

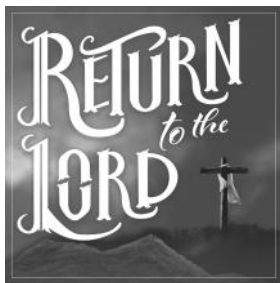
Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Beulah, North Dakota

Holy Thursday

April 1, 2021



RETURN TO THE TABLE

On this night known in the Church as Holy Thursday, Jesus invites us to join Him once again at His Table. He knows our need for strengthening and reassurance. The place in which we gather is filled with the blessing of fellowship as we remember the new command of our Lord Jesus to love one another. Our Lord serves us in many ways, most singularly as the Host at His Table, where we receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. Time and again we are invited to return to the Table, where truly we experience a foretaste of the feast to come.

OPENING HYMN # 435 “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

† CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION †

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Amen.

I will go to the altar of God,

to God my exceeding joy.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

CONFESSIONAL ADDRESS

During this Lenten season, we have heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that prevents us from trusting in God and loving one another. Since it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ on this night when He instituted this blessed meal for our salvation, it is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do. 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. As our Lord on this night exemplified this love by washing His disciples' feet, so we by our words and actions serve one another in love. 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 the 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 also 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.

Amen.

Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins, imploring God our Father for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

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.

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

Yes.

Let it be done for you as you believe.

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesu Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ✠ peace.

Amen.

† SERVICE OF THE WORD †

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 24:3–11

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE FOR HOLY THURSDAY

John 13:1b

**Having loved His own who were in the world,
He, loved them to the end.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 14:12–26

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Creed, a festive element, is omitted

HYMN OF THE DAY # 431

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

SERMON

Return to the Table

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In prayer,

we return to You, O Lord.

† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

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 on this night long ago established His Supper, that life-giving food and drink that now this night

and throughout our lives nourishes us in body and soul. 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

**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

Thanks and praise we give to You, O Lord, for returning to Your people again and again in mercy. When Adam and Eve walked away, You came to them with the promise of a Savior. When the world forgot Your ways, You saved Noah and his family in the flood. When the Israelites complained in the wilderness, still You provided manna and quail. When so many of the kings were unfaithful, You sustained a faithful remnant. At just the right time, You sent Jesus, Your only-begotten Son, to suffer, die, and be raised, so that the whole world might return to You.

As we return to the Table this night, where we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, bring us near to You, guide us, sustain us, until we join together around Your eternal Table with angels, saints, and all the company of heaven at the feast where death is swallowed up forever and tears from all faces are wiped away. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

AGNUS DEI

**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

570

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

623

“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray.

Lord, for Christ's body and blood given and shed for us, we give You thanks. By this gracious gift, lead us to love one another as Jesus first loved us, which He showed us long ago by washing His disciples' feet; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 436

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

† STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR †

The Communion vessels are reverently removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared in preparation for the solemn services of Good Friday. The lights may be darkened. While this is done, Psalm 22 is read. Following the stripping of the altar, please depart in silence.

Acknowledgments

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