

THE WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. David O. Stecker

Liturgist: Rev. Scott A. Zeckzer

Lector: Rev. Chad E. Hoover

Acolyte: Eli Fink (7:00)

Organist: Lynne Eifert

Soloist: Deb Zeckzer (10:30)

Oboe: Jan Hockemeyer (7:00)

Choir: Handbell Choir (7:00)

Elder: Dennis Herman (10:30)

Wade Benjamin (7:00)

Ushers: Group 4 (Bill Bremer) (7:00)

Communion Assistant: Dave Van Spankeren (7:00)

† MAUNDY THURSDAY †

April 2, 2026 ~ 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER ~ As the Lord Jesus had His disciples make preparations for the annual Passover meal, little did they know that this would be the very last official observance of the commanded remembrance of the exodus deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage in the days of Moses. For in the next three days (the Triduum), the fulfillment of that prophetic event would culminate in the deliverance of all people from the bondage of sin and death by means of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah and deliverer. Tonight the “cup of blessing” (1 Corinthians 10:16) of the Passover meal is made to be the means of our participation in the very blood to be shed in atonement on the cross of Good Friday. Tonight this cup becomes the Sacrament of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to each individual believer from now on until the Lord returns on the Last Day. Tonight it is of utmost importance for all to hear and to believe in the very real presence of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus not just “spiritually” but “in, with, and under” the bread and wine we share, for the Lord Himself invites us to take and eat His body and to take and drink His blood, shed for us.

PRELUDE (10:30) *O Sacred Head* (Bach)
(7:00) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (Hopson)

RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *LSB 445*
When You Woke That Thursday Morning

**When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin’s wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.
Never so alone and lonely,**

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**Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples’ feet.**

**What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
“Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood.”**

**One in faith, in love united,
All one body, You the head,
When we meet, by You invited,
You are with us, as You said.
One with You and one another
In a unity sublime,
See in us Your sister, brother,
One in ev’ry place and time.**

**One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.**

INVOCATION ↑

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

CORPORATE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ~ Page 290

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy. (Psalm 43:4)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for 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. 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.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In this Great and Holy Week, tonight we enter the Holy Triduum, or Three Holy Days, of our Lord's Passion. We begin where the Lord and His first disciples began, celebrating the fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover with the institution of the Sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It is well that we complete our Lenten discipline this night by examining ourselves, confessing our sins, and receiving forgiveness in Holy Absolution. Therefore, let us implore God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: 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.

Pastor: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

People: Yes.

Pastor: Let it be done for you as you believe. 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

COLLECT

Pastor: 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 manifested in us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

ANTHEM (10:30) *Come, Let Us Fix our Eyes on Jesus* (Kosche)

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING ↓ Exodus 24:3-11 (ESV)

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: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ HYMN ↓ *Not All the Blood of Beasts* **LSB 431**

**Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain.**

**But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.**

**My faith would lay its hand on that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand, and there confess my sin.**

**My soul looks back to see the burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.**

**Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.**

EPISTLE READING Hebrews 9:11-22 (ESV)

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: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING ↑ Matthew 26:17-30 (ESV)

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 Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ HYMN OF THE DAY ↓ *O Lord, We Praise Thee* LSB 617

**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!

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!

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!

SERMON ↓

The Fulfilled Passover Meal

NICENE CREED ↑

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 ↑

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, You are our Lord and we have become Your disciples in Baptism, Your brothers and sisters, Your Body and individually members of it. As on that holy night when You entered into the final days of Your Passion, You suffered betrayal at the hand

of one of Your own chosen disciples, so do we number ourselves still struggling with sin and the temptation of going our own way. As You restored Your servant Simon Peter, You have spoken Your sustaining Word of forgiveness to us this night. Make us faithful to Your calling that we may continually worship You in spirit and in truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: On this night You took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it now to be Your body given for us and our salvation. Continue to give us this sacred bread that You may live in us as we live in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: In the same way also You took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it now to be the new testament in Your blood, shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. Make us drink deeply of Your great love that we may love You in return and serve as ambassadors of Your love for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: When You commanded Your disciples, saying, "Do this in remembrance of Me," You were promising not just good memories of the past but Your very presence with every believer giving every good and perfect gift of mercy and grace through Your eternal Word and Spirit. "Come, then, Lord, and help Your people, bought with the price of Your own blood, and bring us with Your saints to glory everlasting". Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Hear also our prayer for all public servants; for the government and those who protect us; for the deliverance of all from any affliction, danger, or need; and all for whom You have come to be the eternal Savior, the way, the truth, and the life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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Pastor: Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

♪ PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: 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 in the fullness of time became one of us to die for us and, when it was His time, gave Himself into death so that we might have eternal life. 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 ↑ (Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING ↑

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not

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perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many. As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

People: Amen.

WORDS OF OUR LORD ↑

(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25)

Pastor: 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 (1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20)

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: 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, Luke 11:2-4)

People: 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 ↑

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

♪ AGNUS DEI ↑

(John 1:29)

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 ↓

What Is This Bread

LSB 629

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:

This bread we break, this life we take,

Was crushed to pay for our release.

O taste and see – the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing!

O taste and see – the Lord is King.

So who am I, that I should live and He should die

Under the rod? My God, my God,

Why have You not forsaken me?

O taste and see – the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,

In mouth and soul He makes us whole –

Christ, truly present in this meal,

O taste and see – the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!

I do believe that I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see – the Lord is good.

The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord *LSB 634*

The death of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
We celebrate with one accord;
It is our comfort in distress,
Our heart's sweet joy and happiness.

He blotted out with His own blood
The judgment that against us stood;
For us He full atonement made,
And all our debt He fully paid.

That this forever true shall be
He gives a solemn guarantee:
In this His holy Supper here
We taste His love so sweet, so near.

His Word proclaims and we believe
That in this Supper we receive
His very body, as He said,
His very blood for sinners shed.

We dare not ask how this can be,
But simply hold the mystery
And trust this word where life begins;
"Given and shed for all your sins."

They who this word do not believe
This food unworthily receive,
Salvation here will never find--
May we this warning keep in mind!

But blest is each believing guest
Who in these promises finds rest;
For Jesus shall in love remain
With all who here His grace obtain.

Help us sincerely to believe
That we may worthily receive

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**Your Supper and in You find rest.
Amen! They who believe are blest.**

Drawn to the Cross

LSB 560

**Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.**

**Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.**

**And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.**

BLESSING ↑

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen
and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.
Depart † in peace.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER ↑

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a
foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your
Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith
throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His
coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate
the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has
no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

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*At the 10:30 a.m. service, all may offer a silent prayer
and leave the sanctuary in silence.*

† STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR †

(7:00) *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* (Scholes)

*After the altar is stripped,
all may offer a silent prayer and leave the sanctuary in silence.*



*Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow on Good Friday
at 1:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.*