

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran

Church, School & Preschool



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

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Maundy Thursday

Tonight's Worship

To underscore the end of the Lenten time of preparation, and to recall Jesus' discourse with his disciples at the beginning of the first Maundy Thursday, the sermon is placed at the beginning of the service. The placement of the sermon provides a powerful preamble to the "Instruction for the End of Lent" and the confession of sins which follows.

Holy Communion is celebrated in the Maundy Thursday service. Receiving Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins is always appropriate in worship, and especially on this night, the night on which Jesus instituted the Sacrament.

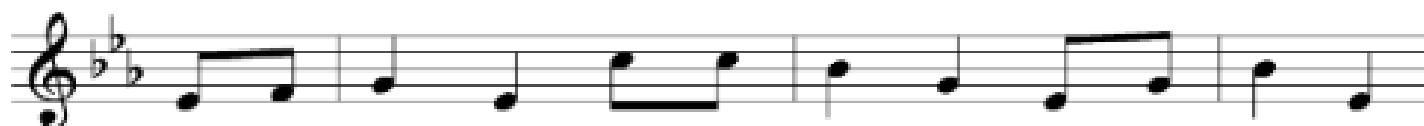
The post-communion portion of the service takes us from the upper room in Jerusalem, where the disciples celebrated the Passover, to the Garden of Gethsemane in preparation for Good Friday. The altar, which is one of the most prominent symbols of Christ in the church, is solemnly stripped of its vestments in memory of the abandonment of Jesus in Gethsemane.

Holy Communion

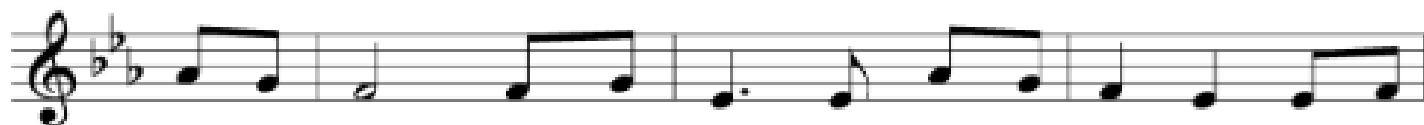
The Lord's Supper will be celebrated in tonight's service. We believe that God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus' body and blood are truly present (Matt. 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, Luke 22:17-20) in the Lord's Supper and that receiving the Lord's Supper together is a public statement of our complete oneness of faith (1 Cor. 10:17 & 11), we *invite to Holy Communion confirmed members of this congregation and our sister congregations in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).* If you are a guest who is not from a church of our fellowship and you would like to commune with us in the future, please speak to our pastors. They would be happy to explain what that entails.

Worshippers are encouraged to prepare for tonight's service and for the Sacrament by reading the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on page 295 in the hymnal. Personal prayers for before and after Communion are found on the inside cover of the hymnal.

Opening Hymn When You Woke That Thursday Morning | CW#416



1 When you woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior, teach - er,
2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, long - ing with tor -
3 What was there that you could give them that would nev - er
4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, all one bod - y,
5 One day all the Church will cap - ture that bright vi - sion



faith - ful friend, thoughts of self and safe - ty scorn - ing, know - ing
ment - ed heart to be with your dear ones on - ly for a
be out - spent, what great gift that would out - live them, what last
you the head, when we meet, by you in - vit - ed, you are
glo - ri - ous, and your saints will know the rap - ture that your



how the day would end; Lamb of God, fore - told for
qui - et hour a - part: sin - less Lamb and fall - en
will and tes - ta - ment? "Show me and the world you
with us, as you said. One with you and one an -
heart de - sired for us, when the longed - for peace and



a - ges, now at last the hour had come when but One could
crea - ture, one last pas - chal meal to eat, one last les - son
love me, know me as the Lamb of God: do this in re -
oth - er in a u - ni - ty sub - lime, see in us your
un - ion of the great - est and the least meet in joy - ous,



pay sin's wa - ges: you as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
as their teach - er, wash - ing your dis - ci - ples' feet.
mem - brance of me, eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
sis - ter, broth - er, one in ev - 'ry place and time.
blest com - mun - ion in your nev - er - end - ing feast.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

Tune: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc.

A New Covenant for a People Made New

After the sermon, please remain seated.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE END OF LENT

In this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation.

We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another.

This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life.

In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself.

This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love.

Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another.

The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

Please stand

CONFESSION OF SINS

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for meditation.

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

Cleanse me from my sins.

Release me from my guilt.

Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son **✝** and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on the cross. Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this Sacrament to our eternal good, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

GOSPEL

Luke 22:7-20

Jesus institutes the meal of the New Covenant. In this sacrament, His body and blood are the food and drink that satisfy every spiritual need.

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." ⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. ¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there." ¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. ¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

VERSE OF THE DAY

spoken together

As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Cor. 11:26).

