



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Maundy Thursday

April 9th, 2020



OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jeff Derksen

Elder

Marie Rogers

Organist

Blake Bone

Logan Bone

Acolytes

Rick Melius

Head Elder

Mike Beyer

Congregational Chairman

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED AT OUR SERVICE

Oneness at communion presupposes oneness in doctrine. For this reason we practice close communion, and ask guests desiring to commune to speak with the pastor before the service. To those communicants with dietary needs we offer gluten free wafers.

AS WE GATHER

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. Holy Thursday then recalls two central events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. First is the Lord's Supper. The Gospel tells of the Holy 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 while Psalm 22 is sung or read. This reminder of how Jesus was forsaken also assures us that Jesus is with us at times when we feel forsaken.

MAUNDY THURSDAY – NEW COVENANT PROMISE

OPENING HYMN

"O Blessed Light, O Trinity"

LSB 890

INVOCATION & INTROIT

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

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 & 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.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: 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. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. By the command of our 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.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Gracious God, Your covenant of love for us came to full fruition in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Guide us to be so moved by the depth of Christ's new covenant of love, that we love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

† WORD †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the rules. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." And 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. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then 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." And 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." Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and 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. And He did not lay His hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Leader: Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,

People: thus securing an eternal redemption.

Leader: Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,

People: so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Leader: He sent redemption to His people;

People: He has commanded His covenant forever.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 9:11–22

But when 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) He 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. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how 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. Therefore 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. For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For 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, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 26th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 26:17–30

Now 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?” He 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.’” And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, He reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, He said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.” And they were very sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with Me will betray Me. The 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.” Judas, who would betray Him, answered,

“Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.” Now 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.” And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I 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.” And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 422

SERMON

“The Promise of a New Covenant”

Hebrews 9:11–22

NICENE CREED

All: 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: Father, on the night when He was betrayed, Christ Jesus humbled Himself to stoop down and bathe His disciples' feet, even the feet of the one who would betray Him.

People: **Grant us the fervent desire to embody this attitude of service and kindness to all that the love of Christ may abound through all our speech and actions.**

Pastor: On this night, Christ prayed that His disciples would be one in faith. He prayed for those who would hear His disciples' proclamation, that all would come to know that You sent Him into the world to be the light of the world.

People: **Just as Christ encouraged others to boldly proclaim the message of salvation, so also hear our prayer and renew our witness, O Lord.**

Pastor: On this night, Christ acknowledged the world's hatred and persecution of those who confess Him as Lord and Savior.

People: Heavenly Father, fix our eyes constantly on Jesus, that we may remain steadfast in the midst of strife and harassment.

Pastor: On this night, our Lord keeps us mindful that the Father's love was sufficient for His only-begotten Son and for all disciples. Even in the midst of that love, Christ Jesus, our Lamb without defect, ultimately suffered complete and utter rejection, pain and death.

People: By Your Holy Word, confirm in our hearts the secure knowledge of Your enormous, unchanging love for us.

Pastor: On this night, Christ acknowledged the world's hatred and persecution of those who confess Him as Lord and Savior.

People: Heavenly Father, fix our eyes constantly on Jesus, that we may remain steadfast in the midst of strife and harassment.

Pastor: On this night, Your Son and our Savior gave us His last will and testament, giving us His true body and blood that we receive Him for the forgiveness of sins and nourishment of faith. Give us truly penitent hearts that we receive this Sacrament worthily.

People: Cleanse us and feed us with the precious body and blood of Your Son, that we live godly lives and boldly resound with the one true confession of faith with the whole company of saints, in heaven and on earth.

All: Amen.

OFFERING

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 came to seek and to save the lost by being lifted up on the tree of the cross, dying on account of our sins, rising again in victory over sin and death, and sending apostles and evangelists to declare His seeking and saving to all the world. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

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, for Your covenant promise brought to us in the body and blood of Christ,

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

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

ALL: **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.**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS/INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.**

✠ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

Pastor: After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's life moved rapidly: prayer in Gethsemane... betrayal by Judas... arrest, mock trial, painful beating... the trudge to Golgotha and execution. As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us. Flowers are new life springing forth. In the passion and suffering of Christ, human life ebbs from Him. In recognition of this we remove these flowers from our altar.

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our candles and remove them.

[Candles are extinguished and removed.]

Pastor: Our offerings represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

[Offerings are removed.]

Pastor: This missal stand holds our worship books that guide our worship life together as we sing praises to God. As Jesus suffers, joyous songs are not heard. As these sounds of joy are removed from our lips, we remove the missal stand.

[Missal stands and service books are removed.]

Pastor: Jesus' offered body and His shed blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

[Communion vessels are removed.]

Pastor: Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The coverings and paraments are made of fine linen and brocade—materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

[Altar cloths, banners and paraments are removed.]

PSALM *(Read by Pastor)*

Psalm 22

[The cross is covered during the reading]

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

LSB 436