



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

+ John 13:1b

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Lent, we have been using the metaphor of eyesight to examine how the various people in Mark’s Gospel viewed Jesus during His Passion. In most cases, they misunderstood who He was and what He was doing; then again, sometimes by faith people did recognize Him correctly.

As we conclude these forty days of Lent, looking within ourselves as people of faith in our day, let us ponder how much we are alike or unlike the people who saw Jesus in the flesh. In these final days, as our journey nears Golgotha, we witness anew all that Jesus has done to save us from our sins by His holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death.

It is difficult for us to look through the eyes of the disciples when they were celebrating Passover, but it was within this context that Jesus pronounced the bread and wine to be His true body and most precious blood. It is here that He revealed that there is “more than meets the eye” (as I oft heard watching “Transformers,” one of my favorite cartoons growing up).

Noticeably absent tonight is the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, a result of our temporary physical separation from one another. Yet this absence, as severely lamentable as it is, can serve to heighten our awareness of what a miraculous and gracious gift we have in the Lord’s Supper. Let us then cling ever closer to His Word by which He engenders faith, sustains faith, and brings forth every miracle of faith in our lives, for it is His Word that makes every sacrament, be that the waters of Holy Baptism or the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

Yours in Christ Jesus, +Pastor Griebenaw

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✠ Maundy Thursday – Confession ✠

Stand – the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Exhortation

- P** I will go to the altar of God,
- C** to God my exceeding joy.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.

Sit

P 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 each other. It is proper that we complete our Lenten discipline by diligently examining ourselves, as Saint Paul urges us to do. The Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ 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. May the Lord preserve us in this time of discipline that we may hold fast to His Word until that day when we may gather anew to receive the true body and most precious blood of Jesus.

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.

C Amen.

P 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. You may choose to kneel or remain standing.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

Stand

✝ Psalmody ✝

Psalm

Psalm 116: 12–19; antiphon v. 17

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm. The doxology/Gloria Patri is omitted during Holy Week.

(Antiphon) ¹⁷I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the LORD.

¹²What shall I render | to the LORD*
for all His bene- | fits to me?

¹³**I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation***
and call on the name | of the LORD.

¹⁴I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all His | people.

¹⁵**Precious in the sight | of the LORD***
is the death | of His saints.

¹⁶O LORD, I am Your | servant;*

I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.

¹⁷**I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanks- | giving***
and call on the name | of the LORD.

¹⁸I will pay my vows | to the LORD*
in the presence of all His | people,

¹⁹**in the courts of the house | of the LORD,***
in your midst, O Jerusalem. | Praise the LORD!

The antiphon is repeated.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, in the wondrous Sacrament of Your holy supper, You have left us a remembrance of Your passion. Grant that we may ever confess the sacred mystery of Your body and blood and that, in due course, we may celebrate with all the saints the blessed sacrament according to Your institution 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.



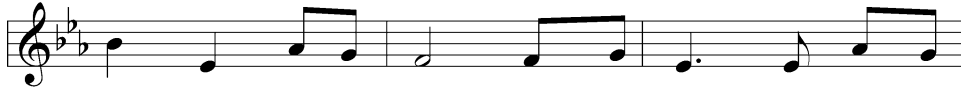
C A - men.

Sit

Office Hymn: When You Woke That Thursday Morning



1 When You woke that Thurs - day morn - ing, Sav - ior,
 2 Nev - er so a - lone and lone - ly, Long - ing
 3 What was there that You could give them That would
 4 One in faith, in love u - nit - ed, All one
 5 One day all the Church will cap - ture That bright



