

Saint John Lutheran Church

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

March 28, 2024

HOLY THURSDAY

THE KING'S FEAST

Prelude ~ Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Food is associated with both times of celebration and sorrow. Funeral luncheons and the trays of food sent to the homes of the sick or grieving reflect a loving heart for those who suffer. The lavish receptions for weddings and anniversaries, among other occasions, reflect our desire to share our joy with others. In both cases, we meet around the table. Tonight, we meet at the Table of the Lord, and there is a combination of celebration and sorrow inherent in this meal. Like the Passover of old, this feast reflects upon the affliction that brought us here. Our captivity to sin and death and our helplessness to repair our lost condition are part of that sorrow. The other part is the realization that forgiveness and new life came only at the cost of death—Jesus' death for us. Like the Passover of old, however, this feast is also filled with celebration and joy. We come not because this night has a happy ending but because the very fruits of His death come to us in this bread, He declares His body and in this cup of His blood. Jesus did not pass over death but willingly embraced it for us, and now we rejoice that He has not passed over us but visited the fullness of His grace and favor upon us—here, in this eating and drinking.

GATHERING HYMN

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

LSB 435



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -

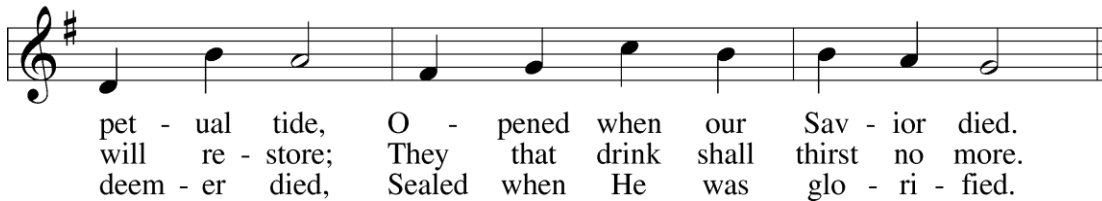


by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -





+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

Please stand

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

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY (*Please stand*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem ~ The Lamb

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 12:1–14

L A reading from Exodus, the Twelfth Chapter.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell 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. And 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. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and 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.

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. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts. And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. In 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. For 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. The 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.

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:12–19 (*antiphon: v. 17*)

- P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C and call on the name of the LORD.
- P**¹² What shall I render to the LORD
C for all his benefits to me?
- P**¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
C and call on the name of the LORD,
- P**¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD
C in the presence of all his people.
- P**¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
C is the death of his saints.
- P**¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
C I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.
- P**¹⁷ I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C and call on the name of the LORD.
- P**¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord,
C in the presence of all his people,
- P**¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD,
C in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!
- P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C and call on the name of the LORD.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 11:23–32

- L** A reading from First Corinthians, the Eleventh Chapter.
For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In 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." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

VERSE

LSB 173

P **Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 27:17–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Twenty-seventh Chapter.

G **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" And he said, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, We Praise Thee

(LSB 617)



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor

In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -

bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this

they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!

May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that

sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see

In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Please stand

Apostles' Creed

P 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 OF THE CHURCH

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

O Lord Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer, we thank You that on the night You were handed over to Your voluntary suffering and death, You instituted for us the Holy Sacrament of Your true body and blood as a perpetual memorial of Your atoning sacrifice, a solemn pledge of Your mercy and continual presence, and a salutary means of grace.

Lord, in Your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

You are the true and only Passover Lamb in this Holy Supper, and by giving us Your body to eat and Your blood to drink You grant us a wondrous communion with You as very members of Your Body. Here do You impart and seal to us the merits of Your death, the forgiveness of our sins, so that by these, Your gifts of life and salvation, we are righteous and acceptable in the sight of God.

Lord, in Your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we have in no way deserved Your goodness, nor can we ever sufficiently thank You for Your loving-kindness toward us. We beseech You, however, to strengthen and sustain us by this blessed and Holy Sacrament. Enable us, by Your grace, daily to appropriate and experience the blessings of Your Passion in such a way that we may heartily praise You for our redemption and from day to day be more intimately united to You by faith and love.

Lord, in Your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Kindle in us always such a fervent longing for blessed communion with You in the Holy Supper that we may come often to Your Table. By your Holy Spirit also work in us true repentance and a steadfast faith in Your gracious promises, a sincere desire to be in perfect charity with all people, and the earnest purpose to amend our sinful lives, that we may be worthy recipients of the Holy Sacrament and, with full pardon of all our sins, be enlivened in the way of righteousness, that we may serve You in holiness and pureness of living and give You continual thanks for all Your goodness.

Lord, in Your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

May Your Holy Supper be a source of comfort to the penitent, means of enrichment to the poor in spirit, to the sick a sweet relief from the bitterness of pain, and to the dying a pledge of their inheritance with the saints in light.

Lord, in Your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Abide in Your Church with Your gracious presence and let her at all times be a faithful keeper and dispenser of the heavenly treasures entrusted to her for those who believe in You. Bless the right use of the means of grace wherever the remembrance of Your death is kept until You come to judge the living and the dead. Let Your Word and Sacrament strengthen our souls during the days of our pilgrimage on earth, until hereafter we partake of Your Supper with You in Your Father's kingdom; for You live and reign with Him and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Our Father

C **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 Institution and Agnus Dei

LSB 962



Lamb of God, You take a- way the sin of the
 world; have mer- cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a -
 way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a- way the sin of the world; grant us Your
 peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(LSB 621)



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

(LSB 602)



1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me
4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;
5 The gifts are in the feast, Gifts far more than we see;
6 All glo - ry to the One Who lav - ish - es such love;



To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!
God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.
Be - neath the bread and wine Is food from Cal - va - ry.
The tri - une God in love As - sures our life a - bove.





Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim
Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,
The bod - y and the blood Re - move our ev - 'ry sin;
His means of grace for us Are gifts He loves to give;



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.
We leave His pres - ence in His peace, re - newed a - gain.
All thanks and praise for His Great love by which we live!

Please stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimittis

G Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all
people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.
Risen Savior, You are the first fruits of those that have fallen asleep. May we who have
partaken of the fruits of Your cross-bear resurrection fruit unto eternal life; for You live and
reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G Amen.

Please be seated.

+ 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.

PSALM

Psalm 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
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.

All leave the church in silence.