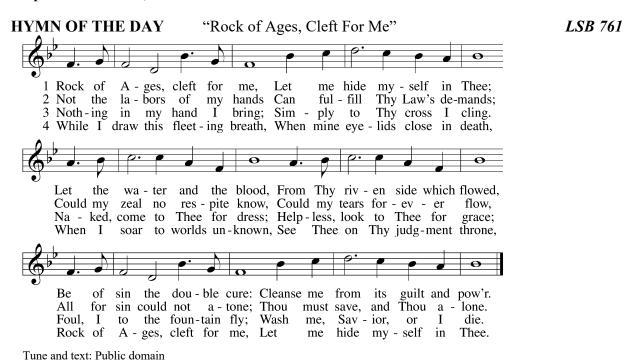
²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me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

²⁶Now 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." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I 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."

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You, O Christ.



SERMON He Thought of You

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Gathered by the love and remembrance of Jesus, we offer our prayers to God. For the Church, that by our love for one another, the world may know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord,

People Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless, that God use us to reach out to them and lift them up, let us pray to the Lord,

People Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For those who have lost their faith and for those who struggle to believe, that during these holy days they be filled with Christ's light and peace, let us pray to the Lord,

People Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For the sick, the dying, and the mourning, help them to trust in the promise that nothing—not even sickness or death—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord,

People Lord, have mercy.

Pastor For all of us, gathered on this holy night, that, nourished by God's Word for the forgiveness of our sins, we forgive those who have wronged us and love one another from our hearts, let us pray to the Lord,

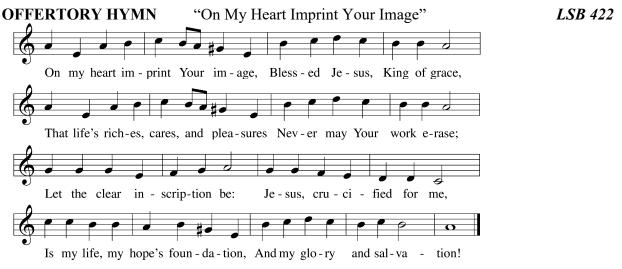
People Lord, have mercy.

Pastor Hear the prayers of Your people, merciful God, for the sake of the One who stretched out His arms on the cross to redeem Your people and to reconcile the whole creation, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People Amen.

OFFERING

We accept offerings via Pushpay. Text "mountolive" to 7797.



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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor All thanks and praise to You, O Lord, for Your covenant promise through the ages. For Your covenant promise to Adam and Eve when they had fallen into sin, for Your covenant promise to Noah and his family after the flood, for Your covenant promise to Abraham and Sarah when they were childless, for Your covenant promise to the Israelites who had been enslaved in Egypt, for Your covenant promise to the house of David when Judah faltered, for Your covenant promise to the prophets and the faithful remnant amid rejection, for Your covenant promise fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,

People we thank You. We bless You. We praise You. We adore You.

ANTHEM "Thy Will Be Done" (sung by Pastor Jason)

PAX DOMINI

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People Amen.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The stripping of the Altar is an ancient feature of Maundy Thursday, symbolic of the humiliation of Jesus at the soldiers' hands. They stripped Him of His own clothes, placed a purple robe and crown of thorns upon Him and a reed in His hand. He stood mute. Having done this, they mocked Him, spat upon Him, and bowed down to "worship" Him.

Pastor After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord. Events moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, arrest, mock trial, painful beating, the trudge to Golgotha and execution. The cross is where Jesus took on our punishment to be able to give us the gift of heaven.

People When John the Baptist saw Jesus, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Pastor As this statement was fulfilled on the cross, the cross is removed.

- The processional cross is removed -

Pastor The missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God.

People As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard.

Pastor As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand and its book.

- The missal stand and altar book are removed -

Pastor Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

People The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world.

Pastor As creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

- All candles are extinguished and removed -

Pastor The altar is the place where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine materials appropriate for feasting with our King.

People As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

- The altar cloths and paraments are removed -

At the conclusion of the stripping of the altar, pastor leaves the sanctuary in silence.

SILENT PRAYER

Jesus, I come to you, for you have broken every barrier down! Amen.

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SERVING IN WORSHIP

Preacher Rev. Mark Baldwin, Dir. Of Family Life

Liturgist Rev. Jason Zobel, Senior Pastor Ray Calderon, Music Director Music Rev. Jason Zobel, soloist

Rebecca Zobel, vocals

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LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Good Friday (Apr 10 7pm)

EASTER SUNDAY

Divine Worship at 9:00am

Like us (@mountolivemadison) on Facebook. At the time of the services, our livestream service will be the first thing at the top of our timeline. If you miss the livestream, the video will be available to watch any time after the completion of the service on our Facebook page, AND on our YouTube Channel (search for "Mount Olive Lutheran Church).