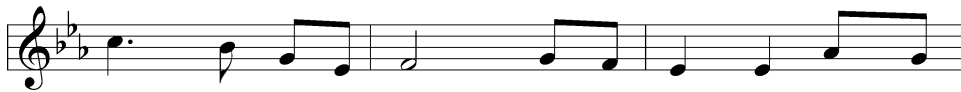
teach - er, faith - ful friend, Thoughts of self and safe - ty
 with tor - ment - ed heart To be with Your dear ones
 nev - er be out - spent, What great gift that would out -
 bod - y, You the head, When we meet, by You in -
 vi - sion glo - ri - ous, And Your saints will know the



scorn - ing, Know - ing how the day would end;
 on - ly For a qui - et hour a - part:
 live them, What last will and tes - ta - ment?
 vit - ed, You are with us, as You said.
 rap - ture That Your heart de - sired for us,



Lamb of God, fore - told for a - ges, Now at
 Sin - less Lamb and fall - en crea - ture, One last
 "Show Me and the world you love Me, Know Me
 One with You and one an - oth - er In a
 When the longed - for peace and u - nion Of the



last the hour had come When but One could pay sin's
 pas - chal meal to eat, One last les - son as their
 as the Lamb of God: Do this in re - mem - brance
 u - ni - ty sub - lime, See in us Your sis - ter,
 Great - est and the least Meet in joy - ous, blest com -



wa - ges: You as - sumed their dread - ful sum.
 teach - er, Wash - ing Your dis - ci - ples' feet.
 of Me, Eat this bod - y, drink this blood."
 broth - er, One in ev - 'ry place and time.
 mu - nion In Your nev - er - end - ing feast.

✠ Readings ✠

Old Testament

Exodus 12:1–14

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. ⁴And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, ⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. ¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 14:22–25

²²And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” ²³And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory

Psalm 51:14; 59:1; 141:8



- L** 1 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.
- 2 In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
- 3 Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are
the God of my sal - va - tion.



- C** Rescue me from my en - e - mies, protect me
from those who rise a - gainst me.

Catechetical Instruction: The Sacrament of the Altar

- P** What is the Sacrament of the Altar?
- C** It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.
- P** Where is this written?
- C** The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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."
- P** What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?
- C** These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.
- P** How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?
- C** Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."
- P** Who receives this Sacrament worthily?
- C** Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

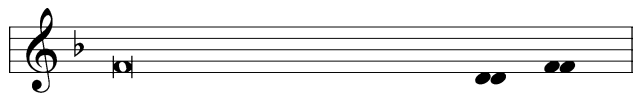
Sermon

✠ Canticle ✠

Stand

Antiphon

Psalm 141:2



- L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



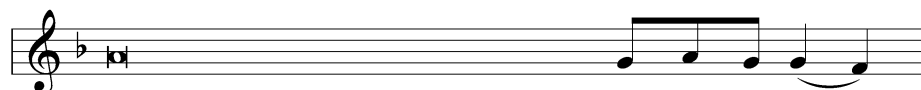
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



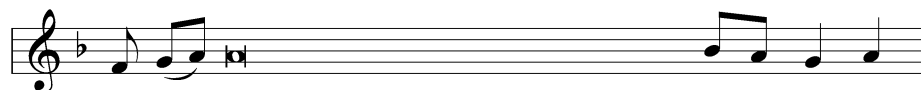
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.

The Gloria Patri is omitted during Passiontide.

Apostles' Creed

P God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C 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.

† Prayers †

Kneel or remain Standing

Kyrie

Mark:10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 957

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,
Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as
it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly
bread; and for-give us our tres-pass - es as we for-give
those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -
to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -
ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

P Almighty God, heavenly Father, give us grace to trust You during this time of illness and distress. In mercy put an end to the epidemic that afflicts us. Grant relief to those who suffer, and comfort all that mourn. Sustain all medical personnel in their labors, and cause Your people ever to serve You in righteousness and holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C A - men.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

✠ The 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 congregation chants Psalm 22, in prayerful contemplation of Christ's Passion.

