



“This cup that is
poured out for you
is the new covenant
in My blood.”

Ascension Lutheran Church

“A Church for Families, a Family for Everyone”

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Maundy Thursday

Welcome to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

For those wishing to commune at the Lord's Table with us today: The Lutheran practice of close Communion attempts to prevent a person from eating and drinking judgment on himself (1 Corinthians 11:23-30). Thus, attendance at the Lord's Supper implies a four-level commitment to Christ. We believe that communicants must: (1) be baptized Christians, (2) accept the real presence of Christ's body in the bread and His blood in the wine, (3) confess and repent of one's sins and trust that God offers complete forgiveness of those sins in this Sacrament, and (4) share oneness of faith, doctrine and practice among those who commune. Those wishing to commune with us today who have not done so previously, please see the pastor or an elder before the service begins.

(Grape juice is available for those who not drink alcohol and gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

Due to the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, an offering will not be taken during the worship service. Plates are available in the back of the church should you desire to place an offering.

+ PREPARATION +

The Eternal Passover That Jesus Desired to Eat

This evening we return to the Passover Meal, the reading in Luke that began our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. We find ourselves in the company of Jesus, not sad and somber because He goes to the cross, but quietly joyful as He presents a gift to us. This gift of the Lord's Supper fortifies our faith for the journey ahead. Through this sacrament, we not only gain the ability to weather the storms of life, but we receive the forgiveness of sins. Just as the Hebrews were released from the bondage of the Egyptians after the Passover, we too are released from bondage of sin. As Jesus sat with His disciples that fateful night, God's plan of salvation unfolded. The promise to be present in our lives through the Means of Grace extended beyond that meal to all future generations. We are a part of the promise, and until Jesus returns, we are confident that whatever evil may come, God brings good in the end.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

When You Woke That Thursday Morning

LSB 435

- 1 When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.

- 2 Never so alone and lonely,
Longing with tormented heart
To be with Your dear ones only
For a quiet hour apart:
Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
One last paschal meal to eat,
One last lesson as their teacher,
Washing Your disciples' feet.

- 3 What was there that You could give them
That would never be outspent,
What great gift that would outlive them,
What last will and testament?
"Show Me and the world you love Me,
Know Me as the Lamb of God:
Do this in remembrance of Me,
Eat this body, drink this blood."

- 5 One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

When You Woke That Thursday Morning, Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004673

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 9; Psalm 111

- P** Christ entered once for all into the holy places, by means of His own blood,
C **thus securing an eternal redemption.**
- P** Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant,
C **so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.**
- P** He sent redemption to His people;
C **He has commanded His covenant forever.**

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.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, in this sacred Meal, You have left us a remembrance of Your suffering and death for our salvation. As we eat with You in the kingdom of God, grant that our hearts and minds may be turned to You alone; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 24:3-11 (ESV)

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do." ⁴And 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. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. ⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then 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." ⁸And 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. ⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and 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. ¹¹And 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

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶The 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? ¹⁷Because 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

Luke 22:14-23 (ESV)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-second chapter.

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

¹⁴ And when the hour came, He reclined at table, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays Me is with Me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Bread Of Heaven, Living Manna

(tune: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*)

1 Bread of heaven, living manna,
Love and mercy You exude;
Perfect offering, freely given
On the blood-marked Paschal rood;
Bread unleavened, Lamb unblemished,
Freeing sin-bound slaves from strife:
Feed us on our desert journey,
Holy Jesus, Bread of Life.

- 2 Bread of heaven, living manna,
Sure Your promise—faithful, true:
“Take and eat; this bread here broken
Is My body giv’n for you.
Take and drink; this cup of blessing
Is My very blood outpoured.”
With thanksgiving—sins forgiven—
We will ever bless You, Lord!
- 3 Bread of heaven, living manna,
Bread the ancients never knew;
You, Lord Jesus, came from heaven,
That our world be fed by You;
Now in You we never hunger,
And believing, thirst no more;
Living in You, Lord, we ever
Have our being and adore.

Bread Of Heaven, Living Manna, Text: Stephen P. Starke., Text: © 2016 Stephen P. Starke, admin.
Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110004673

SERMON
“THE ETERNAL PASSOVER”

Pr. Jim Sprengle
Luke 22:14-23

NICENE CREED

I believe in one 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 the 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

