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**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP**

**April 9, 2020**

**OPENING HYMN** “When You Woke That Thursday Morning” [*LSB* 445]

1 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.

2 Never so alone and lonely, 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.

3 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.”

4 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.

5 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.

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**INVOCATION**

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

**People: Amen.**

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.

**INTROIT**

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**

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.**

**ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
  
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.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Exodus 24:3–11*

3 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.” 4 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. 5 And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. 6 And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. 7 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.” 8 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.”

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 116:12–19*

Pastor: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

**People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

Pastor: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

**People: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.**

Pastor: O Lord, I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

**People: I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.**

Pastor: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people,

**People: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

**HYMN** “Go to Dark Gethsemane” [LSB 436]

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 suff’ring, 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.

4 Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 9:11–22*

1 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) 12 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. 13 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, 14 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.

15 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. 16 For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. 17 For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. 19 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, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. 22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**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.**

17 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?” 18 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.’” 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

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

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

30 And 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.**

**CREED 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.**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**SERMON**

**Title: “I Can’t Believe in a God Who Would…”**

**1 Peter 1:6-9**

**SERMON HYMN** “What Wondrous Love Is This” [*LSB* 543]

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
    What wondrous love is this  
    That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
    When I was sinking down  
    Beneath God’s righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;  
    To God and to the Lamb,  
    Who is the great I AM,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

4 And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on;  
And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on.  
    And when from death I’m free,  
    I’ll sing His love for me,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
And through eternity I’ll sing on.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. O God,

**People: You are gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: You are gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: O God,

**People: You are gracious and merciful.**

Pastor: We raise our hands before You, our Father, trusting that You both hear and answer our prayers. For this, dear Lord,

**People: we thank and praise You.**

Pastor: You have found us, Your lost sheep, and have saved us by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. For this, dear Lord,

**People: we thank and praise You.**

Pastor: You have placed Your message of reconciliation on our lips and put Your healing ministry into our hands that it might be freely shared with all people.

**People: Bless pastors, missionaries, and all who labor in Your harvest that we may be filled with all boldness to give answer through both word and deed for the living hope we have in Jesus.**

Pastor: Grant wisdom to all civil leaders that they may serve justice and love peace;

**People: that Your Word may be freely proclaimed and care given to the poor, the hungry, the homeless, and the downtrodden.**

Pastor: For all who are sick, injured, or suffering; for all who mourn; and for those who suffer with addiction, loneliness, depression, or any kind of need, we pray, dear Lord,

**People: grant them health and recovery. Use us as people of peace and ministers of Your compassion among all who suffer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

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**

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.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**HYMN** “What Is This Bread” [*LSB* 629]

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

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**CLOSING PSALM** *Psalm 22*

1 Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. 3 Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. 4 In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. 5 To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 8 “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. 10 On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

12 Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; 13 they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; 15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—17 I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; 18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! 20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! 21 Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: 23 You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! 24 For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him. 26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. 28 For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. 30 Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; 31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor: Gracious Father, grant that we may put off our old selves with all our sinful deeds and put on the new person, which bearing the image of Your Son, Jesus, has been given us in Holy Baptism, that when we let go of our earthly habitation, we may not be found unclothed, but being transformed may receive the garment of a new glorious body like His, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

*The Paschal Candle is carried out, where it is extinguished. The service ends in silence. There is no Benediction.*