

Holy Thursday

Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church

Blended Church Service with Divine Service 3 from Lutheran Service Book



Opening Hymn

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" – Hymn 435

**Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide, Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness, Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness, From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; They shall drink shall thirst no more.**

**They that drink shall live forever; 'Tis a soul renewing food.
God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when He was glorified.**

Invocation

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

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Luke 18:13

P: By means of His Word and Supper, we gather together this day to receive our Savior's mercy and respond to Him in thanksgiving and praise. Because of our sins of thought, word, and deed, we are spiritually bankrupt and unworthy of the grace we receive. Yet at the invitation of our loving Redeemer, we come to His Table and take our place with Him. Acknowledging our sin, let us find refuge in our God of grace and say, "God be merciful to me, a sinner."

In silent prayer, we reflect on God's Word and confess our sins to the Lord.

P: Together, let us pray:

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life, that we may enjoy the fullness of Your presence at the feast You have prepared for all who trust in You. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise again for you so that you may be redeemed and restored. You have been invited to the eternal banquet, the heavenly feast, where our Savior and Host delights us with the richest of fare, the forgiveness of sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and your pastor, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

The congregation comes forward in two lines, and the Pastor individually absolves each person as they stand at the foot of the font. Following the absolution, the people return to their pews. The minister lays his hands on each person's head and addresses each person with these words:

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Collect for Holy Thursday

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 who can never repay You for Your mercy may be blessed as we eat with You in the kingdom of God; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 24:3–11

(The blood of the covenant was offered for God's people.)

L: The Old Testament Reading for Holy Thursday is taken from Exodus, Chapter 24:

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

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16–17

(A participation in the body and blood of Christ)

L: The Epistle Reading is taken from First Corinthians, Chapter 10:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel Reading

Mark 14:12–26

(Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 14th Chapter:

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. For 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."

And 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." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly, 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."

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

“O Lord, We Praise Thee” - Hymn 617

**O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee
In Thanksgiving bow before Thee
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary
That our sins and sorrows did cary
And Thy blood for us plead
In all trials, fear and need: O Lord, have mercy!**

**Thy holy body into death was given
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us
May this feast there of remind us! O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me
All our debt Thou hast paid
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!**

**May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us
Grant heav'nly minded He make us
Give Thy Church, Lord to see
Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!**

Text: German, 14th cent., st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–3;
tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.

Tune: *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter;
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House

Music: Public domain

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

A: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

The Service of the Sacrament

Begins on page 194

Preface - page 194

 P: The Lord be with you.

 C: **And with thy spirit.**

 P: Lift up your hearts.

 C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

 P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

 C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Proper Preface - page 195

P: 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 died for us, the ungodly and weak, so that we might be justified and have peace with God. 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** - page 195

**A: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabbaoth
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Lord's Prayer - spoken, page 196

A: 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 - spoken, page 197

P: 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 \mp 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 \mp 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** - page 197

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

 **Agnus Dei** - page 198

**A: O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world
Grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Communion Distribution

Communion Dismissal - page 198

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Blessed Savior, we can never repay You for the grace You have shown us in this sacred Meal. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of Your final coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the feast in Your kingdom, which knows no end; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” - Hymn 436

**Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempters 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.**

**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 for Him to bear the cross**

**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.**

**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.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854

Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

Stripping of the Altar

According to local custom, the chancel items and communion vessels may be removed, while the congregation may join in a responsive psalm, then depart from the sanctuary in silent reflection.

Psalm

Psalm 22:1–10

P: My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning?

C: **O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.**

P: Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

C: **In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them.**

P: To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame.

C: **But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.**

P: All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads;

C: **“He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!”**

P: Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother’s breasts.

C: **On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother’s womb You have been My God.**

The congregation departs from the sanctuary in silent reflection.