Psalm

Psalm 22

- ¹My God, My God, why have You for- | saken Me?*
- Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My | groaning?
- ²O My God, I cry by day, but You do not | answer,*
- and by night, but I | find no rest.
- ³Yet You are | holy,*
- enthroned on the praises of | Israel.
- ⁴In You our fathers | trusted;*
- they trusted, and You de- | livered them.
- ⁵To You they cried and were | rescued;*
- in You they trusted and were not | put to shame.
- ⁶But I am a worm and | not a man,*
- scorned by mankind and despised by the | people.
- ⁷All who see Me | mock Me;*
- they make mouths at Me; they | wag their heads;
- ⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let Him de- | liver Him;*
- let Him rescue Him, for He de- | lights in Him!”
- ⁹Yet You are He who took Me | from the womb;*
- You made Me trust You at My | mother's breasts.
- ¹⁰On You was I cast | from My birth,*
- and from My mother's womb You have | been My God.
- ¹¹Be not far from Me, for trouble | is near,*
- and there is | none to help.
- ¹²Many bulls en- | compass Me;*
- strong bulls of Bashan sur- | round Me;
- ¹³they open wide their | mouths at Me,*
- like a ravening and roaring | lion.
- ¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all My bones are | out of joint;*
- My heart is like wax; it is melted with- | in My breast;
- ¹⁵My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks | to My jaws;*
- You lay Me in the | dust of death.
- ¹⁶For dogs en- | compass Me;*
- a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My | hands and feet—
- ¹⁷I can count | all My bones—*
- they stare and gloat | over Me;
- ¹⁸they divide My garments a- | mong them,*
- and for My clothing they | cast lots.
- ¹⁹But You, O LORD, do not be | far off!*
- O You My help, come quickly | to My aid!
- ²⁰Deliver My soul | from the sword,*
- My precious life from the power | of the dog!
- ²¹Save Me from the mouth of the | lion!*
- You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild | oxen!

- ²²I will tell of Your name to My | brothers;*
in the midst of the congregation I will | praise You:
- ²³You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glo- | rify Him,*
and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of | Israel!
- ²⁴For 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.
- ²⁵From You comes My praise in the great congre- | gation;*
My vows I will perform before those who | fear Him.
- ²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall | praise the LORD!*
May your hearts live for- | ever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD,*
and all the families of the nations shall worship be- | fore You.
- ²⁸For kingship belongs | to the LORD,*
and He rules over the | nations.
- ²⁹All 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 him- | self alive.
- ³⁰Posterity shall | serve Him;*
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming gener- | ation;
- ³¹they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people | yet unborn,*
that He has | done it.

The service concludes in silence and no benediction is spoken because the Triduum (see comments at the end of the service) are seen as one service in three parts, with the benediction spoken at the end of the Easter Resurrection Celebration serving as the conclusion to the service begun this evening.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR

Brothers and sisters,

Maundy Thursday (sometimes also called Holy Thursday) marks a transition within Holy Week from Lent to the Holy Triduum (triduum being Latin for “a period of three days”), the three days leading to the Resurrection—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Although the Thursday of Holy Week is a culmination and completion of Lent, it is also the beginning of the Paschal Feast, which remembers with thanksgiving the sacrificial death and great salvation of the Lamb of God. Maundy Thursday is the first of three sacred days that together constitute the Church’s celebration of both the cross and the resurrection of the Lord.

Jesus Christ is the true Passover Lamb, who is sacrificed for us, whose blood covers us from death, whose body feeds us for life, and who gives salvation in the freedom of the Gospel; yet He is the same Lord God who by His mighty, outstretched arms brings us out of slavery, through the water and the wilderness, into the promised land, and He feeds us on the way.

No doubt, this is perhaps one of the strangest Holy Weeks of living memory, where the Body of Christ is being asked to remain apart during the most important and most holy of seasons. We do so for love of neighbor, suffering for the sake of others, much as our Lord suffered in our place. As we continue to worship in this “virtual space,” I pray that today’s streaming service is edifying for you and brings the light of Christ to shine brightly in your homes.

Lastly, while our physical gatherings are suspended, please remember that the work of Christ's church continues. Please consider mailing your tithes and offerings to the church's post office box:

Grace Evangelical-Lutheran Church
PO Box 1530
El Centro, CA 92244-1530.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
+Pastor Griebenaw