

Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Beulah, North Dakota

Holy Thursday

April 6, 2023



On this night when our Lord Jesus Christ was betrayed into the hands of sinful men, we receive the blessings of forgiveness and new life as we partake of the Lord's Supper. Looking ahead to the death of Jesus on Calvary's cross, we remember with the apostle John that both water and blood flowed from Jesus' side as He was pierced by the spear of a Roman soldier (John 19:34). The flowing water reminds us of the mystery of our Baptism, as God the Father cleanses us of our sin and makes us His children. The flowing blood reminds us of the deep love of the Savior, who allowed Himself to die a horrific death so that we may experience a glorious resurrection, and it points to the Sacrament of our Lord's body and blood. May the blessings of Jesus flow into our lives as we gather to worship Him.

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

Hymn # 431

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 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.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

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 Jesus 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 17:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 John 5:5-12

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Verse

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 # 619

Sermon

Water and Blood

Offering

Offertory

p. 192

Prayer of the Church

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You that You have gathered us together on this night when Your Son instituted the Supper we are privileged to receive.

Grant that the promised treasures of Your Word remind us of the mercy You give to us by the water and the blood.

Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.

Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

Encourage our hearts and minds as we hold fast to Your Word, knowing that all You accomplished during Holy Week was done for our salvation.

Holy Spirit, make us one through this sacred Meal we now prepare our hearts to receive, that in the communion of saints we may be strengthened in our fellowship with Christ Jesus and with one another.

All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

Service of the Sacrament	p. 194ff.
Distribution Hymns	# 618, 570
Nunc Dimittis	p. 199ff.
Thanksgiving & Post Communion Collect	p. 201
<i>The Benediction is omitted</i>	
Closing Hymn	# 436 (st. 1-3)

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in which we joyfully receive Christ's Body and Blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament, we also give public witness that we are in complete agreement with the denomination's doctrinal teachings at whose altar we commune. Therefore, we ask that only communicant members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod commune with us. All guests are asked to talk to Rev. Heller before coming to the altar to receive the Sacrament.

✠ STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR ✠

After the closing hymn, please remain seated for the Stripping of the Altar.

The Communion vessels are removed from the altar, the altar is stripped, and the chancel is cleared for the solemn services of Good Friday. Psalm 22 is read.

When the Stripping is completed, please depart in silence.