- P** Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us lift up our hearts and voices to the God of all mercy as He has invited us to pray to Him in the name of our Savior and in the way in which He has taught us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Our Father in heaven, look with mercy upon us, for without Your aid we are spiritually poor, crippled, blind, and lame. Grant us grace that Your holy name is kept sacred among us and that, in all the world, Your Son may be known through the preaching of Your Word to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** King of kings, may Your rule and reign come to us and expand throughout the world. Bring all who are blinded by sin and bound by death to know Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Work through our earthly leaders and public servants so that Your hand of blessing may be known to all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that by faith we cling to the One who was betrayed and handed over to death for us. Into Your care we commend those who have needs in both soul and body, especially... For these, and for all those we name before You in the silence of our hearts, we ask that Your will may be done among us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- P** How blessed we are to eat bread in Your kingdom, O God! Lord Jesus, You alone are the Bread of Life, and You alone satisfy our hungry hearts. Grant to us our daily bread and help us to realize that You daily and richly provide for all that we need according to Your own riches and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us. Center our hearts and minds on You alone. As we recognize that we are spiritually bankrupt without Your mercy, grant that the spirit of unforgiveness be removed from us so that we live in peace with You and with one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us to take refuge in Your grace. On this very night, You were betrayed by one of Your own and handed over to death. Direct us to follow You to the cross of Calvary, where You laid down Your life to deliver us from the evil one and all his works and all his ways. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We belong to You, O Lord. Renew us, guide us, and lead us so that we may bless Your holy name and celebrate the feast You have prepared for us,

C **for Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

**We believe in the real presence of the body
and blood of Christ in Holy Communion.**

Here our Lord offers to us the forgiveness of all our sins.

(Grape juice is available in the center of the trays for those who do not drink alcohol, and gluten-free wafers are available upon request.)

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

+ MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION +

Lord, Is It I?

words by B. & J. Martin / music by J. Martin

Ascension Choir

Given For You

words by J. P. Williams/music by J. Martin & D. Nolan

Ascension Choir and Bruce Blubaum, soloist

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

O Jesus, Lamb of God, we thank You for refreshing us through the gift of Your body and blood in this sacred Meal. Enable us with renewed minds and hearts to always love and trust in You alone; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the Last Supper, events in our Lord's last hours of life moved rapidly:

prayer in Gethsemane

betrayal by Judas

arrest, mock trial, painful beating,

the trudge to Golgotha and execution.

As His life was stripped from Him, so we strip our altar of the signs of life to point to His purposeful, redemptive suffering and death for us.

Flowers are new life springing forth. In the passion and suffering of Christ, human life ebbs from Him. In recognition of this we remove these flowers from our altar.

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." The events of Golgotha snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when He suffered, so we extinguish our **candles** and remove them.

Our **offerings** represent one way of serving God and others. They reflect God's greatest offering to the world and to us in sending His Son, Jesus, in human form. As the offered body of Jesus was removed from sight in burial, so we remove our offerings.

The stand on our altar holds the Bible, God's Word of truth and salvation. Jesus is truth and salvation. He was removed from us, but only for a very short time. We remove this **Bible** that represents the Word made flesh. Yet we remember His word: "I am with you always even to the end of the earth."

Jesus' offered Body and His shed Blood have been given to us in, with, and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Mystery. As He was removed from us in the grave, so we remove **the elements and vessels of this Sacrament**.

Our altar is in the form of a table. It is here where our Lord Jesus serves us as both host and meal at His banquet feast. The **coverings and paraments** are made of fine linen and brocade, materials appropriate for feasting with our King. As our King's body was stripped in crucifixion, so our altar is stripped of its coverings.

The **cross** is the symbol of our Lord Jesus Christ and all that He is in our lives. As Jesus' life was removed from Him on the cross, so we remove that symbol from before us. But we note that the cross at our altar is an empty cross signifying that Jesus is no longer on the cross and no longer in the tomb. We will see Him again. May His peace be with us. Amen.

(After the stripping of the altar has been completed, all may leave the church silently. Our Holy Week devotion continues tomorrow on Good Friday at 7:00pm)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

L Given For You, © Copyright 1999, Harold Flammer and Malcolm Music, divisions of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Lord, Is It I?, © Copyright 1999, Malcolm Music, A Division of Shawnee Press

Ascension Lutheran Church

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97233

Office Phone: 503-665-8821 · Web Site: www.alcportland.org

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement:

~Go and Share Jesus Christ~

Our Vision Statement:

“Take part...Join Jesus on His mission.”

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God’s witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8):

With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God— the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

STAFF

Rev. Jim Sprengle, Pastor
pastor@alcportland.org

Ruberto Ek Yah, Pastor
pastorekyah@alcportland.org

Brad Hall, Worship and Music Coordinator
worship@alcportland.org

Michele Sprengle, Office Administrator
office@alcportland.org

Bonnie Webber and Rebecca Williamson, Treasurers
treasurer@alcportland.org

Wanda Cassetty,
Council Secretary
council@alcportland.org

Hana Laughton,
Deaconess Intern
deaconess@alcportland.org

Laura Potter, Property Management
property@alcportland.org