HYMN OF THE DAY

It Was a Dark and Dismal Night | CW #417



1 It was a dark and dis - mal night when pow'rs of
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, in mem - 'ry
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate; we show your



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his
eat the liv - ing food." Then took the cup and
of your dy - ing friend; meet at my ta - ble
death; we sing your name till you re - turn and



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.
ac - tions ran! What won-drous words of grace he spoke!
blessed the wine: "This is my all - a - ton - ing blood."
and re - cord the love of your de - part - ed Lord."
we shall eat the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–c. 1561

Text and tune: Public domain

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).

The offering plates will be passed through the congregation. After collection, the ushers will take the offering plates to the front handing them to the pastor to present them at the altar of God. ***As the plates come forward, please stand.***



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

spoken responsively

Lord God, heavenly Father, author of the everlasting covenant and giver of the cup of salvation,

We gather in your courts to offer you our sacrifice of thanksgiving.

For fulfilling your promise to establish a new covenant through the blood of your Son, Jesus Christ,

We give you humble and hearty thanks.

As our Lord Jesus Christ gave thanks to you when he broke the bread, as he gave thanks to you when he took the cup,

We also give you thanks.

Precious Savior, both priest and offering, awe and wonder fill our hearts as we partake of your body, broken for us, and your blood, shed for us.

We praise you, bless you, and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ.

In our poverty of righteousness, we have nothing to offer. Without your tremendous sacrifice, we would still be in our sins,

But through your sacrament of the New Testament, we are assured that our iniquities are forgiven and our sins are no longer remembered.

O Holy Spirit, dwell within us as we remember our Lord's death in this sacrament. Enter our hearts to strengthen our faith and fill us with gratitude for your great mercy.

Move us to encourage one another to love and to do good works.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

As our Lord served his disciples by washing their feet, so may we also humbly serve one another.

Help us live our lives as sacrifices of thanksgiving to him who first loved us. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

spoken together

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

DISTRIBUTION

Please approach the Lord's Table at the direction of our Ushers.

Distribution Hymn

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior | CW #659

See next page

659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 659 sts. 1-4



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, turned a - way God's
2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, he, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; take heed how you
4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion if sal - va - tion



wrath for - ev - er; by his bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, gives his bod - y with the bread
are pre - par - ing, for if you do not be - lieve,
you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose



he saved us from the e - vil foe.
and with the wine the blood he shed.
judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.
you need not him who died and rose.

659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 659 sts. 5-8



5 Christ says, "Come, all you that la - bor, and re - ceive my
6 Then hold fast with faith un - shak - en that this food is
7 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en un - to us such
8 If your heart this truth pro - fess - es and your mouth your



grace and fa - vor; those who feel no pain or ill
to be tak - en by the souls who are dis - tressed,
food has giv - en and, to mend what we have done,
sin con - fess - es, sure - ly you will be his guest



need no phy - si - cian's help or skill."
by hearts that long for peace and rest.
gave in - to death his on - ly Son.
and at his ban - quet ev - er blest.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

Hymn #418: The Blood of the Lamb is sung as the altar is stripped of its paraments in token of Jesus' abandonment by his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. At the conclusion of the song, the lights will dim and we ask that you leave the sanctuary in silence. You may leave when you are ready. Feel free to remain in the sanctuary for silent prayer and meditation if you wish.

418 The Blood of the Lamb

CW 418



1 The Fa - ther sees his chil - dren's chains. From Phar - aoh's
2 The lamb is slain as sun is set— a per - fect
3 As mid - night looms, the hour of death, God seeks the
4 Chil - dren of God, we too were slaves: our mas - ter—



land they cry in pain. To res - cue
lamb, with - out de - fect. They stain their
first - born, steals their breath, but pass - es
sin! Our end— the grave! But free - dom



them, he makes a way: the blood of the lamb.
doors with in - no - cence: the blood of the lamb.
o'er doors drenched in red: the blood of the lamb.
came in crim - son shades: the blood of the Lamb.

- 5 This perfect Lamb is Jesus Christ. 6 The blood he spilled, the life he spent,
He gave himself as sacrifice. he gives us now in sacrament.
His life poured out, the final price: Eternal life on Christ depends:
the blood of the Lamb. the blood of the Lamb.

Our Holy Week and Easter Celebration continues ...

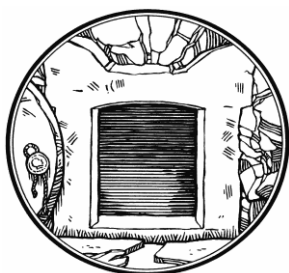


Good Friday

Service of Darkness

Friday, April 18, 2025

1:00pm & 7:00 p.m.



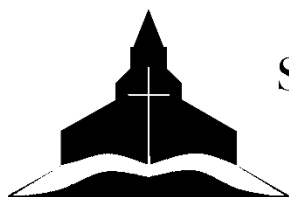
Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 am

Easter Festival Service at 9:00 am

Easter Breakfast and an Easter Egg hunt will occur between our Easter Sunday Services. All are invited!



St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran

Church • School • Preschool

St. Paul's exists to fulfill the calling Christ has given to His church. *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

Matthew 28:19-20

To that end, we seek to hold out Christ and Him crucified to more people more often through the work of our Church, School, and Preschool. Contact us should you wish to learn more.

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